

# URGENT ACTION

## DEMAND PROTECTION FOR ACTIVIST'S FAMILY

The lives of Rita Julia Morán and other family members of Ecuadorian land activist Milton Yulán Morán are at risk. On 7 August, three vehicles carrying armed men parked in front of their house for about 30 minutes. They drove away after neighbours fired shots into the air. This incident follows the recent killing of Marlon Lozano, the colleague and nephew of Milton Yulán Morán.

On 7 August at around 6.30am two pick-up trucks and another small vehicle parked outside the home of Rita Julia Morán, mother of Milton Yulán Morán. According to witnesses, twelve armed men were acting suspiciously and pretending that their cars had broken down. Neighbours noticed the men passing guns from one vehicle to another. The neighbours then fired shots into the air and the men drove away.

On 20 July Marlon Lozano was shot in the head and died the following day. It is believed that the attack was intended for Milton Yulán Morán, who is the national coordinator of non-governmental organization Land and Life (Tierra y Vida). Following Marlon Lozano's death, Milton Yulán Morán was given provisional protection under the witness protection program pending a decision in the week beginning 8 August.

This campaign of harassment and intimidation against Milton Yulán Morán is believed to be due to his work on projects aimed at giving land to peasant (*campesino*) communities and small rural producers. This latest incident was reported to the authorities and a complaint is being presented on 8 August.

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

- Express concern for the safety of Rita Julia Morán and other family members of Milton Yulán Morán and urge the authorities to ensure protection measures are put in place in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Urge the authorities to fully and impartially investigate the killing of Marlon Lozano, the acts of harassment against Milton Yulán Morán and his family and to bring those responsible to justice;
- Remind the authorities to fulfil their obligations to ensure human rights defenders can carry out their work without fear, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO:

Fiscal General del Estado  
Dr. Galo Chiriboga Zambrano  
Av. Eloy Alfaro 32-250 y  
República  
Quito  
Ecuador  
Fax: +593 2 2222538 (call first  
and request fax signal by saying  
'tono por favor')  
**Salutation: Sr. Fiscal**

Ministerio del Interior  
Jose Serrano  
Benalcázar N 4-24 y Espejo  
Quito  
Pichincha  
Ecuador  
Fax: +593 2 258 0067 (Wait until  
fax signal is given)  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro**

**And copies to:**  
Comité Permanente por los  
Derechos Humanos  
Billy Navarrete Benavides  
Quisquis 1207 y Esmeraldas,  
Edificio Quisquis 80, 4 Piso,  
Oficina 403.  
Guayaquil  
09-01-4128, Ecuador  
Fax: + 5934-2293931 / +  
5934-229327

### 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 first update of UA 228/11. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR28/003/2011/en>

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Name: Rita Julia Morán and family

Gender m/f: Both

Name: Marlon Lozano

Gender m/f: Male

Further information on UA: 228/11 Index: AMR 28/004/2011 Issue Date: 8 August 2011