

Freedom for Alberto Patishtán

For a criminal act he never committed, Alberto Patishtán is now for 12 years held in a Mexican prison under unacceptable conditions. His imprisonment and his conviction is based on the testimony of just one witness, a survivor of the ambush. Professor Patishtán initiated a campaign about the misappropriation of funds against the father of the witness, a mayor for whom Patishtán had long been a political opponent. Originally the witness had declared to have seen 15 masked aggressors but later he claimed that Patishtán had been one of the aggressors. Another witness, a policeman, did not confirm this testimony while three other witnesses exonerated Patishtán in the legal proceeding. Nevertheless he was convicted to the maximum penalty of 60 years for multiple murder and the possession of military arms.

Professor Patishtán went on hunger strike twice during his 12 years of imprisonment. After the first hunger strike all 47 political prisoners in the state of Chiapas were released – except of him. As a consequence of the second hunger strike Patishtán was transferred to a high security prison 8 months ago and since then is held in solitary confinement. There he is only allowed to have visitors and to receive a phone call once every two weeks. He can only spend 15 minutes a day outside to see daylight, whereas lights are kept on constantly at nighttime. These conditions of imprisonment have to be categorized as a modern method of torture.

Another serious human rights violation is the withholding of medical attention for Patishtán. He depends on medical treatment since he is suffering from a serious eye disease that will result in him going blind if it is not treated.

Therefore from June 8th until June 15th there will take place a global week of action for the liberation of Alberto Patishtán Gómez and Francisco Sántiz López (another political prisoner who is part of the Zapatista movement) under the slogan „Knock down the walls of prison“.

We demand the immediate release of Patishtán and Francisco Sántiz López from the Mexican president Felipe Calderon!

- Information about Santiz Lopez on
- in english: <http://floweroftheword.wordpress.com/2012/05/23/chiapas-manages-the-freedom-of-santiz-lopez/>
- auf Deutsch: <http://carea-menschenrechte.de/urgent-action-banavil>
- en español: <http://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/2012/03/30/pronunciamiento-por-francisco-santiz-y-alberto-patishtan-de-la-red-contra-la-represion-y-por-la-solidaridad/>