

URGENT ACTION

VICTIMS OF MILITARY REGIMES' CAMPSITE BURNT

The campsite outside the Ministry of Justice of a group of people whose rights were violated during past military regimes in Bolivia was set on fire on 9 February. No casualties have been reported but files and other important documents have been destroyed.

Since March 2012 members of the **Platform for social activists against impunity, for justice and historical memory of the Bolivian people** (Plataforma de luchadores sociales contra la impunidad, por la justicia y la memoria histórica del pueblo Boliviano) have been protesting in front of the Bolivian Ministry of Justice to demand justice and full reparations for the human rights violations they and their relatives suffered during the military regimes that ruled Bolivia from 1964 to 1982, including torture and enforced disappearance. They are demanding effective implementation of a law passed in 2004 that should provide them with financial and other reparation.

The protesters believe that the roof of one of the tents – which was made of plastic – was set on fire by unknown people at around midnight on 9 February in an attempt to stop their vigil to claim full reparation for the violations they had suffered. The rest of the campsite subsequently burned, damaging not only some of the tents but also the files (*expedientes*) of 200 people, as well as banners, clothes, two computers and other equipment. At the time of the fire, four members of the association were inside the tents and managed to escape the flames. The Ministry of Interior has already said that the fire was caused by a short-circuit according to a report by the fire brigades.

A formal complaint has been filed before the police. The protesters are calling on the authorities to fully investigate the incident taking into account all possible evidence, including tapes of alleged cameras installed by the Ministry of Justice that could show what happened on 9 February.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to order an immediate, impartial and independent investigation into the fire of the protestors' campsite outside the Ministry of Justice on 9 February and to ensure that those held responsible are brought to justice;
- Calling on them to guarantee the safety of the people protesting in front of the Ministry of Justice;
- Urging them to ensure justice and full reparation is made to the victims of human rights violations committed while the country was under military and authoritarian regimes, in accordance with international human rights standards.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 MARCH 2014 TO:

Minister of Justice

Sra. Sandra Guiterrez
Avenida 16 de julio N°1769
La Paz, Bolivia
Fax: +591 2 2158921
**Salutation: Dear Minister/
Señora Ministra**

General Prosecutor

Dr. Ramiro José Guerrero Peñaranda
Calle España #79 Esquina. San Alberto
Sucre, Bolivia
Fax: +591 4 6439509 (If voice answers,
say "Tono de fax, por favor")
Email: info@fiscalia.gob.bo
**Salutation: Dear General
Prosecutor/Señor Fiscal General**

Minister of Interior

Sr. Carlos Romero
Av. Arce esq. Belisario Salinas 2409
La Paz, Bolivia
Fax: +591 2 2440466
E-mail : mail@mingobierno.gob.bo
**Salutation: Dear Minister/ Señor
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

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

VICTIMS OF MILITARY REGIMES' CAMPSITE BURNT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bolivia was ruled by military and authoritarian regimes from 1964 to 1982, during which time human rights violations, including torture and illegal detentions, were widespread. According to local human rights organisations, around 150 people were victims of enforced disappearance.

Law 2640 for "Exceptional compensation to victims of political violence during periods of unconstitutional governments" was passed on 11 March 2004. It established a set of compensatory measures such as free medical assistance, psychological rehabilitation and economic benefits to victims and relatives of those who suffered torture or enforced disappearance, among other human rights violations. Approximately 6,200 applications for compensation have been sent to the Ministry of Justice out of which 1,714 have been accepted as beneficiaries.

The Platform for social activists against impunity, for justice and historical memory of the Bolivian people (Plataforma de luchadores sociales contra la impunidad por la justicia y la memoria histórica del pueblo Boliviano) represents a group of victims who believe the 2004 law has not been adequately applied and that some victims have been excluded from benefits without clear explanation. Members of this organisation as well as other victims' organisations argue that access to reparation has been conditioned to specific requirements that were difficult or impossible to obtain. Other reparation measures such as rehabilitation programmes or honours to victims have not been put in place. Further, victims expressed concern that compensation received is only 20 per cent of the total amount foreseen in the 2004 law.

Victims of human rights violations from the military and authoritarian regimes are also calling for the creation of a truth commission that could bring to light the crimes committed between 1964 and 1982 and the full disclosure of military files that could contain important information, such as the whereabouts of those whose were forcibly disappeared.

In November 2013 the UN Human Rights Committee recommended Bolivia to actively investigate human rights violations committed during the military and authoritarian regimes, ensure that the Armed Forces cooperate fully in the investigations, revise the standards of proof required by victims to have access to reparation, establish a mechanism for appeal and review of applications and make available the resources needed to ensure that victims will receive the full amount of compensation awarded to them. The Committee also called on the authorities to guarantee the effective enjoyment of the right to full redress, including psychosocial care and counselling and the honouring of historical memory, as established in Law 2640, and to pay particular attention to gender considerations and victims in vulnerable situations.

In December 2013 members of the Plataforma de luchadores sociales contra la impunidad por la justicia y la memoria histórica del pueblo Boliviano and the Ministry of Interior started conversations into some of the victims demands.

When sending appeals, please also send copies to the organisation, Plataforma de luchadores sociales contra la impunidad por la justicia y la memoria histórica del pueblo Boliviano, at plataformadeluchadoressocialesb@hotmail.com

Name: Members of the Platform for social activists against impunity, for justice and historical memory of the Bolivian people
Gender m/f: both

UA: 26/14 Index: AMR 18/001/2014 Issue Date: 10 February 2014