

UA 24/19

AI Index: AMR 41/9893/2019 of 26 February 2019

## MEXICO

### ENVIROMENTAL RIGHTS DEFENDER KILLED

Samir Flores Soberanes, an environmental, land and territory human rights defender, was killed on 20 February, after receiving several death threats for his work defending the territory of his community. Members of an unknown armed group shot him four times, twice in the head, outside his house.

Samir was a member of a grassroots collective called the Front of Peoples in Defense of the Earth and Water (FPDTA) in the states of Morelos, Puebla and Tlaxcala (southeast Mexico). The FPDTA is dedicated to protecting the environment and the territory in the area. He was vocal in his opposition to the thermal-electric plant and pipeline project called "Proyecto Integral Morelos". As a result, he had received written death threats and in October 2018, an unidentified group of attackers beat him. The day before he was killed, Samir attended an information session on the project and expressed concerns about its human rights and social impacts.



*Samir Flores Soberanes via Twitter*

Amnesty International fears for the safety of others in the collective.

#### **Please send a letter or email without delay.**

\* Urge the authorities to conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of Samir Flores Soberanes, taking into account the possibility that the attack was retaliation for his activities as an environmental, land and territory defender.

\* Ask them to ensure that his colleagues in the FPTDA are protected from harm and that they can express their views without fear of reprisals.

#### **Write to**

Cauhtémoc Blanco  
Governor of Morelos  
Calle de la Luz, 88  
Colonia Chapultepec  
CP: 62450, México

Email: [Cauhtemoc.Blanco@morelos.gob.mx](mailto:Cauhtemoc.Blanco@morelos.gob.mx) or [Maribel.rosas@morelos.gob.mx](mailto:Maribel.rosas@morelos.gob.mx)

Twitter: Morelos Governor: @cauhtemocb10 or Morelos Government: @GobiernoMorelos

Salutation: Dear Governor

Uriel Carmona  
Attorney General of the State of Morelos  
Av. Emiliano Zapata No. 803  
Col. Buena Vista, Cuernavaca  
C.P. 62130, México  
E-mail: [urielcarmona@moreloslegal.com](mailto:urielcarmona@moreloslegal.com)  
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

**Please copy**

His Excellency Arturo Hernández Basave  
Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Mexico  
45 O'Connor Street, Suites 1000 & 1030  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1A4  
Fax: 613 235 9123  
Phone: 613 233 8988 or 613 233 9272  
Email: [infocan@sre.gob.mx](mailto:infocan@sre.gob.mx)  
Twitter: @EmbaMexCan

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
111 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
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**Additional information**

In the January 2019 report [Caught Between Bullets and Neglect: Lack of Protection for Defenders of the Territory in the Sierra Tarahumara](#), Amnesty International confirmed that Mexico is failing to comply with its obligation to protect human rights defenders who are at risk and, in general, to guarantee a favourable climate in which they can carry out their work in safety. Amnesty International asked the Mexican government to incorporate a comprehensive perspective on the protection of human rights defenders in relevant legislations, plans, programs and policies, with the objective of guaranteeing effective protection for them.