

29 October 2019

Mexico: Disappearance of defender Arnulfo Cerón Soriano in the state of Guerrero

Human rights defender Arnulfo Cerón Soriano has been missing since 11 October 2019, when he was on his way to give a lecture in Tlapa de Comonfort, Guerrero.

[Arnulfo Cerón Soriano](#) is a lawyer and human rights defender belonging to the Nuaa people of the region of La Montaña, Guerrero. Also, as a member of the Popular Front of the Mountain (FPM), his work as part of this movement has been dedicated to organizing the colonies and communities of the region in the defense of human rights. He has collaborated with the [Tlachinollan Mountain Human Rights Center](#) in the past, defending the rights of indigenous peoples. In 2014, he was actively involved in the struggle of the parents of the "43 de Ayotzinapa", who disappeared in Iguala in September 2014. Recently, as part of the FPM, he accompanied a group of street vendors evicted from downtown Tlapa, as part of a policy of "reaccommodation" promoted by the city council, in the city of Ayotzinapa.

On Friday, 11 October, 2019, at approximately 20:00 hours, Arnulfo Cerón Soriano left his home to give a lecture in the city of Tlapa de Comonfort, Guerrero, where he never arrived. The next day, around 12:00 hours, his vehicle was found abandoned in the residential area of Magisterio, with the keys still in place. Since then, his whereabouts remain unknown.

Since the day he disappeared, his family and colleagues have received phone calls threatening them. These threats have included mention of the names of his daughters. In addition, his family is constantly monitored.. A report on his disappearance was made to the Specialized Prosecutor's Office for the Search of Disappeared Persons in the city of Chilpancingo and one person has been arrested in relation to the disappearance, however, it is hoped that more resources will be allocated to the search for Arnulfo Cerón in life.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned about the disappearance of Arnulfo Cerón Soriano, as it believes it may be related to his human rights work. Front Line Defenders also expresses concern about the threats to his family and the climate of impunity and the lack of adequate security conditions for human rights defenders in the state of Guerrero and in Mexico in general.

Front Line Defenders urges the Mexican authorities to

1. Initiate an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the disappearance of human rights defender Arnulfo Cerón Soriano, in order to guarantee his protection and release

alive, publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards.

2. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the protection of the relatives and colleagues of Arnulfo Cerón Soriano, guaranteeing their safety and physical and psychological integrity;
3. Guarantee that all human rights defenders in Mexico, in the development of their legitimate activities in defense of human rights, can operate freely without fear of restrictions or reprisals in the state of Guerrero and in Mexico.

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