

PETITION CALLING FOR THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN MEXICO

Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan
Embassy of Mexico in the United States of America
1911 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20006

Dear Ambassador Sarukhan,

It is with great concern that we petition your government to take immediate action in addressing cases of illegal and unconstitutional persecution against religious minorities in Mexico.

Over the past few years multiple incidents of religious persecution have taken place across Mexico without intervention by and sometimes at the behest of local authorities. Two recent incidents include the terror induced expulsion in September of seventy Christians from the village of San Rafael de Tlanalapan in Puebla State and the denial of drinking water in May by local authorities to a Christian congregation in San Jose de Axuxco, also in Puebla. These Christians were attacked and denied services not because of any wrongdoing, but because their religious beliefs did not perfectly align with those of their persecutors.

While we do applaud the actions of Puebla State in stepping in to resolve the dispute in San Rafael de Tlanalapan, we also regret to observe that this is the only case of several where state and federal authorities have acted to enforce the rule of law. There remain two other cases, in San Juan Yatzona, Villa Alta, Oaxaca and in Los Llanos, San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, where Christian minorities remain forcibly evicted from their homes by local authorities. These cases originated in 2007 and 2009 respectively and have yet to be resolved by state or federal authorities. For years dozens of these Christians have been forced to live in impoverished conditions because of their unwillingness to renounce their faith. Their right as Mexican citizens to “embrace and practice” the religion of their choice as outlined in Article 24 of the Constitution of Mexico has been and continues to be denied.

Mr. Ambassador, the signatories of this petition strongly urge you to speak with your government and to investigate the incidents outlined above. We firmly believe that no one should be denied the right to practice their faith, and that they certainly should not be evicted from their homes because of their beliefs. Please demonstrate your commitment to upholding the articles of Mexico’s constitution by acting swiftly to enforce the rule of law through the intervention of state and federal authority in the cases outlined above.

Sincerely,

International Christian Concern (and attached)

CC:
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
Senator John Kerry, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Senator Richard Lugar, Ranking Republican Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Congressman Howard L. Berman, Ranking Democratic Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

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MEXICO**

(Please Print, Do Not Sign)

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