

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, April 1, 2008

TO THE PRESS
TO THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY
TO SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS
TO THE ADHERENTS TO THE OTHER CAMPAIGN

We who come from a variety of political organizations, held in different prisons throughout the state of Chiapas, state the following:

1. We are political prisoners and prisoners of conscience as a result of the government and its unjust laws which have charged us with fabricated crimes. We were charged with these crimes in response to our organized struggle for the needs of our people. This struggle has resulted in many forms of protest and has therefore aggravated the government. As a result they have fabricated crimes in order to keep us from protesting and as a way of sending us to jail.
2. We are in high spirits after having been released, however we are still concerned for those who remain in jail. We are concerned for the health of our compañeros because they have gone without food for quite some time now. In the case of CERESO 14, "El Amate", six of our compañeros have been on a hunger strike for 37 days. Two others have been fasting and praying for the same period as they suffer from type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Two of those detained at CERESO 5 having been on hunger strike for 29 days and another five have been also fasting and praying during that time. We consider the State and Federal Governments responsible for the deteriorated health of our compañeros and any harm that comes to them. We want to remind the government that our hunger strike is not a game and we are ready to continue struggling.
3. Prison is a hell for us where we lived through much pain, anguish and many illnesses. However, it is not only we who have suffered but our families and friends. Prison destroys homes, separates families and leaves children behind. All of this pain is made worse by the fact that we have been unjustly detained.
4. We demand that the government release all of our compañeros that remain on hunger strike. As soon as we were released we decided to join the relatives' demonstration so that together we can raise our voices until they release ALL of those who have been unjustly imprisoned.
5. We want the government to change its laws because as they stand they have been able to charge us with fabricated crimes and have detained us, depriving us of our freedom. However, it is not only those of us who have been politically organized who have experienced this injustice, but many other men and women who are suffering unjust imprisonment.
6. We want to thank those of you that are taking our message to different communities because it has given positive results. You are taking our message where we are not able to take it ourselves.
7. We would like to say to all of the organizations, men, women, children and elderly from different communities that raised their voices to demand our release, that we are grateful with all our hearts. We hope that you will continue to accompany us and struggle for the release of those that continue the hunger strike as well as fasting and prayer. May our release help us all achieves the aims of our movements.

SINCERELY

FROM THE RELATIVES' DEMONSTRATION FOR THE RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS EX-
PRISONERS OF THE THREE CERESOS: 5, 14 & 17