



King County

Metropolitan King County Council

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April 27, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We urge your immediate attention to the case of Ms. Nestora Salgado, a United States citizen and resident of the City of Renton in King County, Washington State, who was arrested in Mexico and has been detained since August 21, 2013. Since the detainment, Ms. Salgado has experienced serious abuse of human rights, lack of adequate medical attention, and lack of due process throughout her detention.

Ms. Salgado's circumstances are described in detail in the attached letter dated August 29, 2014, which was sent to you by the U.S. Senators and Congressional Representatives of the State of Washington. We understand that the conditions under which Ms. Salgado is being held have not improved since that letter was sent and that she continues to be held without trial and in physical jeopardy.

We are deeply concerned about Ms. Salgado's detainment conditions. She suffers from neuropathy in her hands and feet and has been denied access to medication, medical attention and adequate exercise throughout her imprisonment. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights issued a decision in which it concluded that Ms. Salgado's case meets the requirements of seriousness, urgency and irreparable harm because her rights to life and personal integrity are at risk due to the conditions of her confinement. Furthermore, the International Human Rights Clinic at Seattle University School of Law has represented Ms. Salgado in international legal proceedings and has also confirmed that she has suffered grave violations of her physical integrity, personal liberty, and due process.

This matter is urgent. We urge you to take affirmative action to support efforts to free Nestora Salgado Garcia from imprisonment in Mexico so that she may return to the safety of her family in King County, Washington State.

Sincerely,



Larry Phillips, Chair
Metropolitan King County Council



Joe McDermott, Vice Chair
Metropolitan King County Council



Dave Upthegrove
Metropolitan King County Council



Rod Dembowski
Metropolitan King County Council



Larry Gossett
Metropolitan King County Council



Jane Hague
Metropolitan King County Council

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 29, 2014

The Honorable John Kerry
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary:

We write to urge your immediate attention to the case of Ms. Nestora Salgado, a U.S. Citizen who was arrested in Guerrero, Mexico and has been detained since August 21, 2013. We have closely monitored Ms. Salgado's incarceration since her arrest and now call attention to the serious abuse of human rights and due process experienced by Ms. Salgado throughout her detention.

On August 21, 2013, Ms. Salgado was arrested on charges related to her leadership position in an indigenous community police force in her hometown of Olinalá, Guerrero. The State of Guerrero has an established tradition of legally recognizing such groups, one of which elected Ms. Salgado as their representative. Ms. Salgado was initially charged with aggravated kidnapping which is an offense usually handled by the local court system. However, she was immediately transferred to a maximum security federal prison in the State of Nayarit where she has remained for nearly a year without trial. Until very recently, Mexican authorities had denied her access to her lawyer and she has yet to meet with her defense team in person. Her defense is further complicated by the fact that she is held in a remote prison that will only grant her very short meetings with her counsel.

There are several concerning recent developments that warrant immediate attention to Ms. Salgado's case. On April 3, 2014, a Mexican federal judge dismissed the criminal charges against her and confirmed her actions were legal as an authorized leader of her indigenous community police force. The judge issued an order of immediate release from federal prison for Ms. Salgado as she was no longer being charged for federal crimes. However, to this day the state courts have never responded to the judge's revoked detention order or to any defense motions. Yet, they have been able to ensure that Ms. Salgado remains imprisoned by adding new charges based on facts that have already been considered and dismissed by federal courts. The state courts have deprived Ms. Salgado of due process by refusing to consider the motions of Ms. Salgado's defense team. Indeed, all legal deadlines to respond to these motions have long passed.

We remain deeply concerned about Ms. Salgado's detainment conditions. She suffers from neuropathy in her hands and feet and has been denied access to medication and adequate exercise throughout the time she has been imprisoned. The persistent numbness and pain from her condition is intensified by her isolation; she is not allowed to have contact with other inmates and is only allowed very minimal exercise, which is significantly less than is prescribed to

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alleviate her pain. Her attorneys also report that the continued confinement has taken a toll on Ms. Salgado's mental state and she is currently being treated for depression.

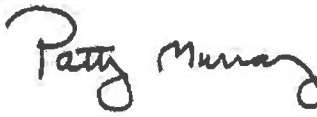
Community support for Ms. Salgado continues to grow throughout the U.S. and Mexico. Last May, a march in Seattle organized by family and friends sought to increase awareness of Ms. Salgado's imprisonment and fight for justice in Mexico. Similar marches for her were held in New York, Los Angeles, and throughout the State of Guerrero, Mexico. Additionally, the family has held press conferences and actively worked to generate substantial press coverage, both nationally and internationally.

Furthermore, representatives in the Mexican federal government have expressed deep concern about Ms. Salgado's imprisonment. In June, they visited Ms. Salgado and produced a report on her detainment conditions, irregularities in her case, and highlighted the violations to her due process. They convened a working group with the Guerrero government to discuss terms of release for her and similar community police leaders. Frustrated with the lack of progress in meetings with the state prosecutor, the group is now pushing to meet directly with the Governor of the State, Ángel Aguirre Rivero, to come to an agreement and secure Ms. Salgado's release.

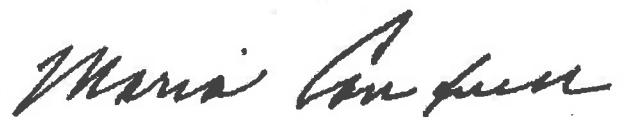
We urge you to employ the resources of the State Department to continue efforts to secure Ms. Salgado's release. The authorities in the State of Guerrero have not demonstrated a concern for her well-being, nor have they carried out the due process of law afforded to Ms. Salgado. We remain troubled by the detainment conditions to which she is subjected. It is for these reasons that we seek your assistance to achieve a diplomatic conclusion to this long fought battle so that Ms. Salgado may return to the safety of her family in Washington State.



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress




PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator




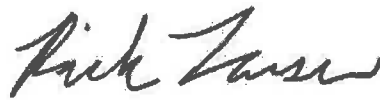
MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Early Anthony Wayne, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico


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SUZAN DELBENE
Member of Congress


JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress


RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress


DENNY HECK
Member of Congress


DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress


JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress