

URGENT ACTION

INDIGENOUS LEADER KILLED, COMMUNITY AT RISK

On 1 February, Indigenous leader Juan Ontiveros Ramos was found dead in Chihuahua State, northern Mexico. Unknown men forcibly took from his home the day before and brutally beat other members of his family during the attack. Inhabitants of the Choréachi community remain at risk.

On 31 January, unidentified armed men broke into the family home of **Juan Ontiveros Ramos** in Guadalupe y Calvo municipality, beat him and other family members and forcibly took him away. Witnesses heard gunshots immediately after. On 1 February, Juan Ontiveros' body was found elsewhere in the same municipality.

Juan Ontiveros Ramos was a leader of the Raramuri (Tarahumara) Indigenous People. He was in charge of the security issues of the Choréachi community (also known as Pino Gordo), located in Guadalupe y Calvo municipality, Chihuahua State. On several occasions, he had presented information to the Mexican government on the concerns and challenges faced by his people in relation to criminality, including organized crime in the region. To this effect, he participated on a high-level meeting with state and federal authorities on 20 January.

Amnesty International has information indicating that other members of the Raramuri people have been targeted after briefing authorities or making public statements about their security concerns. Some leaders and their families, as well as staff of NGOs working on the field, had fled the community in previous years following threats and attacks by armed people. Amnesty International believes that other community members, living in Choréachi or forcibly displaced elsewhere in Chihuahua State, are at risk.

Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into killing of Juan Ontiveros Ramos and to bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging the them to immediately and effectively protect the remaining Indigenous authorities and their families, in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on them to guarantee the security of the Choréachi community, in accordance and in coordination with the Indigenous authorities;
- Calling on them to take all necessary measures to ensure that forcibly displaced people can safely return to their community if they so desire it.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 MARCH 2017 TO:

Minister of the interior

Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, Col. Juárez,
Del. Cuauhtémoc, C.P. 06600
Ciudad de México, México
Twitter: @osoriochong
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
**Salutation: Dear Minister / Sr.
Secretario**

Governor of Chihuahua State

Javier Corral Jurado
Edificio Palacio de Gobierno Piso 1
Calle Aldama 901
Zona Centro, C.P. 31000
Chihuahua, Chihuahua, México
Twitter: @Javier_Corral
Email:
despachodelejecutivo@chihuahua.gob.mx
**Salutation: Dear Governor / Sr.
Gobernador**

And copies to:

Amnesty International Mexico
Luz Saviñon 519, Col. Del Valle
Del. Benito Juárez, C.P. 03100
Ciudad de México, México
Email: au@amnistia.org.mx

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR DAVID NAJERA RIVAS, Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Mexico, 16 St. George Street, London, W1S 1FD Phone: 020 7499 8586 E-Mail: mexuk@sre.gob.mx Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Embamex-Reino-Unido/197866996938638> twitter: @Embamexru Salutation: Your Excellency
Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Choréachi community has a long-standing history of defence of its territory, including disputes over land limits with neighbouring non-Indigenous towns and peaceful struggles to stop logging in the area.

Other community leaders have been intimidated or attacked in previous years. Armed men killed Raramuri leaders Jaime Zubia Cevallos and Socorro Ayala in different attacks during 2013. In 2014, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights granted several community members precautionary measures, but the available information points to an ineffective implementation of such measures by Mexican authorities.

Other Raramuri have been attacked for opposing logging and defending their territory. Most recently, armed men killed Isidro Baldenegro on 15 January 2017, in a nearby Raramuri community in the same municipality of Guadalupe y Calvo; those responsible remain at large.

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