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*Will conduct two informational  
 meetings for prospective  
 applicants on  
 Tuesday, November 7  
 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.*

*Location: Advising Center  
 164 Oregon Hall*

## Eugene rallies protest Chiapas rape

■ **CRIME:** Only an international response will lessen human rights violations in Mexico

By Jennifer Carter  
 Student Activities Reporter

Students and community members gathered in the EMU Courtyard Friday morning to write letters to President Clinton and the President of Mexico about the recent rape of an American activist in Chiapas, Mexico.

On Oct. 26, Cecilia Rodriguez was raped by several unidentified men. Rodriguez is a representative of the National Commission for Democracy in Mexico, a human rights organization created to work on issues of democracy, social justice and peace in Mexico.

Betsy Gedatus, a member of the Committee In Solidarity with Central American People, said Rodriguez was raped to prevent her from participating further in human rights advocacy and to send a message to other human-rights advocates.

"When women speak out they are very frequently raped," Gedatus said.

The courtyard gathering was held to coincide with a press conference Rodriguez held in Los Angeles on Friday morning and a rally at the Eugene Federal Building Friday afternoon.

Members of CISCAP, a Eugene organization that works to promote communication and public education of problems in Cen-



MELODY CONROY/Emerald  
 University students sign a letter to President Clinton Friday demanding action against the rape of Cecilia Rodriguez in Chiapas, Mexico.

tral America, sponsored the event to inform people about Rodriguez's rape and what the rape means in terms of national and international politics.

"Her rape brings up questions about the politics of Mexico," Gedatus said.

Daniel Goldrich, a University political science professor, said that human rights violations have been increasing in Chiapas.

However, Goldrich said these violations have not gained international notice because, until now most of the human rights violations have been against indigenous people. "The national power structure doesn't want that kind of press," he said.

Maria Grijalva, a Guatemalan women's labor organizer and a speaker at the afternoon rally, said that human rights violations are occurring throughout

Central America because governments like the Mexican government are not being held accountable for their actions.

Grijalva said the rate of human rights violations is less when it elicits international attention. "When we talk about human rights violations, they go down a little bit, but it's from more than just speaking about it that the numbers decrease. It's from the international response," she said.

According to Grijalva, an international response from men and women is needed if rapes of indigenous and foreign women, like Rodriguez, are going to stop in Chiapas. "Men who are indifferent to these kinds of sexual violence aren't thinking they could have a woman as a daughter. As long as men are silent, they are accomplices to this violence," she said.



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- Career Fair November 14th at the EMU 11-4
- Frito-Lay Informational Meeting November 20, 7 pm @ EMU Cedar D
- First Round of Interviews November 21 (sign up at Hendricks Hall)

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