

URGENT ACTION

PARAMILITARIES THREATEN INDIGENOUS LEADERS

Paramilitaries continue to make death threats against Indigenous leaders in northern Cauca, while Indigenous people demand full reparation, including access to land, as redress for several mass killings.

On 6 March **Margarita Hílamo**, the Governor of the Huellas Indigenous Resguardo (Reservation) in Caloto Municipality, Cauca Department received a text message that read: "Take those people out of the La Emperatriz farm, because in 10 hours I will send you 1600 men of the Black Eagles [...] [with the] order to kill whoever". The text message came from the same phone number as previous death threats on 16 and 27 February. Another death threat has also been sent to **Nini Johanna Daza**, the Governor of the Concepción Indigenous Resguardo in Santander de Quilichao Municipality, Cauca Department on 6 March.

On 2 March a written death threat against many **Indigenous leaders in northern Cauca** by the paramilitary group Rastrojos Comandos Urbanos was distributed in the municipalities of Corinto, Miranda and Santander de Quilichao. Amnesty International has received information on numerous paramilitary threats against Indigenous communities throughout northern Cauca including against those who have been occupying lands they claim to be ancestral. These Indigenous communities are demanding that the Colombian State grant ownership of land in northern Cauca to them as part of reparation agreed with the State to redress serious human rights violations committed against their communities. Many of these lands are currently in the hands of powerful economic interests. Since 24 February there have been clashes between the Indigenous people occupying the land and the anti-riot police (ESMAD). Indigenous organizations have issued statements alleging that the security forces have used excessive force in dealing with Indigenous protestors.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of Margarita Hílamo, Nini Johanna Daza, and other Indigenous leaders and communities in northern Cauca Department, and urging the authorities to guarantee their safety in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on the authorities to order a full and impartial investigation into the death threats against Indigenous Peoples in northern Cauca Department, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging them to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups and break their links with the security forces, in line with stated government commitments and UN recommendations made by the UN and other intergovernmental organizations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 APRIL 2015 TO:

President
Juan Manuel Santos
Presidente de la República
Casa de Nariño
Calle 7. No 6-54.
Bogotá, Colombia
Fax: +57 1 596 0631
**Salutation: Dear President Santos/
Excmo Sr Presidente Santos**

Minister of Agriculture and Rural
Development
Aurelio Iragorri Valencia
Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo
Rural
Avenida Jiménez No 7-1765, Piso 3
Email:
despachoministro@minagricultura.gov.co
Bogotá, Colombia
**Salutation: Dear Minister/ Estimado
Sr. Ministro**
Minister of Interior

Juan Fernando Cristo Bustos
Ministerio del Interior
Calle 12B No 8-46, Primer Piso
Bogotá, Colombia
Fax: +57 1 283 9876
**Salutation: Dear Minister / Estimado
Sr. Ministro**

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Over the past 50 years, Colombia's internal armed conflict has pitted the security forces and paramilitaries against a range of guerrilla groups. In spite of the ongoing peace process all the warring parties continue to be responsible for serious crimes under international law and other human rights violations. Indigenous communities are among those most affected by the armed conflict. According to the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia, ONIC), 10 Indigenous people were killed for conflict-related reasons and at least 2,819 forcibly displaced in the first nine months of 2014. According to the Association of Indigenous Cabildos of Northern Cauca (Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte de Cauca, ACIN) more than 600 Indigenous people have been killed in northern Cauca since 1999.

On 16 December 1991, 20 Nasa people of the Huellas Indigenous Resguardo, including children, were killed in a joint paramilitary-police operation on the El Nilo farm in Caloto Municipality. The El Nilo massacre was submitted to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in December 1992. Following an agreement between the Colombian government and the IACHR a committee was created to investigate the massacre, which recommended in 1996 that the Colombian government must ensure that those responsible would be brought to justice and that the families of the victims would receive reparation. In August 2014 the Supreme Court of Justice in Colombia ordered that the investigation of a general and a major linked to the massacre, which had been archived by a military court in July 1999, should be reopened. In early February 2015 the general and the major handed themselves over to the police authorities. The Huellas Cabildo (Indigenous Council, which is the maximum political authority within their territories) issued a public statement on 5 February demanding justice and comprehensive reparation.

Name: Margarita Hilamo (f), Nini Johanna Daza (f) and Indigenous leaders in northern Cauca
Gender m/f: both