

URGENT ACTION

PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION AT RISK

On 10 February, a civil society organization received a verified report of an ongoing plan to kill or displace Association for the Integral and Sustainable Development of the Amazonian Pearl (ADISPA) members, an organization protecting the rights of hundreds of peasants (campesinos) in the Putumayo region (South West). The plan would entail the deployment of the armed group called “*Border Command*” that are threatening the communities in the area to subordinate their activities to the armed group’s will or leave their territories if they refuse. We demand authorities to provide ADISPA with collective protection measures in consultation with them.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Daniel Palacios
Director of the Minister of interior
Carrera 8 No. 7 - 83,
Bogotá D.C., Colombia
Email: daniel.palacios@mininterior.gov.co

Dear Mr. Palacios

I am writing to express concern for the safety of the members of the Association for the Integral and Sustainable Development of the Amazon Pearl (ADISPA), a human rights organization that defends the rights of 700 families and the Amazonas environment in the Putumayo region.

Since 2020 the legal representative of ADISPA, Jani Silva, has face at least 6 different incidents. At the same time, other ADISPA members had faced life threats. On February 10, the Inter-ecclesial Commission of Justice and Peace received information of an ongoing plan for kill or displace ADISPA members from the region. The communities are already reporting the presence of an armed group threatening them.

We urge you to grant ADISPA members collective protection measurements, in consultation and in agreement with them.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Association for the Integral and Sustainable Development of the Amazonian Pearl- ADISPA (Asociación para el Desarrollo Integral y Sostenible de la Perla Amazónica), defends the rights and the environment of 700 families, close to 1,700 men, women, and children who live in the Amazonian Pearl Peasant Reserve Zone (ZRCPA) “La Zona de Reserva Campesina Perla Amazónica” in the Putumayo region (South West), Colombia. This is a fundamental ecosystem in the Amazonian region. The association was formalized in 2011 and created in 2008.

Due to their role as human rights defenders, ADISPA member had been threatened several times. For example, since 2020, Jani Silva, the legal representative of ADISPA had faced at least 6 security incidents:

- On 16 January 2020 she suffered two security incidents. The first occurred around midday, when a man in a motorcycle surveilled her home for at least 10 minutes; the second happened around 2pm, when unknown people arrived at her working place to observe her.
- On 26 March 2020 the Inter-Church Commission for Truth and Peace (Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz) informed her about an ongoing plan to kill her.
- [On 17 April 2020 she heard 6 gunshots, less than 30 meters away from her home.](#)
- [On 22 April 2020 she heard three-gun shots less than 50 meters from her home and noises from the movement of people and a motorcycle around her house](#)
- In May 2020, several media and human rights organizations denounced the military surveillance of more than 130 people, including national and international journalists, human rights defenders and politicians. One of the human rights defender victims of military surveillance in the report included Jani Silva.
- On 4 December, around 6:00 a.m. the armed structure calling itself “Comandos de la Frontera” (Border Commandos) circulated a stigmatizing pamphlet against ADISPA members.

According to the *Inter-ecclesial Commission of Justice and Peace (Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz)*. Since the end of 2020, the Border Commandos arm group have expressed that they will use all possible means to end the Amazonian Pearl Peasant Reserve Zone (ZRCPA) “La Zona de Reserva Campesina Perla Amazónica”. In the first weeks of 2021, this armed group had visited some of the communities of the ZRCPA to state that ADISPA should disappear, and no social organization that wants to work in the territory could do so if it disobeys the armed group guidelines.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 9 March 2021

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: MEMBERS OF ADISPA (They, Them)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: N/A