

# Two men are tortured and imprisoned. Their lawyer is murdered.

## Yet, there's still an opportunity for justice.

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### AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

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**Dear President Fox:** On October 19, Digna Ochoa, one of Mexico's most prominent human rights lawyers, was murdered while working in her office in Mexico City.

We express our deepest regret for this brutal killing, and ask you to move quickly and decisively to bring the killers to justice and guarantee protection for her colleagues.



Human rights attorney Digna Ochoa was murdered on October 19, 2001, in her Mexico City law office.

Despite repeated threats, her kidnapping, and even torture, Ms. Ochoa persisted with her work. Among her cases was the defense of Rodolfo Montiel, Goldman Environmental Prize winner in 2000, and Teodoro Cabrera. These men are farmers and environmentalists who were imprisoned when jailers tortured them to force confessions. Amnesty International has declared both men Prisoners of Conscience. The torture and continued incarceration of these men demonstrates the difficulties of individuals in Mexico who battle corruption.

On October 25, less than a week after Ms. Ochoa's murder, her colleagues presented a petition to the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights in Washington, D.C., for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Montiel and Mr. Cabrera. We call upon the Mexican government to acknowledge the merits of this petition and immediately release these men. This will send a strong message that despite recent events, Mexico is committed to human rights.

**This letter is signed by the following recipients of the Goldman Environmental Prize, the world's largest award for grassroots environmental heroes. Visit [www.goldmanprize.org](http://www.goldmanprize.org) to learn more.**

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