

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 28/025/2004

23 December 2004

Further Information on UA 59/03 (AMR 28/005/2003, 28 February 2003) and follow up (AMR 28/007/2004, 3 March 2004) Fear for Safety

**ECUADOR**     **Marlon Santi (m), President of the Sarayaku Association**

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Marlon Santi, President of the Sarayaku indigenous community in Ecuador Amazon's rainforest and candidate to the Presidency of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador, *Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador (CONAIE)*, received death threats on 21 and 22 December. Amnesty International is concerned for his safety as the threats were made before the CONAIE elections on 23 December.

On 21 December, Marlon Santi reportedly received a threatening phone call whilst he was participating in the second Congress of Indigenous Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador, *Congreso de Nacionalidades y Pueblos Indígenas del Ecuador*. The anonymous caller said "we are going to kill you", *te vamos a matar*. On 22 December, he received a second phone call early in the morning, again an unknown voice said "desist from your candidacy because you are not going to last even 24 hours in the post, you will stop breathing", *desiste de tu candidatura porque no vas a lograr ni 24 horas en el cargo, se te va a acabar la respiración*.

The death threats have allegedly been reported to the Inter American Commission on Human Rights. In May and December 2003, the Commission asked the Ecuadorian government to protect the Sarayaku indigenous community and their leaders, including Marlon Santi, after their members received death threats and were physically and verbally assaulted. In January 2004, 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*". See UA 75/04 (AMR 28/005/2004, 20 February 2004).

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

- expressing concern at the death threats received by Marlon Santi, President of the Sarayaku indigenous community;
- calling for a full and independent investigation into the death threats, for the findings to be made public, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urge the Ecuadorian government to adhere to its obligations to ensure his safety and that of all indigenous leaders in line with the request made by the Inter American Commission of Human Rights;
- express grave concern that the threats against Marlon Santi and other indigenous community leaders make it increasingly difficult for them to carry out their legitimate work on behalf of indigenous communities.

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of the Interior  
Dr. Jaime Darneval Martínez  
Ministro de Gobierno, Policía, Justicia,  
Cultos y Municipalidades  
Ministerio de Gobierno y Policía  
Benalcázar y Espejo  
Quito ECUADOR

**Fax:**                **+ 593 2 2581 030 (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

**Fax:** + 593 2 2558 561 (if someone answers, say "Tono de fax, por favor")

**Salutation:** Dear Attorney General / Sra. Fiscal General

**COPIES TO:**

Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales  
Lizardo García 512 y Diego de Almagro, 6º piso  
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 4 February 2005