

URGENT ACTION

REFUGE FOR MIGRANTS UNDER ATTACK

A soup kitchen for Mexican and Central American migrants has been vandalized in the northern Mexican city of Nogales, on the US border. Staff members had previously reported receiving death threats and having electronics stolen. The attacks could be a reprisal for their complaints of kidnappings against migrants in the area. The lives of staff and volunteers, as well as the migrants who use the soup kitchen, could be at risk.

The soup kitchen is run by the non-governmental organization **Kino Border Initiative** (Iniciativa Kino para la Frontera) in Nogales city, Sonora state. Staff told Amnesty International that assailants broke into the kitchen in the night of 14 September and vandalized it, damaged furniture and destroyed food provisions and medicines. On 15 September at noon, moments after filing a complaint with local police, a staff member found that her laptop, hard drive and mobile phone had just been stolen from her car. At 10:50am on 27 August another staff member received a death threat from an unidentified male by phone. Staff members have reported the attacks to the authorities, but to date they have not received any effective protection.

Staff members and volunteers of the Kino Border Initiative also support migrants who have been victims of serious crimes, such as kidnappings. So far this year they have accompanied 10 migrants to file complaints for six kidnappings in the Nogales area. They have documented several other cases, but the victims have been too scared to file complaints.

The Kino Border Initiative, led by Jesuit priest Sean Carroll, provides food, medicines, clothing and, in other facilities within Nogales, accommodation for Mexican and Central American migrants who attempt to cross into the USA. They also support Mexicans who have been deported from the USA. Many of the migrants they support are fleeing violence. Shelter staff and volunteers give them information about asylum procedures in the USA.

Please write immediately in Spanish or English:

- Urging the authorities to implement immediate and effective measures to guarantee the safety and integrity of all staff, volunteers and migrants at the Kino Border Initiative soup kitchen and shelter, in accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on the authorities to carry out a full, impartial and independent investigation into the attacks against the human rights defenders and migrants.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 NOVEMBER 2016 TO:

Sonora State Governor

Claudia Pavlovich Arellano
Gobernadora del Estado de Sonora
Comonfort y Dr. Paliza, Colonia
Centenario, C.P. 83260, Hermosillo,
Sonora, México
Email: claudia.pavlovich@sonora.gob.mx
Facebook: Claudia Pavlovich
Twitter: @claudiapavlovich
**Salutation: Dear Governor / Estimada
Gobernadora**

Federal Human Rights Undersecretary

Roberto Campa Cifrián
Subsecretario de Derechos Humanos
Secretaría de Gobernación
Dinamarca 86, Colonia Juárez,
Delegación Cuauhtémoc, Ciudad de
México, C.P. 6600, México
Ciudad de México, México
Email: rcampa@segob.gob.mx
Twitter: @1campa
**Salutation: Dear Undersecretary /
Estimado Subsecretario**

And copies to:

The Kino Border Initiative
P.O. Box 159
Nogales, Arizona, 85628-0159, USA
Facebook: [Kino.Border.Initiative](https://www.facebook.com/Kino.Border.Initiative)
(English), [Iniciativa Kino para la Frontera](https://www.facebook.com/IniciativaKino)
(Spanish)

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR DIEGO GÓMEZ PICKERING
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 Kino Border Initiative (KBI) was established in 2008. They have facilities, staff and volunteers in the “twin cities” of Nogales, both on the US and Mexican side of the border. They provide food, shelter and medicines to migrants and deportees, including women and children (both accompanied and unaccompanied). They collect data from the migrants who visit their soup kitchen and shelter and publish reports about abuses and family separation in order to provide information to government agencies and the public. They advocate on behalf of individuals and families who require assistance to reunite with their families or seek legal status in the USA. The KBI is also a research destination for scholars and students who are carrying out research into migration issues and policy solutions.

Migrants and asylum-seekers passing through Mexico continue to suffer abductions, extortion, disappearances, sexual violence and other abuses committed by organised criminal groups, often working in collusion with state agents. In the vast majority of cases, no proper investigations are carried out and victims are denied their right to access justice and reparations. For instance, in June 2015, armed men attacked a group of approximately 120 Central American migrants in Sonora state, near the US border. At least three migrants died as a result of the attack. To date, Amnesty International is not aware of any investigation that has been carried out.

The flow of refugees and migrants from Central America continues to increase, with many leaving their countries of origin due to violence. The government has responded by deploying thousands of federal officials, including police and soldiers, in joint policing operations and check-points to detain migrants. The policy, known as the Southern Border Plan, has led to higher numbers of detentions and deportations of migrants since July 2014. In 2015, 198,141 irregular migrants were detained by the National Institute of Migration (Instituto Nacional de Migración), compared with 127,149 in 2014. However, the rise in detentions and deportations was not reflected by a commensurate increase in the number of asylum claims granted, which stands in the range of a few hundred per year. The number of Central American migrants deported by Mexico now surpasses those deported by the USA.

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