

**Contact: Brian Frankl**  
Assistant to the Archbishop  
Phone 202-536-2430  
Fax 202-330-5198

227 Tennessee Ave NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
Phone 888-650-1817  
[www.naoldcatholic.com](http://www.naoldcatholic.com)

**North American Old  
Catholic Church**

# Press Release

## **Mexican Government needs to protect Migrants**

*Catholic Priest threatened with arson for being outspoken on poor treatment of migrants.*

Washington, DC [July 3, 2008]- Today at the request of Amnesty International, Archbishop Michael Seneco, presiding bishop of the North American Old Catholic Church, dispatched a letter to Mexican authorities urging them to protect the life and safety of migrants within their borders.

Archbishop Seneco: "Whether someone is in a country, legally or not, they should be guaranteed protection from persecution, threats, and attacks. The dignity of human life requires we treat each and every human being with respect and dignity."

Recently in Ixtepec, Oaxaca, a Roman Catholic priest, Father Alejandro Solalinde Guerra's life and safety was threatened. Father Solalinde runs the local migrants' shelter in Ixtepec, and is well a well known critic of the government's treatment of migrants. He was threatened after a six year old child was sexually assaulted by a migrant. The migrant, who was not at any time a resident of Father Solalinde's shelter, was arrested by the local authorities.

An angry mob of fifty locals, fourteen local police officers, and even the Mayor of Ixtepec, descended on the shelter and threatened to set it on fire if he did not close within forty eight hours.

The Archbishop continued, "This is just one example of the rampant abuse of migrants and undocumented people in Mexico. In March of this year, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants toured Mexico, and wrote of scathing abuse of migrants, including extortion, beatings, and mass repatriations. It has to stop."

To download a copy of the Archbishops letter, visit <http://newsroom.naoldcatholic.com>

###

*Fostering a continued, strong commitment to catholic tradition, and the search for contemporary meaning, the North American Old Catholic Church is part of the worldwide, universal church of Jesus Christ. For more information about the church, and to review or download our press kit, visit <http://newsroom.naoldcatholic.com> and click on \*PRESS KIT\* You may also request a press kit by emailing [pressroom@naoldcatholic.com](mailto:pressroom@naoldcatholic.com)*

**For Immediate Release**