

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead expressing concern at the disappearance of journalist Rodolfo Rincón Taracena.

16 February 2007

His Excellency Felipe Calderón Hinojosa
Presidente de los Estados Unidos de México
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Excellency,

I wish to add my name to this appeal from PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of the international writers' organization, International PEN. PEN Canada is writing to express serious concern about the disappearance of journalist **Rodolfo Rincón Taracena**.

According to our information, Rincón (50), journalist for the daily *Tabasco Hoy*, located in Villahermosa, state of Tabasco, was last heard of on the morning of the 20 January 2007. He telephoned his wife from his office to let her know that he would be home late in the afternoon, but never arrived. Rincón had recently published articles on drug trafficking, and he had identified sites where drugs were being sold, apparently naming some alleged dealers. On the day of Rincón's disappearance, he was completing an article on a gang of bank robbers.

The journalist's family reported the disappearance to the authorities on 23 January, and an investigation was launched by the Tabasco Delegate to the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes against Journalists (Fiscalía Especial para la Atención de Delitos Cometidos contra Periodistas), a post established by the Mexican government in February 2006.

The director of *Tabasco Hoy* is reported to have claimed that his newspaper received threats from a gang, which calls itself as *Las Zetas* and is described as military-trained contract killers.

Rodolfo Rincón Taracena's disappearance comes at a time when the numbers of killings of journalists in Mexico has risen alarmingly with nine print and broadcast journalists killed in the past year. Two others have disappeared.

PEN Canada is deeply concerned by the disappearance of Rodolfo Rincón Taracena. While welcoming the fact that an investigation has been opened, we urge the Mexican authorities to be exhaustive in determining the journalist's whereabouts and to take urgent measures to address this appalling pattern of violence against members of the Mexican media.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

Copies to:

On-line form for e-mailing President Felipe Calderón:
<http://contacto.presidencia.gob.mx/en/>

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Procurador General de la República

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Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

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