



## **International Day of Protest Marks One-Year Anniversary of Nestora Salgado's Illegal Imprisonment in Mexico**

**Freedom demanded for Dr. José Luis Mireles, Marco Antonio Suástegui and other political prisoners**

**AUGUST 21 MARKS THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY** of incarceration for Nestora Salgado, a naturalized U.S. citizen and leader of an indigenous community defense force authorized under both the Mexican and Guerrero state constitutions. Salgado's family and supporters in the U.S. and Mexico chose this day to call for an international day of protests to demand that she and other political prisoners jailed by the Peña Nieto government be freed.



U.S. protests will take place at Mexican consulates in Chicago, New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Portland, Oregon. In Mexico, events are planned at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) as well as in Olinalá, Guerrero, Jamiltepec, Oaxaca and the state of Sinaloa. Solidarity protests will also be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Manaus, Brazil and Melbourne, Australia.

Among the political prisoners whose freedom is sought are: Dr. José Luis Mireles, leader of a civilian *autodefensas* force in Michoacán along with over 80 of his men; Marco Antonio Suástegui, leader of the Council of Ejidos and Communities Opposed to La Parota dam, and three other indigenous anti-dam activists; 10 members of the Olinalá community police force, including leaders Gonzalo Molina and Arturo Campos; and other social activists from Colima and additional communities.

**BEFORE BEING ELECTED TO LEAD THE OLINALÁ COMMUNITY POLICE**, Salgado made numerous trips to deliver aid to the impoverished residents of her hometown. The community was under siege from the Knights Templar, a criminal syndicate, and plagued by corrupt public officials. In performing her duties, Salgado

angered local authorities who arrested her on charges of kidnapping and sent her to a maximum security prison in Tepic, Nayarit. In March, a federal judge struck down the charges against her and ordered her release. Guerrero state officials have so far refused to follow this order and Salgado is still behind bars. *She had her first meeting with her attorney last week.*

### **SALGADO HAS BECOME THE FACE OF A LARGER STRUGGLE IN MEXICO.**

Other self-defense forces have been formed to protect towns and villages from gangsters and from land-grabs by international mining companies — with considerable success. Despite their effectiveness — or rather because of it — the Mexican government has jailed scores of these defenders. In June, Dr. José Manuel Mireles and his civilian autodefensas, which had driven criminals out of two districts in Michoacán, were arrested wholesale.

Today Salgado and Mireles have become symbols of resistance against the Mexican government's corruption and violent repression.

### **THE CAMPAIGN TO FREE NESTORA SALGADO HAS GAINED WIDE SUPPORT IN THE U.S.**

Over 120 organizations have endorsed the call to “Free Nestora.” Among them are: Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Coalición de Derechos Humanos; La Voz Latina, WBAI-99.5 FM; El Centro de la Raza; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Yo Soy 132, Chicago, Bay Area & New York City; Freedom Socialist Party; Radical Women; Seattle Human Rights Commission; and Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters (complete list at <http://freenestora.org/endorsers/>).

**U.S. CONGRESSMAN ADAM SMITH CALLED FOR SALGADO'S RELEASE** in June and has been in contact with Secretary of State John Kerry regarding her case. On August 4, the Renton, Wash. City Council passed a resolution calling for Salgado's release; Renton is Salgado's home in the U.S. where her husband José Avila, grandchildren and daughters live.

For more information about the August 21 International Day of Protest call 917-714-6453. To arrange an interview with a member of Salgado's family in the U.S or her attorney, call: Su Docekal, 206-722-2453 or email [FreeNestora.Seattle@gmail.com](mailto:FreeNestora.Seattle@gmail.com).

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### **U.S. PROTESTS BY CITY**

**Chicago, Illinois:** 2:00pm at the Mexican Consulate, 204 South Ashland Ave., Chicago IL 60607

**Los Angeles, California:** 4:00pm at the Federal Building, 300 N. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. For more information, call 323-732-6416 or email [freenestora.la@gmail.com](mailto:freenestora.la@gmail.com).

**New York City, New York:** 1:00pm at the Mexican Consulate, 27 E. 39th St., New

York, NY 10016. For more information, call 917-714-6453 or email [FreeNestora.NYC@gmail.com](mailto:FreeNestora.NYC@gmail.com).

**Portland, Oregon:** 12:00pm at the Mexican Consulate, 1305 S.W. 12th Ave., Portland, OR 97201. For more information, call 503-516-2151 or email [jsardo60@hotmail.com](mailto:jsardo60@hotmail.com).

**San Francisco, California:** 7:30am at the Mexican Consulate, 532 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94105. For more information, call 415-864-1278 or email [FreeNestora.SanFrancisco@gmail.com](mailto:FreeNestora.SanFrancisco@gmail.com).

**Seattle, Washington:** 4:00pm at Federal Building Plaza, 915 Second Ave., Seattle, WA 98174. For more information, call 206-722-2453 or email [FreeNestora.Seattle@gmail.com](mailto:FreeNestora.Seattle@gmail.com).

### U.S. PRESS CONFERENCES

**Los Angeles, California:** 10:00am outside the Mexican Consulate, 2401 West 6th St., Los Angeles, CA 90057. For more information, call 323-732-6416 or email [freenestora.la@gmail.com](mailto:freenestora.la@gmail.com).


**Seattle, Washington:** 11:00am outside the Mexican Consulate, 2132 3rd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121. For more information, call 206-722-2453 or email [FreeNestora.Seattle@gmail.com](mailto:FreeNestora.Seattle@gmail.com).

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