



**International Rivers Network**  
Linking Human Rights and Environmental Protection

Your Excellency  
Licenciado Vicente Fox Quesada  
President of Mexico  
Fax 0052-55- 55 20 71 25

Mr. President,

The undersigned human rights and environmental organizations are writing to you as head-of-state to express our serious concern regarding the irregularities and human rights violations which are taking place in order to push through the approval of the La Parota Hydroelectric Project in Guerrero state.

The actions of the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) in seeking project approval have taken place without transparency, and without the participation of the communities that would be affected by the dam. We are concerned about the way in which the Mexican government and the CFE have responded to the opposition of local people through political persecution of their leaders, threats, and police violence. This has created a climate of extreme tension, resulting in the death of two people and the wounding of hundreds of farmers. This type of action sends a negative message to the world regarding the Mexican government and its apparent lack of commitment to social justice and respect for human rights.

On January 19 the Tribunal Agrario annulled the consultation meeting held in San Marcos after recognizing that it was non-affected communities which had given approval to the dam at that meeting. Similar meetings with non-affected communities have take place at Dos Arroyos and Los Huajes. We are also aware of pressure brought by the CFE on community members in order to obtain their consent to the expropriation of their land through bribes and by falsifying identities.

The international community is carefully observing the intensification of police actions against peaceful protesters opposed to the dam. We support the demand of the affected communities to cancel the La Parota project due to its serious impacts on the livelihoods of 25,000 people who currently depend on the Papagayo River for fish, transportation, agriculture, water and other uses. The loss of land, homes and the ejido communal system threatens the life of these communities.

According to the report of the independent World Commission on Dams (WCD), the planning process for dam projects should be based on recognizing the rights of, and assessing the risks to, all stakeholders. Those who would be adversely affected should participate in the planning and decision-making process and have a share in project

benefits. This has not taken place in the case of La Parota, and those consultations which have been convened have been denounced as illegitimate and illegal.

The WCD also recommends that comprehensive and participatory assessments of people's water and energy needs, and different options for meeting these needs, should be developed before proceeding with any project. With all due respect to you, Sir, as the President of the Nation, we call on you to cancel the La Parota project, and to initiate a comprehensive and participatory options assessment process to determine the best methods for meeting the energy needs of the people of Mexico.

We await your response.

Sincerely,

Monti Aguirre  
Latin America Program

cc  
Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo  
Gobernador Electo del Estado de Guerrero

Lic. Jesus Ramirez Guerrero  
Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Guerrero

Lic. Alfredo Elías Ayub  
Director de la Comisión Federal de Electricidad

Dr. Ricardo Sepúlveda  
Secretaría de Gobernación - Director de Derechos Humanos

**Signed by 32 organizations from 21 countries:**

**Argentina**

Elba Stancich  
Taller Ecologista

**Austria**

Prof. Mag. Heinz Stockinger  
PLAGE - Überparteiliche Plattform gegen Atomgefahren (Independent Platform Against Nuclear Dangers)

**Canada**

David B. Brooks, PhD  
Friends of the Earth Canada

Grainne Ryder  
Probe International

**Costa Rica**

Isaac Rojas  
COECOCeiba-Amigos de la Tierra

**Czech Republic**

Sandile Ndawonde  
Green Network

**El Salvador**

Raquel Cruz  
CESTA - Amigos de la Tierra

Mauricio Vanegas  
Funprocoop

**France**

Sebastien Godinot  
Friends of the Earth France

**Germany**

Heike Drillisch  
WEED

**Guatemala**

MESA GLOBAL

**Holland**

Tamara Mohr  
Both ENDS

**Honduras**

Bertha Cáceres Flores  
COPINH

### **India**

Pandurang Hegde  
Appiko-Chipko Movement

Leo Saldanha  
Environment Support Group

### **Kenya**

Soren Ambrose  
Solidarity Africa Network

### **Mexico**

Dr. Francisco Valdés Perezgasga  
En Defensa del Ambiente, AC

Gonzalo G. García Vargas  
En defensa del Ambiente  
Torreon, Coahuila

Cristina Núñez Madrazo  
Universidad Veracruzana

### **Norway**

Andrew Preston  
FIVAS

### **Philippines**

Jose Doton  
TIMMAWA

### **Portugal**

José Fernando  
Alves Teixeira

### **Russia**

Vladimir Myakishev  
ASVIK Trade Union

## **Spain**

Julián Ezquerro Gómez  
Coordinadora de Afectados por Grandes Embalses y Trasvases (COAGRET)

Alicia Lafuente  
Fundación Nueva Cultura del Agua

Gian Carlo Delgado Ramos  
Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnología Ambiental

## **United Kingdom**

Nick Hildyard  
The Corner House  
Tom Griffiths  
Forest Peoples Programme

## **United States**

Neil Tangri  
Center for Economic Justice

Odilia Romero Hernandez  
Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB)

Andrea West  
Global Greengrants Fund

Xóchitl Bada  
Philip Moore Fellow 2005-2006  
Doctoral Candidate