

URGENT ACTION

INDIGENOUS LEADER KILLED, OTHER LEADERS AT RISK
An Indigenous leader who was monitoring artisanal mining was killed in the Cañamomo Lomaprieta Indigenous Reservation in central Colombia. Many other Indigenous leaders from the Reservation have been threatened and their safety remains at risk.

On 7 April, Indigenous leader **Fernando Salazar Calvo** was shot dead by an unidentified gunman in the Cañamomo Lomaprieta Indigenous Reservation (Resguardo Indígena), Caldas Department. He was the president of the Association of Miners of La Union and a board member of the Association of Artisanal Miners of the Cañamomo Lomaprieta Indigenous Reservation (Asociación de Minereros Artesanales del Resguardo Indígena Cañamomo Lomaprieta, ASOMICARS) in Ríosucio and Supía Municipalities, Caldas Department. Fernando Salazar Calvo and many **other Indigenous leaders**, including **Carlos Eduardo Gómez Restrepo**, the Indigenous governor of Cañamomo Lomaprieta, and **Fabio Moreno Herrera**, the president of ASOMICARS, have repeatedly been threatened. In November 2014 the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman had issued a risk report warning that there were concerns for the safety of the Cañamomo Lomaprieta Indigenous community.

Fernando Salazar Calvo and other Indigenous leaders had been monitoring artisanal mining activities in the Indigenous Reservation, and closing such activities down when these were deemed not to be in line with the ancestral practice and the recommendations and resolutions of the Indigenous Cabildo, which is the highest Indigenous political authority within their territory. Multinational extractive industries have been seeking to develop mining operations in the area and illegal armed actors have also expressed an interest in developing mining operations in the area. There have been reports of the presence of paramilitaries and guerrillas in the area.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of Carlos Eduardo Gómez Restrepo, Fabio Moreno Herrera, and other Indigenous leaders in the Cañamomo Lomaprieta Indigenous Reservation, and urging the authorities to guarantee their safety in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on the authorities to order a full and impartial investigation into the killing of Fernando Salazar Calvo and the threats against other Indigenous leaders of the Cañamomo Lomaprieta Indigenous Reservation, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging the authorities to respect and support the Indigenous peoples of the Cañamomo Lomaprieta Indigenous Reservation in their efforts to pursue their own initiatives for resource extraction, as part of their right to self-determination and to set their own strategies for development, in line with recommendations by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 MAY 2015 TO:

President

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**

Attorney General

Eduardo Montealegre
 Fiscalía General de la Nación
 Diagonal 22B No. 52-01 (Ciudad Salitre)
 Bloque C Piso 4
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax +57 1 570 2000 (when recorded
 voice answers, dial ext 2023)
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/
 Estimado Sr. Fiscal General**

And copies to:

Resguardo Indígena Cañamomo
 Lomaprieta
 Calle 11 No 11-04
 Avenida Las Américas
 Ríosucio
 Caldas, Colombia

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

INDIGENOUS LEADER KILLED, OTHER LEADERS AT RISK

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Over the past 50 years, Colombia's internal armed conflict has pitted the security forces and paramilitaries against a range of guerrilla groups. In spite of the ongoing peace process all the warring parties continue to be responsible for serious crimes under international law and other human rights violations. Indigenous communities are among those most affected by the conflict. According to the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia, ONIC), 10 Indigenous people were killed for conflict-related reasons and at least 2,819 forcibly displaced in the first nine months of 2014.

The Cañamomo Lomapieta Indigenous Reservation (Resguardo Indígena), located in the municipalities of Ríosucio and Supía in Caldas Department, was established in the 1500s at the time of Spanish colonialism. Embera Chami Indigenous people have been living in the area for centuries. The Indigenous Cabildo of Cañamomo Lomapieta has been regulating mining in their territory, for example by prohibiting the use of substances which would be harmful to the environment or the access or investment by people who are not part of their community.

Name: Fernando Salazar Calvo (m), Carlos Eduardo Gómez Restrepo (m), Fabio Moreno Herrera (m), and other Indigenous leaders in the Cañamomo Lomapieta Indigenous Reservation
Gender m/f: both

UA: 87/15 Index: AMR 23/1448/2015 Issue Date: 14 April 2015