

URGENT ACTION

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AT RISK FROM MILITARY
Indigenous communities in Ecuador are at risk from excessive use of force following a recent decree allowing military intervention in the area where they live. The communities have been protesting against the construction of a dam that could damage the lands where they live and work.

The communities began demonstrations in Chone city, Manabi Province in July. They were protesting against planned use of the land and natural resources in the Rio Grande region where they live. They were not consulted on the plans, despite Ecuador's obligation under national and international law including the Ecuadorian Constitution, the International Labour Organization Convention 169, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights standards and the United Nation Declarations on Indigenous Peoples Rights. These instruments oblige them to consult with Indigenous Peoples on any decisions or legislation which affects their lives.

On 17 October the government declared the Rio Grande area a Security Reserved Area ("*Area Reservada de Seguridad*"). This allows the military and police to take control of the area. One day later, the National Police forcibly removed Indigenous protestors from the 'El Jobo' area, injuring several protesters. The following day the communities returned to the area and resumed protests there. According to reports, police reinforcements have arrived in the area and more clashes are expected.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urge the authorities to undertake a genuine and open consultation with the affected communities with the objective of achieving agreement or consent to the proposed plans, according to international standards, in good faith and through their own representative institutions, including a comprehensive environmental and human rights impact assessment of the project.
- Remind the authorities that Article 3 of the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials states that they "may use force only when strictly necessary and to the extent required for the performance of their duty".
- Urge the authorities to review Presidential Decree 914 and ensure that it is in line with international human rights standards.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 DECEMBER 2011 TO:

Presidente de la Republica del Ecuador

Mr. Rafael Correa Delgado
 García Moreno N10-43 entre Chile y
 Espejo, Quito, Pichincha
 Fax: +593 2 3827019
 Email: info@elciudadano.gov.ec
Salutation: Sr. Presidente

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:

CEDHU

Calle Carlos Ibarra 176 y 10 de agosto,
 Edificio Yuraj Pirca, Piso 9
 Email: cedhu@cedhu.org

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

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

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 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received reports of excessive use of force by police. On Saturday 15 October President Rafael Correa indicated in a televised message that if the communities were not willing to leave peacefully they would be removed by security forces.

Name: Indigenous communities

Gender m/f: both

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