

Mexico, D.F. April 4, 2008.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE HUNGER STRIKE AND FAST
CERESO no. 5 and CERESO no. 14
CHIAPAS, MEXICO.

Dear brothers and sisters:

With a fraternal embrace I address myself to you and your families once again, as I am aware that some of you have been on hunger strike for 40 days now and I am concerned for your health. I have been informed of the physical distress you must be suffering in your struggle to have recognized both your innocence and the injustices that you have suffered due to your apprehension and incarceration.

Brothers and sisters in the hunger strike, we know that your struggle has not been in vain; your sacrifice has served in the just cause of those who have been freed in recent days. You have obtained greater results than any of us had expected. However, I do not wish this hunger strike to defeat you, causing irreversible damage to your body or even causing your death.

In the same way I am concerned for the brothers and sisters that continue in solidarity with their ongoing fast. I trust that we can continue fighting for your freedom through other methods; and as such, I ask that you suspend the hunger strike and fast at this critical moment.

As president of the Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas Human Rights Center, I have asked the director and the entire team to ensure that they make time to take on your cases. In addition, I know that you will continue to have the support of the Pueblo Creyente and the solidarity of all of the organizations and individuals that have united behind your cause on both the national and international level.

You can be sure that I will continue to follow your situation and plead for your case whenever necessary.

Your brother in Jesus Christ,

+Samuel Ruiz García
Bishop Emeritus of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas
President of the Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas Human Rights Center

ccp: C. Blanca Martínez, Director of the Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas Human Right Center