

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead denouncing the murder of journalist Misael Tamayo Hernández.

17 November 2006

Lic. Vicente Fox Quesada
Presidente de los Estados Unidos de México
Residencia Oficial de "Los Pinos", Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
México, D.F. MEXICO
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E-mail: vicente.fox.quesada@presidencia.gob.mx

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 denounce the killing of journalist **Misael Tamayo Hernández**.

According to our information, Hernández, who is the editor and publisher of the newspaper *Despertar de la Costa*, left his office at 9am on Thursday, 9 November 2006, for a meeting with the manager of a bus company who is also a former commander of the local police. An hour and a half later, he called to give instruction to a reporter regarding an article on water quality. That was his last contact. At 3am of the following Friday, his family reported to the police that he was missing. A few hours later Tamayo's body was found in a tourist motel in the Pacific coastal resort of Zihuatenejo, Guerrero state.

Tamayo's family reports that he was critical of local government corruption and criminal activities. They also say that Tamayo received a threatening telephone call two months before his death. Three days before Tamayo's murder, *Despertar de la Costa* had reported on the explosion of two grenades in an Ixtapa Zihuatanejo neighbourhood. On 9 November, the day of his disappearance, Tamayo wrote an editorial on corruption within the Zihuatanejo water authority.

PEN Canada demands an exhaustive investigation to establish the motives behind Misael Tamayo Hernández's killing and calls upon your government to bring those responsible to justice. We wish to point out that only through full, prompt and impartial investigations on such killings, leading to the prosecution of those found guilty, can Mexican authorities counter concern that those who kill those who criticize them do so with impunity.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

Copies to:

Lic. Daniel Cabeza de Vaca
Procurador General de la República
Procuraduría General de la República
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Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations
Two United Nations Plaza, 28th Floor, New York, NY 10017
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Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

The Hon. Peter MacKay
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