

# URGENT ACTION

## SHIELD ACTIVISTS FROM NEW THREAT

**Ecuadorian land activist Milton Yulán Morán, his family and colleagues have come under renewed threat. On 23 August staff arrived at work to find their office had been raided, and that computers and other valuables had been stolen. The computers contained information about their work on land rights.**

Milton Yulan is the national coordinator of the organization Land and Life (*Tierra y Vida*), which works on the land rights of peasant (*campesino*) communities and small rural producers. On 23 August staff from Land and Life returned to work to find their office had been broken into. The doors had been forced, four computers were missing as well as other office materials. All the cupboards and files were open. The computers contained information about the organization's work on land rights.

The break-in is the latest in a series of acts of harassment and intimidation against the organization. Marlon Lozano, a member of Land and Life was shot dead on 20 July by two masked men in motorbikes as he arrived at work, and on 7 August 12 armed men in two pickup trucks parked outside the home of Milton Yulán's mother, Rita Julia Morán. Neighbours noticed the men passing guns from one vehicle to another. The neighbours then fired shots into the air and the men drove away.

Following the death of Marlon Lozano, Milton Yulán Morán was given provisional protection under the Ministry of Interior witness protection program. He is waiting for a decision for it to be extended.

### **Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:**

- Expressing concern for the safety of Milton Yulan Morán, his family and colleagues, and urging the authorities to provide them with protection, in accordance with their wishes;
- Urging them to order a full and impartial investigation into the killing of Marlon Lozano and the recent burglary of the office of Land and Life, and bring those responsible to justice
- Reminding them to fulfil their obligations to ensure human rights defenders can carry out their work without fear, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 OCTOBER 2011 TO:**

Attorney General

Dr. Galo Chiriboga Zambrano  
Av. Eloy Alfaro 32-250 y  
República  
Quito

**Fax: +593 2 2222538 (call first  
and request fax signal by saying  
'tono por favor')**

**Salutation: Sr. Fiscal**

Minister of Interior

Sr. Jose Serrano  
Benalcázar N 4-24 y Espejo  
Quito  
Pichincha

**Fax: +593 2 258 0067 (Wait until  
fax signal is given)**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro**

And copies to:

NGO

Comité Permanente por los  
Derechos Humanos  
Billy Navarrete Benavides  
Quisquis 1207 y Esmeraldas,  
Edificio Quisquis 80, 4 Piso,  
Oficina 403.  
Guayaquil  
09-01-4128  
Ecuador  
**Fax: + 593 4 2293931 /  
+593 4 2293273**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the <number> update of UA XXXXX. Further information:  
[www.amnesty.org/xxxxx](http://www.amnesty.org/xxxxx)

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Several activists and members of Land and Life, working on returning land to Indigenous communities and small rural producers, have been threatened and harassed. None of the threats has been properly investigated, and no one is known to have been brought to justice.

Name: Milton Yulán Morán

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 228/11 Index: AMR 28/005/2011 Issue Date: 25 August 2011