

URGENT ACTION

SECURITY GUARDS THREATENING INDIGENOUS GROUP

The **Ayoreo Atetadiegosode Indigenous Peoples** living in Cuyabia, Boquerón department, western Paraguay have reported feeling threatened by the presence of private, heavily-armed security guards. The security guards were hired by the owner with whom the Cuyabia community is having a land dispute. They are waiting for their land titles to be regularized.

According to the Indigenous organizations Tierraviva and Iniciativa Amotocodie, on 11 August five heavily-armed security guards, allegedly hired by the owner with whom the Cuyabia community is having a land dispute, intimidated the **Ayoreo Atetadiegosode Indigenous Peoples** living in the community by shooting into the air. At the time, members of the community were inspecting their land because they feared it was being deforested.

On 16 April, a tribunal ruled that in 2012 the ex-President of the Paraguayan Institute of Indigenous Peoples (Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena, INDI) illegally sold the land that was recognized as belonging to the Ayoreo Atetadiegosode in 1996. In 2014 the land was returned to the INDI. Since then, the Ayoreo Atetadiegosode Indigenous Peoples have been asking the INDI to promptly demarcate the area to establish the precise territory that belongs to them so that their land titles can be regularized.

The community is seriously concerned that their land is being deforested. On 29 July 2015, they filed a formal complaint reporting the deforestation before the INDI, the Ministry of Environment (Secretaría del Ambiente, SEAM) and to the Public Prosecutor (Dirección de Derechos Étnicos del Ministerio Público).

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to immediately investigate the threatening incidents that took place on 11 August;
- Urging them to take measures to protect the Ayoreo Atetadiegosode Indigenous Peoples from further attacks, in accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on them to ensure that the Ayoreo Atetadiegosode land titles are regularized, and that the deforestation in their territory is immediately stopped.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 DECEMBER 2015 TO:

Attorney General
 Dr. Javier Díaz Verón
 Fiscal General del Estado
 Sede Central-Chile c/ Ygatimí
 Asunción, Paraguay
 Fax: +595 21 415 6152 (ask "tono de fax, por favor")
 Email:
 comunicaciones@ministeriopublico.gov.py
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/
 Estimado Señor Fiscal**

President of the Paraguayan Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INDI)
 Lic. Jorge Servín
 Presidente de INDI
 Don Bosco 745 entre Haedo y Humaitá,
 Asunción, Paraguay
 presidencia@indi.gov.py
 Fax: +595 21 425 280 (ask "tono de fax, por favor")
**Salutation: Dear President/ Estimado
 Señor Presidente**

And copies to:
Tierraviva
 tierraviva@tierraviva.org.py

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

Cuyabia is a community of 20 families living on 25,000 hectares of land, which are part of the Ayoreo Atetadiegosode Indigenous Peoples' traditional territory. In 1996, the land was acquired by the Paraguayan Institute of Indigenous Peoples (Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena, INDI) with the intention of registering it to the name of the Guaraní Ñandeva Indigenous Peoples. In 2010, the Guaraní Ñandeva agreed to yield it to the Ayoreo Atetadiegosode Indigenous Peoples, because it was part of their traditional territory. It is believed that other Ayoreo Indigenous groups in voluntary isolation have also been living on the land for many years.

In 2012, a formal complaint was filed by the Ayoreo Community to the Economic Rights and Anti-corruption Public Prosecutor (Fiscalía de Derechos Económicos y Anticorrupción) denouncing the sale of their land by the ex-President of the INDI that year to a private owner. In 2014 the land was returned to the INDI.

In 2013, a formal request (*juicio de mensura*) was filed before the Institute of Indigenous Peoples (Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena) to determine the area that according to the 1996 land titles belongs to the Ayoreo Atetadiegosode Indigenous Peoples. Via the process known as *juicio de mensura*, the community is calling on the authorities to settle the ongoing dispute over the precise location of their territory.

Name: Ayoreo Atetadiegosode Indigenous Peoples

Gender m/f: both

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