

URGENT ACTION

AFRO-DESCENDANT COMMUNITY LEADER KILLED

Afro-descendant community leader Genaro García of the Alto Mira y Frontera Community Council was killed on 3 August in Tumaco Municipality, southern Colombia. He had been threatened previously and was under State protection; others may be at risk.

Gilmer Genaro García Ramírez was a leader of the Afro-descendant **Community Council of Alto Mira y Frontera**. The community live in an area where the guerrilla group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, FARC) is active. On 3 August Genaro García had been pressed by FARC to attend a meeting with them. While he was travelling in a car on a rural road in Tumaco Municipality, Nariño Department, a group of armed men stopped the car and forced Genaro García and the others out. Two men arrived on a motorbike, and one of them shot Genaro García dead.

The FARC had warned Genaro García in October 2014 that he would be killed if he continued his active role as a leader of the Alto Mira y Frontera Community Council. In 2008 the killing of two leaders of the Community Council had led to many members of the community fleeing their homes.

The Afro-descendant Community Council of Alto Mira y Frontera have been seeking collective land titles and the realization of their territorial rights through the land restitution process since 2012. In February 2013 a land restitution judge ordered that the National Protection Unit (Unidad Nacional de Protección, UNP) urgently design and implement a protection plan for the leaders and members of the Alto Mira y Frontera Community Council. The Constitutional Court had also ordered protection for the community through Judicial Decrees (Autos) 005 of 2009 and 073 of 2014.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of the family of Genaro García and other members of the Alto Mira y Frontera Community Council, urging the authorities to take measures –including collective protection measures to guarantee their safety, in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on them to order full and impartial investigations into the killing of Genaro García and threats against other members of the Community Council, to make the results public and to bring all those involved to justice;
- Reminding them to urgently fulfil the orders of the Constitutional Court ruling Judicial Decrees (Autos) 005 of 2009 and 073 of 2014.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 SEPTEMBER 2015 TO:

President

Juan Manuel Santos
 Presidente de la República
 Casa de Nariño
 Calle 7. No 6-54.
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 596 0631

**Salutation: Dear President Santos/
 Excmo. Sr. Presidente Santos**

Minister of Interior

Juan Fernando Cristo
 Calle 12B No 8-46, Primer Piso
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 283 9876

**Salutation: Dear Minister /
 Estimado Sr. Ministro**

Attorney General

Eduardo Montealegre
 Fiscalía General de la Nación
 Diagonal 22B No. 52-01 (Ciudad Salitre)
 Bloque C Piso 4,
 Bogotá, Colombia

Fax +57 1 570 2000 (when recorded
 voice answers, dial ext 2023)

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/
 Estimado Sr. Fiscal General**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

During the long-running armed conflict in Colombia, human rights defenders, as well as Indigenous, Afro-descendant and peasant farmer communities, have endured the brunt of the conflict. All the warring parties – the security forces, either alone or in collusion with paramilitary groups, and guerrilla forces – are responsible for abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including killings, enforced disappearances or abductions, torture, forced displacement and crimes of sexual violence.

The security forces and paramilitary groups have frequently labelled members of human rights organizations and trade unions as guerrilla collaborators or supporters, and have gone on to threaten, abduct or kill them. Numerous human rights defenders including community leaders have been killed after being labelled guerrilla sympathizers. Guerrillas have also threatened and killed human rights defenders, including leaders of Afro-descendant, Indigenous and peasant farmer communities.

Leaders of displaced communities and those seeking the return of stolen lands have been killed or threatened, especially since the Victims and Land Restitution Law and its associated Decree Laws were approved in 2011 and came into force at the beginning of 2012. This law acknowledges the existence of an armed conflict in the country, and the rights of its victims. It provides for reparations for some survivors of human rights abuses, including those perpetrated by state agents. However, many other victims of the conflict will be excluded from making claims for reparation, while significant areas of stolen land might still not be returned to their rightful owners.

Names: Relatives of Genaro García (both), other leaders and members of the Alta Mira y Frontera Community Council
Gender m/f: both

UA: 175/15 Index: AMR 23/2244/2015 Issue Date: 10 August 2015