



# City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

## Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

Shree Ram Dahal and Jeniffer Calleja, Co-Chairs

August 18, 2014

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary of State  
US Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Re: **Arbitrary detention by State of Mexico of U.S. Citizen Nestora Salgado**

Dear Secretary Kerry,

The City of Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission urges you to take action on the arbitrary detention by the Mexican Government of Nestora Salgado, a naturalized U.S. Citizen and a mother and wife to a family that resides in Renton, Washington. August 21, 2014 marks the one year anniversary of Mrs. Salgado's detention in a maximum-security prison in Nayarit, Mexico.

Mrs. Salgado is a peaceful community leader and activist for the human rights of indigenous people in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. Following Guerrero State law and the Mexican Constitution, Mrs. Salgado became a leader of a local indigenous community police force. On August 21, 2013 she was detained without an arrest warrant by federal military and has been denied her fundamental human rights, including: due process, access to her attorney, visitation with her family, needed medical care and is being subjected to deplorable prison conditions.

Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that no one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest or detention. Furthermore, everyone has the right to be informed of the reasons behind their arrest, have their case heard before a judge and entitled to a fair trial. Mrs. Salgado has yet to be provided with any of these rights nor is there any indication by the Mexican government of when she will be released.

Article 10 of the ICCPR, ratified by the US, states that, "all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person." However, reports indicate that Mrs. Salgado has been held in solitary confinement for the vast majority of her time since her imprisonment and has been subject to inhumane treatment.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rep. Smith Pushes For Release of Renton Woman Being Held In Mexican Prison". Seattle, June 17, 2014 (NPR).  
<http://www.kplu.org/post/rep-smith-pushes-release-renton-woman-being-held-mexican-prison>

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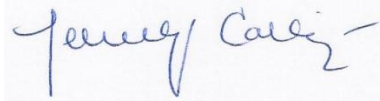
An equal opportunity - affirmative action employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.

The City of Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission respectfully requests the United States government to seek the immediate release of Mrs. Salgado, that her medical needs be met and that she is provided with a safe return to the United States where she can be reunified with her family.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Shree R. Dahal in blue ink, underlined.

Shree R. Dahal, Co-Chair  
Immigrant and Refugee Commission

Handwritten signature of Jeniffer Calleja in blue ink.

Jeniffer Calleja, Co-Chair  
Immigrant and Refugee Commission

cc: Senator Patty Murray

cc: Senator Maria Cantwell