Statement in rejection to the lack of response and attention by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs to Gustavo Castro´s case

We, Otros Mundos Chiapas AC, want to express our concern over the lack of response and attention by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Claudia Ruiz Massieu, with reference to Gustavo Castro´s case.

More than three weeks after Judge Victorina Flores, of Honduras, ordered to block Gustavo Castro from leaving the country for thirty days without an appropriate legal framework supporting her and in contradiction of the right to be protected as a victim outside his country, the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico is not upholding the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters signed by both countries, which establishes as a first protection measure the immediate exit of the witness from the country and the subsequent collaboration in the investigation.

The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs is fully aware of Gustavo Castro’s situation: they know about the irregularities in the investigation carried out by the Prosecutor’s Office, they know about the excessive measures taken by the Honduran Judge (who even suspended Lawyer Ivania Galeano, leaving the witness unprotected), they know about the requests by the Inter American Commission on Human Rights to Honduras to protect Gustavo Castro and the extension of measures also requested to protect the legal team and his brother Oscar Castro, who is by his side.

The Intibucá Prosecutor’s Office and the Appeals Court of Acomayagua should respond to the appeals filed by Gustavo Castro’s legal team: an appeal to the Prosecutor’s Office to repeal the migration alert; a legal protection measure denouncing the violation of the rights of the protected witness, an Habeas Corpus petition to protect Gustavo Castro as a victim and witness. It is necessary to obtain a favorable response to all of this.

All the appeals have been supported by networks, universities, organizations, national and international movements, who have sent Amicus Curiae briefs and letters addressed to the Judge and the Honduran General Prosecutor to act in favor of the protection of the rights of the Mexican citizen.

This is even more significant in light of the claims by Berta Cáceres family, COPINH, the Popular and Social Movement Platform of Honduras (PMSPH) and the Berta Cáceres Popular Articulation about the irregularities surrounding Berta’s assassination and the human rights violations against Gustavo Castro.

Given this situation, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Claudia Ruiz Massieu should act in defense of the physical and psychological safety of our colleague Gustavo Castro. She should agree to meet with Castro Soto’s family and ensure the necessary measures for his safe return to Mexico. She should ensure his safety and implement the highest level of actions to make this happen.

OTROS MUNDOS A.C / Amigos de la Tierra México