

# URGENT ACTION

## FAMILY CONTINUES FACING POLICE HARASSMENT

**Máxima Acuña and her family, subsistence farmers in northern Peru, have reported further acts of intimidation and harassment by the police. They are in an ongoing legal dispute against a mining company over the ownership of a plot of land where the family lives. They believe this harassment and intimidation by the police is an attempt to drive them away.**

On 3 February **Máxima Acuña's** lawyer told the press that at least 200 police officers entered the family's land and demolished an extension she was building to their house. Máxima Acuña and her family described how they were building the extension to support the structure of their existing house against the rain.

Máxima Acuña and her family, who are subsistence farmers, have been in a dispute with the Yanacocha mining company for years over the ownership of the plot of land where they live in Tragadero Grande, Sorochuco district, Cajamarca region. On 17 December 2014 a Court in Cajamarca determined that the family was not guilty of illegal occupation of the land as claimed by the company. The mining company is challenging the decision.

On 20 January 2015 Máxima Acuña and her family reported being harassed and intimidated by the police in their home. Days later Máxima Acuña's lawyer told Amnesty International that over 15 police officers as well as private security guards entered their plot of land and started taking photos of their house. When the family questioned why the police officers were in their property, no one addressed them or provided any legal documentation to support their actions.

### **Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:**

- Reminding the authorities that the police must protect Máxima Acuña and her family from violence and intimidation according to their wishes and must respect their human rights at all times, including their right to the plot of land where they live;
- Urging them to order a thorough and impartial investigation into the reported demolition of Máxima Acuña's house extension, other acts of harassment and intimidation and bring those responsible to justice.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 MARCH 2015 TO:**

#### Head of Police

Gral. Jorge Flores Goicochea  
 Director General de la PNP  
 Av. Canaval y Moreyra cdra. 6 - Plaza 30  
 de agosto  
 San Isidro, Lima, Perú  
 Email: dirgen@pnp.gob.pe  
 secretariageneralpnp@hotmail.com  
 Fax: +511 225 40 16

**Salutation: Dear General/ Sr. General**

#### Minister of the Interior

Gral. EP (r) Daniel Belizario Urresti Elera  
 Ministerio del Interior  
 Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n Urb. Corpac  
 San Isidro, Lima, Perú  
 Email: desmin@mininter.gob.pe,  
 Fax: +51 1 225 9920

**Salutation: Dear Minister/ Sr. Ministro**

#### **And copies to:**

Human Rights organization  
 GRUFIDES  
 Jr. José Galvez 430 – A  
 Barrio San Pedro  
 Cajamarca, Perú  
 E-mail: info@grufides.org

### **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. This is the second update of UA 182/13. Further information: [www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR46/004/2014/en](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR46/004/2014/en)

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Over the past few years the Acuña family have reported repeated harassment and attacks from police, who they state are attempting to drive them off their land. On 30 January 2014 Máxima Acuña received a telephone call from a male voice who told her “get out of the property or you’ll die” (*sal de tu propiedad, si no vas a morir*). Shortly after the call two police officers approached her and told her to stop farming the land as it was not hers. After she and her daughter returned home, they stated that two police officers, one of whom was armed, entered the house and told them to stop farming and to leave the land immediately. The police left after Máxima Acuña made a few telephone calls to ask for help, but they came back to her property on 4 February to intimidate her again.

Name: Máxima Acuña (f) and her family

Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 182/13 Index: AMR 46/002/2015 Issue Date: 4 February 2015