

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 28/006/2004

02 March 2004

Further Information on UA 36/04 (AMR 28/002/2004, 3 February 2004) - Fear for safety

ECUADOR **Leonidas Iza (m), President of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE)**
Javier Iza (m), his son, aged 23
Rodrigo Iza (m), his brother
David Tixe (m), his nephew
Josefina Anguisaca (f), his wife
The rest of his family

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), one of the bodies of the Organization of American States (OAS), has told the Ecuadorian government to protect Leonidas Iza, his family and members of the *Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador* (CONAIE), Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador, of which he is the president. The government has ignored such instructions in the past, and Amnesty International remains gravely concerned for their safety.

The IACHR ordered the government to take "precautionary measures" on behalf of Leonidas Iza, his family and the members of CONAIE on 27 February 2004. The Commission also ordered the government to investigate the events of 1 February 2004, when unknown gunmen shot at Leonidas Iza and his family in front of the CONAIE offices.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

When the IACHR ordered the Ecuadorian government to protect the Sarayaku indigenous community in May 2003, and again in December 2003, after some of their members received death threats and were physically and verbally assaulted during a demonstration, Ecuador's Minister of Energy and Mines reportedly responded to the Inter-American Commission's precautionary measures by stating that "the OAS does not give orders here" ("*la OEA no manda aquí*").

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- pointing out that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights instructed the government to take precautionary measures on behalf of Leonidas Iza, his family and members of CONAIE on 27 February 2004;
- pointing out that the Inter-American Commission also ordered the Ecuadorian Government to investigate the attack on Leonidas Iza and his family;
- urging the Ecuadorian authorities to implement the instructions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights immediately, to investigate the attack and bring those responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

Ing. Raúl Baca Carbo

Ministro de Gobierno, Policía, Justicia, Cultos y Municipalidades Ministerio de Gobierno y Policía Benalcázar y Espejo Quito ECUADOR **Telegrams: Ministro de Gobierno, Quito, Ecuador** **Fax: + 593 2 2580 067 (if someone answers, say "Tono de fax, por favor")** **Salutation: Dear Mr. Minister / Estimado Sr. Ministro**
Attorney General Dra. Mariana Yépez de Velasco Ministra Fiscal General del Estado Fiscalía General del Estado Av. Eloy Alfaro N°32-240 y República Quito ECUADOR **Telegrams: Attorney General, Quito,**

EcuadorFax: + 593 2 2558 561 (if someone answers, say "Tono de fax, por favor")Salutation: Dear Attorney General / Sra. Fiscal General

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organization

Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montón Mozo SJ" CSMM Nicolás Jiménez, E 4, 223, piso 5 y Av. 12 de Octubre, dep. E-3 Quito, ECUADOR

and to diplomatic representatives of Ecuador accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 April 2004.