



Heike Hänsel

Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

VICENTE FOX QUESADA
PRESIDENTE CONSTITUCIONAL DE MÉXICO
(PRESIDENT OF MEXICO)

31.10.2006

Dear President Fox,

being a member of the German Bundestag I have received detailed information over the last months regarding the violent clashes between the paramilitary of the governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz and the local grassroots organization APPO. I am especially alarmed about the recent deaths, one of them being an independent American journalist Brad Will (Indymedia) during a raid of the barricades by the paramilitary.

Therefore, I request the government of Mexico, the district government of Oaxaca, the social movements in Oaxaca and Mexico and civil society in Mexico and the world to stop the violence in Oaxaca. These violent actions only intensify the critical situation in the province, risk the physical integrity and the lives of the protesters, the victims mainly being on the side of sympathizers and journalists. I reject the violence used against the barricades, causing confrontation and an even greater polarizing between the two parties involved.

I ask you to initiate a thorough investigation of the recent events in Oaxaca and to do everything possible to appease the situation by using non-violent means. Persons responsible for the violence should be identified immediately. As for the political involvement of the governor Ortiz I request full transparency regarding his responsibility in the events.

Furthermore, I ask you to convene with the local inhabitants of Oaxaca and to work towards democratic solutions for political conflict in the area, by taking into consideration claims that the communal organisation APPO has formulated. I strongly reject the command to repress the local movement for change issued by the Mexican government which then led to the death of Brad Will.

Please, retreat the federal troops from Oaxaca and install human rights and democracy in the district.



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I will inform the media, civil society and social movements in Germany about my peaceful protest against the violence in Oaxaca and hope that you take serious the human rights violation in your country.

Sincerely,

Heike Hänsel