

31 January 2018

Mexico: Trespassing and robbery of Yesica Sánchez Maya's property

On 5 January 2018, an unknown individual forcibly entered the home of **Yesica Sánchez Maya**, located in Oaxaca, stealing her IT and security materials, including computer, screens, a video camera and a wifi modem.

[Yesica Sánchez Maya](#) is a woman human rights defender and member of the executive team at **Consortio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca**, a feminist organisation with 15 years of experience working in Oaxaca, promoting the recognition, respect and exercise of women's human rights and gender equality. The organisation also promotes the work of civil society networks, and carries out human rights capacity building and training for women about democratic participation in society.

On 5 January 2018, an unknown individual cut the security fence, deactivated the security alarms, broke into Yesica Sánchez Maya's home and stole IT and security materials belonging to the defender. The defender reported this security incident to the authorities, who took a statement and conducted a preliminary investigation in her property but neglected to notify her of any further developments.

This attack is just one of the various aggressions against members of Consortio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca. Since December 2016, the homes, offices and cars of members of the organisation have been robbed at least six times. There has been a noticeable trend of assailants stealing information and equipment belonging to the organisation. The organisation's members believe that the robberies are solely motivated by the organisation's legitimate and peaceful work in women's rights initiatives. Moreover, there is constant surveillance of the organisation's headquarters by unknown men, unknown vehicles and by traffic police; and the organisation's digital communications have been tapped.

Since 2012, members of Consortio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca are beneficiaries of precautionary measures, granted by the Oaxaca Ombudsperson Office (Defensoría de los Derechos Humanos del Pueblo de Oaxaca). However, these precautionary measures have not been effective. Regardless of the many communications the beneficiaries have sent to the protection mechanism stating the risks they face everyday, the authorities have attempted to revoke those measures several times, most recently on 17 January 2018. Furthermore, the organisation has submitted nine criminal complaints to the protection

mechanism regarding the attacks against them. So far, only one complaint has been properly judged and sanctioned, five have been filed, and investigations into the remaining three have not yielded any results.

These attacks in Oaxaca are reflective of a systematic pattern of harassment and intimidation against human rights defenders in Mexico. The lack of effective investigations into the attacks, and the failure to sanction the perpetrators and provide adequate protection to human rights defenders generates a climate of impunity that prevents human rights work.

Front Line Defenders condemns the acts of intimidation and harassment against Yesica Sánchez Maya and all members of Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca. Moreover, Front Line Defenders is concerned about the climate of impunity and the lack of a safe environment for human rights defenders in Mexico.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Mexico to:

1. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of Yesica Sánchez Maya and all members of Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca, as part of the precautionary measures compliance.
2. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the attacks against all members of Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Mexico are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw your attention to Article 12: “*1. Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms; 2. “The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration; 3. In this*

connection, everyone is entitled, individually and in association with others, to be protected effectively under national law in reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, activities and acts, including those by omission, attributable to States that result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as acts of violence perpetrated by groups or individuals that affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Andrew Anderson
Executive Director