

# URGENT ACTION

## COMMUNITY LEADER KILLED, OTHERS AT RISK

**Investigation demanded into the killing of Adelinda Gómez Gaviria, a community leader in Cauca Department, southwest Colombia, who had been opposing the development of gold mining interests.**

On 30 September at 8:30pm in the Cortaderas area of the municipality of Almaguer, department of Cauca, two unknown gunmen approached **Adelinda Gómez Gaviria** and her 16-year-old son **Wilson Pipicano**. They opened fire killing Adelinda Gómez Gaviria and seriously wounding her son. Adelinda Gómez Gaviria was a human rights defender and leader of the non-governmental organization Process of Women of the Colombian Massif (*Proceso de Mujeres Maciceñas*), part of the non-governmental Integration Committee of the Colombian Massif (*Comité de Integración del Macizo Colombiano, CIMA*).

Adelinda Gómez Gaviria had played an active role in opposing the development of gold mining by both multinational companies and small private mining ventures in the municipality of Almaguer. She denounced the threats to the environment and to the livelihoods of peasant farmers in the area that these mining interests posed. She had helped organize a municipal meeting on mining and the environment in February 2013, which was attended by 1,500 peasant farmers and members of indigenous communities who presented their concerns regarding the development of mining interests in the area to the departmental and municipal authorities.

A month ago Adelinda Gómez had received a telephoned death threat: "stop fucking about with that mining stuff, that is risky and you're going to get yourself killed", (*"deje de joder con esa cosa de la minería, eso es riesgoso y se va a hacer matar"*).

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

- Expressing concern for the safety of other members of CIMA and calling on the authorities to ensure protection measures for them in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Urging the authorities to fully and impartially investigate the killing of Adelinda Gómez Gaviria and the wounding of her son, to make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- Reminding the authorities to fulfil their obligations to ensure human rights defenders can carry out their work without fear, as laid out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 15 NOVEMBER 2013 TO:**

#### President

Señor Juan Manuel Santos  
 Presidente de la República,  
 Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26  
 Bogotá, Colombia  
 Fax: +57 1 596 0631

**Salutation: Dear President Santos/  
 Excmo. Sr. Presidente Santos**

#### Minister for Mines and Energy

Amylkar Acosta  
 Ministerio de Minas y Energía  
 Calle 43 No 57 – 31, CAN  
 Apartado 80319  
 Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 324 5208  
**Salutation: Dear Minister Acosta/  
 Estimado Sr. Ministro Acosta**

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

Local human rights organization  
 FUNDECIMA  
 Cra 4, No. 0-54  
 Popayán, Cauca  
 Colombia

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
 INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CIMA is a non-governmental organization working to support civilian communities in the Colombian Massif of Cauca Department and ensure that these communities can remain on their lands. The killing of Adelinda Gómez Gaviria has taken place at a time when numerous private mining concerns are attempting to establish illegal mining operations in Almaguer and neighbouring municipalities and as multinational mining companies are attempting to secure mining concessions in the area. It is estimated that nearly all if not the whole municipality could be affected by mining if these plans were to go ahead.

Peasant farmer, Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities who have opposed the development of outside mining interests on their lands, including by multinational companies, have often been killed or threatened by paramilitaries, either acting alone or in collusion with the security forces. Civilians have also faced threats or killings when opposing illegal mining operations backed by guerrilla forces.

The killing of Adelinda Gómez Gaviria raises concerns for the safety of other members of CIMA who have also been threatened in the context of campaigns against the development of mining interests.

Name: Adelinda Gómez, Wilson Pipicano, members of CIMA, Cauca Department  
Gender m/f: both

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