



## STOP MURDERS AND THREATS ON MEXICAN ACTIVISTS FIGHTING AGAINST ABUSE OF MINING IN CHIAPAS

**C. Lic. Juan Sabines**  
**Constitutional Governor of**  
**Chiapas State, Mexico**

**Mr Gobernador:**

We, the organization that sign below, demand, that you take urgent action to investigate and punish murderers and the masterminds of social activist and community anti-mining leader Mariano Abarca Roblero, in Chicomuselo, Chiapas, family protection for Orlando Velazquez who was seriously wounded, and REMA (The Mexican Network of People Affected by Mining) colleagues who have fought against the abuses of the Canadian Blackfire Exploration mining corporation operating with impunity in the municipality.

The murder of our camarade fellow Mariano Abarca Roblero happened the night of November 27 to the hands of a gunman on a motorbike. But just days before Don Mariano Abarca Roblero submitted an administrative complaint against CIRO ROBLERO PEREZ and LUIS ANTONIO FLORES VILLATORO (Public Relations Manager of the mining company Blackfire) and any others people responsible for possible conspiracy and committing of threats...".

In the complaint, Mariano Abarca Roblero clearly established before the municipal agent Velazquez Sr.Nestor Ortis, from Township Nueva Morelia, Chicomuselo, Chiapas, that "... Mr. CIRO ROBLERO cynically commented that previously they had already gone for ( Mariano Abarca), to blow the mother to bits, so that no further information on what is happening in the mine gets out and that the undersigned (Mariano Abarca Roblero) and others were already in the list of business owners and manager of the mine. " Moreover, on a separate official record, submitted by Mariano Abarca, was indicated that " the mining company had threatened several people who have tried to run over them in cars, and talked of wanting to kill them. "

As is publicly known, nationally and internationally, on August 17 Don Mariano Abarca was illegally kidnapped and the police used extreme violence to force him to be presented at an arraignment. Global demand for the release of Don Mariano Abarca Roblero forced the Chiapas state government to release him, but not before the government tried to negotiate with Mariano Abarca his release in exchange for abandoning the struggle of resistance against mining or that they may stop the II REMA Meeting of Chiapas in Chicomuselo at the end of the month from happening. Mariano Abarca responded strongly stating he preferred to stay in prison to negotiate these proposals.

There are enough elements and background, previously presented to local judicial authorities, that probe that the cowardly murder of Don Mariano Abarca Roblero, serious injury Orlando Velazquez and threats to remaining family members and REMA members fighters against the abuses of the Blackfire mining corporation have individuals that are personally and intellectual responsible, as well as there has also been judicial negligence to prevent such serious human rights violations in the town of Chicomuselo, Chiapas.

For all these reasons, we demand the government of Chiapas and the Mexican authorities to:

- Take urgent action to investigate the actions or omissions that violate human rights offenses committed by the murderers and masterminds of the assassination of Mariano Abarca Roblero, and provide protection to his family
- Protect and respect the physical and psychological and legal integrity to Orlando Velazquez and his family.
- Protect and respect the physical, psychological and legal integrity of REMA members who have



struggled against the abuses of Blackfire mining company operating with impunity in the municipality.

- Annul Blackfire Exploration company the permits for mining operation for serious violations of Mexican law.

Sincerely

Alejandro Villamar, in behalf National Coordination REMA  
Marcos Velasquez, in behalf Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio

Solidarity signed

ActionAid International-James Kintu  
Southern Africa Trade Union Coordination Council (SATUCC) – Mooketsi Ramateba  
National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa – Tewgo Tewgewa  
Malawi Economic Justice Network Richard Chiputula  
Africa Trade Network -Tetteh Hormeku  
Ghana National Association of Poultry Farmers- Syeerbo Leins  
SEATINI-  
Rezistans & Alternativ, Mauricius- Veena Dholan  
Attac-Austria-Alexandra Strickner  
War on Want-UK,- John Hilary  
Colibri, Germany- Carol Bergin  
Ecologistas en Acción, España- Tom Kuchards  
11.11.11, Belgica- Marc Maes  
Asian Peasant Coalition India (ASVVU)- P. Chennaiah  
Kilasang Magbabakid –Filipinas Wilfrido Marbella  
IGTN-Brasil- Graciela Rodriguez