

**Mesoamerican and International Feminist and
Human Rights Organizations
Demand Protection for Margarita González Carpio, Mexico**

18 October, 2011

We, the undersigned Mesoamerican and international feminist and human rights organizations, denounce the attempted rape and murder (femicide) of Ms. Margarita González Carpio, a federal police officer in the Mexican state of Querétaro, by Mr. Salvador Cruz Neri, State Coordinator of the Federal Police in Querétaro. We demand that she be granted immediate precautionary protection measures and that her right to access justice for the violence she suffered be guaranteed.

On September 24, 2011, Mr. Neri drove to the home of Ms. Carpio accompanied by his bodyguard and riding in the vehicle used for his work as a public official. When Mr. Neri arrived, he demanded that Ms. Carpio engage in sexual relations with him. When Ms. Carpio refused his demands, he threatened to kill her and proceeded to kick and punch her until she fell unconscious. The bodyguard intervened, which prevented Mr. Neri from continuing his attack.

Ms. Carpio was taken to a public hospital and required urgent medical attention. At the hospital, several federal police agents arrived and attempted to intimidate the victim to keep her quiet. The medical attendant eventually asked them to leave the hospital.

After the ordeal, Ms. Carpio was denied her right to press charges and gain protection. Both the Federal Public Minister and the Deputy Representative of the Federal Prosecutor's Office in Querétaro refused to receive her legitimate complaint, claiming personal ties of friendship with the aggressor, and his senior ranking in the agency's hierarchy. In addition, the former head of the District Attorney's department responsible for crimes of violence against women and human trafficking (FEVIMTRA) and current Social Prosecutor for Victims of Crimes, denied Ms. Carpio personal protection.

Margarita González Carpio now faces a dangerous situation due to an increase in personal threats and the refusal of authorities to investigate these acts of violence or grant her effective protection measures. As a result, she has gone into hiding and has requested the help of women human rights defenders: Lydia Cacho, from CIAM Cancun, an organization that provides free legal services for women victims of violence; and Lucha Castro, an attorney from CEDEHM, a Mexican human rights organization in Chihuahua. Given that in the past Ms. Cacho and Ms. Castro have suffered reprisals for their work as women defenders protecting victims of violence, we are also concerned about their safety as they accompany and support Ms. Carpio.

In light of these reprehensible acts, we demand that appropriate authorities:

1. Take immediate action to put an end to the harassment and threats of violence suffered by Ms. Carpio and guarantee her right to life and non-discrimination in accordance with international human rights standards and fundamental freedoms, especially those mandated by the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women

(CEDAW) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará).

2. Ensure access to justice by the victim by launching, with due diligence, an independent, immediate, exhaustive and impartial investigation of the acts denounced above, leading to the prosecution of those responsible in front of a competent court and the application of all penal and/or administrative punishments accorded by law.
3. Provide protection for Ms. Carpio in her place of work, as she is required to report back to her immediate supervisor (the aggressor) and continue her work after finishing her medically mandated recovery period.
4. Ensure the protection of the women human rights defenders that are working on the case: Lydia Cacho, of CIAM Cancun A.C., and Lucha Castro of CEDEHM in Chihuahua, as guaranteed by the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1998.

The Mexican government has an obligation to guarantee every woman's right to a life free from violence and to act accordingly in response to women's rights abuses by punishing any public officials responsible for such violations and ensuring reparations to the victims. We will remain vigilant to the measures taken in response to this and other cases of violence against women in Mexico.

Organizations signed on to this declaration:

Amnesty International, Just Associates (JASS), Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Americas División At The Center For International Policy (CIP), Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), Code Pink, Global Exchange, Madre, Stitch, Women's Learning Partnership for Rights Development and Peace, Women Living Under Muslim Laws (United Kingdom), Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights to the list of signatories, Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres, Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todas y Todos" (México), Federación Internacional de Mujeres de Carreras Jurídicas, BAOBAB por los Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres (Nigeria), INFORM (Sri Lanka), Coalición de Lesbianas Africanas (África), Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad (México), Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca (México), Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres de Chihuahua (México), Red Mesa de Mujeres de Ciudad Juárez (México), Alternativas Pacíficas (México), Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña "Tlachinollan" (Guerrero, México), Colectiva: Arte, Comunidad y Equidad (México), Colectivo Feminista de Xalapa (México), Comisión de Solidaridad y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (México), Frente de Pueblos en Defensa de la Tierra (México), Grupo de Mujeres de San Cristóbal de las Casas (México), Justicia para Nuestras Hijas (México), Movimiento Pacto por la Cultura de Ciudad Juárez (México), Mujeres Organizadas Yubani (México), Mujeres por México en Chihuahua (México), ProDESC (México), Red Feminista Sonorense (México), Si no están ellas..... No estamos todas, Triqui Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todas y Todos" (México), Tamaulipas Diversidad Vihda Trans Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todas y Todos" (México), Mujeres Transformando el Mundo, Organización de Mujeres Tierra Viva (Guatemala), Red de la No Violencia contra las Mujeres (REDNOVI-Guatemala), Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos Guatemala (UDEFEGUA-Guatemala), Unión nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas (UNAMG-Guatemala), Organización de Mujeres en Superación (Guatemala), Centro de Derechos de Mujeres (Honduras), Coalición Nacional de Mujeres Hondureñas (Honduras), Feministas en Resistencia (Honduras), Movimiento de mujeres Visitación Padilla (Honduras), Red de Defensoras de Derechos Humanos de Honduras (Honduras), Grupo Venancia, Matagalpa (Nicaragua), Agenda Política de Mujeres (Costa Rica), La Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local de El Salvador (El Salvador).

Personal Signatures: Ana Ixmucané Gatica (Guatemala), Ana Reis (Brasil), Ana Silvia Monzón

(Guatemala), Andrea Valenzuela (Chile), Ayesha Imam (Reino Unido), Clemencia Correa (México), Dana Hill (Profesora Universidad de Otavalo Ecuador), Dra. Blanca Rico Galindo (México), Eréndira Cruzvillegas (México), Francesca Gargallo (Escritora Italia), Gilda Ma. Rivera Sierra (Honduras), Khawar Mumtaz (Asia), Laura García Coudurier (México), Laura Velázquez (México), Lety Burgos (México), Licda. Martha Gpe. Figueroa Mier (México), Lily Muñoz (Guatemala), Lucía Melgar (México), Lucia Moran (Guatemala), María del Monserrat Díaz (México), María Ximena Cortés Flores (México), Marusia López Cruz (México), Maya Alvarado (Guatemala), Minerva Nora Martínez Lázaro (México), Orfe Castillo (México), Patricia Orozco (Nicaragua), Rosario Castelli, activista feminista, GLEFAS (Argentina), Roxana Arroyo Vargas (Costa Rica), Jessica Sánchez (Honduras).