



Her Excellency Ms. E. Beton Delègue
Ambassador of France

His Excellency Mr. E. Duckwitz
Ambassador of Germany

Dear Ambassadors,

We write this letter on behalf of the Dutch organization Lawyers for Lawyers to support the nomination that Peace Brigades International made for Ms Alba Cruz Ramos for the Premio de Derechos Humanos Gilberto Bosques.

Lawyers for Lawyers is an independent and non-political Dutch foundation with the status of 'institution for the promotion of the public interest', which seeks to promote the proper functioning of the rule of law by pursuing freedom and independence of the legal profession. Lawyers for Lawyers pursues this goal by supporting lawyers worldwide who are threatened or suppressed in the execution of their legal profession.

Before we explain why Alba Cruz deserves to win this prize, we congratulate your embassies on this great initiative. We believe that the mere existence of the prize will be a great contribution to the promotion of human rights in Mexico.

Lawyers for Lawyers support the nomination of Alba Cruz because she has endeavoured to give many victims of human rights violations in the province of Oaxaca access to justice.

Alba Cruz is a lawyer that works for the organization The Integral Defence Committee for Human Rights "Gobixha" (CODIGO-DH), which is an organization that continues the work of the former 'Comité 25 de Noviembre'. As a lawyer, Alba Cruz has contributed to the promotion of human rights for many years now and she continues this work.

A great part of Alba Cruz' work is related to the irregularities in Oaxaca in 2006. She has represented political leaders and human rights defenders that sought justice for human rights violations during the irregularities in Oaxaca in 2006. In proceedings that Alba Cruz and her colleagues initiated, the Mexican Supreme Court held that the governor of Oaxaca and eight others were responsible for the torture of political prisoners. When, subsequently, no prosecution was initiated, Alba Cruz has repeatedly tried to convince the authorities of Oaxaca to take responsibility. Furthermore she had part in the implementation of a law that gave victims of human rights violations during the irregularities of 2006 a right to compensation.

Aside from her very important work related to the aforementioned irregularities of 2006, Alba Cruz and the other members of CODIGO-DH do great work on the improvement of the access to justice for indigenous people and women in Oaxaca.



The work of Alba Cruz has been crucial to the successes of the human rights movement in Oaxaca and Lawyers for Lawyers is convinced that her work will be that important for many years yet to come.

Because of her work, Alba Cruz continuously suffers death threats, harassments and her office and home have been broken into on several occasions. Threats and harassments are not only directed to herself, but also to her family. Alba Cruz lives in constant fear for her own life, the life of her colleagues and of her family. Because of these threats the Inter American Court of Human Rights ordered the Mexican Government to grant protective measures. Apart from those measures, that unfortunately are not always executed correctly or effectively, Alba Cruz is protected by Peace Brigades International.

In spite of these circumstances, that make her life and work a constant struggle, Alba Cruz continues her work with great dedication.

One of the many accomplishments of Alba Cruz is her contribution to the international knowledge and understanding of the situation in Oaxaca. Lawyers for Lawyers has had the opportunity to meet her in the Netherlands on two different occasions. At these meeting we got to know Alba Cruz as a great inspiration for our own work for the human rights situation in Mexico. Alba Cruz is a strong but very gentle woman. She is able to convince anyone of the importance of her work and inspire them to take an effort to help her and her colleagues. It is our firm belief that she has had this effect on many other international organizations that intensified their efforts to promote human rights in Mexico, as we have. Because she has asked for international attention for the situation in Oaxaca, she has generated the awareness that is a great direct and indirect help for the human rights work of Alba Cruz herself as a lawyer and her colleagues in the region and abroad.

Because of the abovementioned reasons and more, we think Alba Cruz Ramos worthy of The Integral Defence Committee for Human Rights “Gobixha” prize. We are sure that this prize will help her to continue her great work.

Yours sincerely,

Adrie van der Streek
Director Layyers for Lawyers

Alice Krispijn
Member Latin America Group Lawyers for Lawyers