

WA 003/03 (30 October 2003) // Ecuador: Make justice a reality

Ecuador: Make justice a reality

APPEAL CASE

In July 2002, Kléver Abad died while under police custody. His killers have not been brought to justice.

Elías Elint López “disappeared” while under police custody in November 2000. His mother and family have received death threats since they started campaigning to find his whereabouts.

Cases like Kléver Abad's, where members of the security forces are accused of human rights violations, are frequently tried in Police courts, run by these same security forces. These courts are neither independent nor impartial. Like Elías Elint López's family, victims and witnesses of these crimes are often threatened and harassed. This process denies victims and their families the right to justice and reparation.

The Ecuadorian government must end this chronic lack of justice. The use of Police courts for trying members of the security forces accused of human rights violations must be abolished. Victims and families must be protected from threats and intimidation.

Help end impunity in Ecuador.

Take Action!

Write to President Gutierrez today, asking for an end to impunity by ensuring that all human rights violations allegedly perpetrated by members of the security forces are tried in impartial and independent civilian courts. You may use the letter below as a guide.

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Mr. President:

I am deeply concerned about widespread human rights violations such as torture and ill-treatment committed by the Ecuadorian police force. I am also extremely concerned that frequently these serious crimes remain unpunished because of the use of Police courts to try human rights abusers.

I urge you and your government to abolish the use of Police courts for trying members of the security forces accused of human rights violations. International human rights standards stress that special courts have no role to play when members of the security forces commit such crimes.

Mr. President, only through the protection and promotion of all human rights can a true democracy exist. Ecuador must show the international community that it is part of the group of nations which fully complies with international human rights obligations by actively taking measures that ensure that all human rights are fully respected.

I urge you to ensure that an independent and impartial justice system becomes a reality in Ecuador.

Yours sincerely

APPEAL ADDRESS

Appeals to:

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