

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

16 July 2010
AI Index: AMR 46/015/2010

Peru: Amnesty International condemns renewed attempts to expel Father Paul McAuley

Amnesty International condemns the continuous attempts by the Peruvian Government to expel Catholic lay brother Paul McAuley.

Over the last ten years, Paul McAuley has worked tirelessly with the Indigenous Peoples of the Peruvian Amazon, defending their rights and working to protect their environment in the face of oil, gas and mining activities that threaten the ecological balance in the region and the welfare of its inhabitants.

Despite the fact that a Peruvian court has granted a habeas corpus petition by Paul McAuley's lawyers to stop his expulsion from Peru, the government has appealed this decision thereby unjustifiably prolonging the uncertainty on his migratory situation in Peru, which has been legal for over 20 years.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned that the Peruvian government seems to be determined to target a human rights defender and to ignore the rights of Indigenous people who for years have been amongst the most neglected and marginalised sectors of society.

The expulsion of Paul McAuley would further undermine the struggle for Indigenous rights. It comes against a backdrop of resistance from the government and ruling political party to the passing of a Law of Consultation that was initially approved by Congress in May and which would guarantee Indigenous people the right to consultation on any legislative or administrative measure that affects them, which is enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in the ILO Convention 169.

On 5 July, Amnesty International sent a letter to the Peruvian Interior Minister raising its concern that the government's attempt to expel Paul McAuley sends a negative message about the right to defend human rights in Peru, as outlined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Amnesty International reiterates its belief that Paul McAuley, who received an MBE for services to Peruvian education, is legitimately defending human rights and urges the Peruvian government to abandon any attempts to expel him, allowing him to continue his legitimate work in support of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon.

/ENDS

Public Document

International Secretariat, Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW, UK, +44
207413 5566 www.amnesty.org
