

Stop Torture campaign update

July 2014



The Stop Torture campaign is now underway, thank you to all those activists that have already started taking action on the campaign and on the 5 priority cases. The campaign was launched on the 13th May. One of the ways we marked the launch was with an event at the Human Rights Action Centre where torture experts and survivors talked about torture in Mexico, the Philippines and Nigeria. You can watch the event and hear from our speakers at <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/stoptorturelaunch>

Mexico



Claudia Medina Tamariz

Claudia Medina Tamariz was woken in the middle of the night by marines who broke into her home. She was taken to a local naval base where she was beaten, subjected to electric shocks and forced to sign a confession that she wasn't allowed to read. She was wrapped in plastic to disguise the marks from her beating. Claudia Medina Tamariz, a mother of three, was accused of being a part of a violent criminal gang. She denies this. Two experts have now confirmed her allegations of torture, but to date no one has been held to account for her torture.

New charges against Claudia Medina

We have had an update on the case of **Claudia Medina Tamariz**. Unfortunately **a new criminal charge has been filed against her**, for allegedly driving a stolen car. The sole evidence for this charge is the unfounded claim that marines arrested her in a stolen car rather than at home. This charge comes in addition to the charge of carrying an illegal weapon, which still stands against her.

Amnesty International is calling for her allegations of torture to be investigated.

Medical examinations

Our teams have been in touch with Claudia to discuss the campaign and what we are aiming to achieve. We have decided that **we will no longer be calling for fresh medical examinations** as part of an investigation into her torture by the Federal Attorney General's Office.

Claudia Medina Tamariz has already undergone two investigations from independent experts and from the National Human Rights Council, both of which confirmed her allegations of torture. Further medical examinations have the potential of re-traumatising Claudia, and at this stage would be unlikely to find further evidence due to the length of time that has passed.

We will now be calling on the Federal Attorney General's Office to include the outcomes of these two medical examinations in any investigation into her torture.

Updated appeal demands

Activists can continue to use the case sheets and action cards that have been issued in the campaign resource packs.

However, if you will be writing your own letters to the Mexican authorities then we would ask you to ensure that you include these updated demands in your appeals:

- Carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the torture suffered by Claudia Medina, make the results public and bring those responsible to account,
- Ensure that the investigation includes the two separate medical examinations carried out by independent forensic experts and the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH,) and avoids retraumatizing Claudia Medina with a further examination conducted by the PGR forensic scientists almost two years after the alleged torture,
- Ensure that the investigation complies with the standards established in the Istanbul Protocol, the internationally recognised process of investigating torture
- Review the criminal charges against Claudia Medina in relation to her detention of 7 August 2012 to ensure that these have not been filed on the basis of fabricated evidence, including statements obtained as a result of human rights violations such as unlawful arrest, torture and other ill-treatment,

Nigeria



Moses Akatugba

16-year-old Moses Akatugba was awaiting the results of his secondary school exams when his life changed forever. He was arrested by the Nigerian army, shot in the hand, beaten on the head and back, and then charged with stealing mobile phones. At the police station he was beaten with machetes and tied up for hours, then forced to sign two 'confessions'. After 8 years awaiting trial Moses was convicted based solely on these forced confessions. He

has now been sentenced to death. We are calling on authorities to commute his death sentence and investigate his claims that he was tortured by the police.

Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games are taking place in Glasgow from 23rd July to 3rd August. Nigeria is one of the countries competing in the games, so if you have not yet taken action on the case of **Moses Akatugba – this could be a great chance**. You can order more copies of the Moses action card.

Resources

Don't forget you can order more copies of all the resources that were included in your Stop Torture campaign packs. To order more resources please visit www.amnesty.org.uk/stoptorture to see what is available. Then simply **note down the product codes** for the resources you want and **call TFS on 01788 545 553** to place your order.