

Ambassador  
Jorge Castro Valle Kuehne

Your Excellency

I am writing to express my concern about a series of religious freedom violations that have occurred in Tuxpan de Bolaños in Jalisco State, and to request the intervention of your government.

Multiple expulsions of religious minorities from their homes in Tuxpan de Bolaños have led to 64 men, women and children from the Huichol indigenous group to be forcibly displaced. On 4 December, 42 Jehovah's Witnesses and 22 Protestants were removed from the town by force and taken by truck into the mountains, where they were abandoned.

The expulsion of these minorities can only be based on their personal religious beliefs. Threats of expulsion have been going on since 6 December 2015, when the village assembly adopted a resolution stating that the Protestant members of the community would be expelled if they refused to convert to Roman Catholicism. Following the 2015 resolution, 20 Protestant families (approximately 50 individuals including children) were forcibly displaced in January 2016. The Jalisco State Human Rights Commission recommended community dialogue to resolve the issue in December 2015, but religious intolerance persists. The expulsion of religious minorities based on their faith represents a grave injustice and a severe breach of their human rights.

Your government has expressed its commitment to upholding religious freedom, as protected in the Mexican constitution and legal system, as well as the international treaties to which it is party. However, this commitment does not appear to have translated into effective approaches on the ground.

Therefore, we call on the Mexican government, at both federal and state levels, to ensure that:

- all those who have been forcibly displaced from Tuxpan de Bolaños are returned safely and their properties are restored and their protection is safeguarded;
- further expulsions are prevented in this village;
- the environment of impunity in Jalisco State by holding perpetrators responsible for threats, violence and expulsions is ended;
- fundamental human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, are respected and upheld by the authorities at every level and in all states of Mexico.

I appreciate, in advance, any actions you might take in this regard.

Yours sincerely,