

(Date)

Dear (official)

I am writing to you to express my deep concern about the human suffering of the residents of Lomas de Poleo. These neighbors have been peacefully living up on the mesa in the westernmost part of La Ciudad Juárez for many years. Recently, they have been virtually placed “under siege” as a result of actions taken by Mr. Pedro Zaragoza, who desires to take their land.

Mr. Zaragoza’s first step was to remove access to electricity which residents had either already legally paid for or were in the process of paying for. The next step was to move in a “*grupo de choque*” consisting paid (and armed) guards who are using intimidation to force the people from their homes and land.

In the fierce heat of the Chihuahua desert, with little water, no electricity, and the constant threat of physical harm and destruction of their homes, these valiant Mexican citizens are being denied their dignity and rights even they try to realize the dream supposedly guaranteed by their Constitution.

I understand that as of this moment not a single government official—at the federal, state or municipal level--has done anything to intervene and help these suffering people. I urge you, on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Lomas de Poleo, to order Mr. Zaragoza to remove all his intimidating forces from the mesa and to order the CFE to reinstall the electricity immediately.

We are impressed by the statute of your constitution that allows Mexican citizens to legally acquire land after five years of peaceful occupation. This being the case, many if not all the families on the mesa in Las Lomas are now the true owners of their land. In any case, so far as I know, it is not at all clear what legal claim Sr. Zaragoza has to this land.

Please let these issues be resolved peacefully in accord with the laws and constitution of Mexico. Take immediate action to prevent unnecessary and unjustifiable bloodshed. We will be watching progress on this matter closely, and we eagerly anticipate a positive change in affairs in the very near future.

Sincerely,

(your name or organization’s name)