



TRANSFORMING PAIN INTO HOPE
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS



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**PROTECT
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS
NOW**

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LAÍSA SANTOS SAMPAIO, BRAZIL

Human rights defenders in the Americas play a vital role in exposing and combating human rights violations. Many have paid a high price for their courageous efforts to break cycles of injustice, discrimination and impunity. In the past few years, hundreds have been persecuted and attacked. Despite the lack of effective protection for themselves and their families and widespread impunity, they continue their struggle – transforming pain into hope.

Laísa Santos Sampaio works as a schoolteacher in the rural community where she lives in Pará State, Brazil. She has received repeated threats after campaigning on environmental issues and against the interests of illegal loggers, charcoal producers and land grabbers. Two members of her family were killed in 2011 after campaigning on the same issues and following similar threats.

Laísa Santos Sampaio and other human rights defenders working in the Amazon are at risk. Support them by urging the Brazilian government to publicly recognize their legitimate human rights work, investigate attacks against them and provide effective protection.

TAKE ACTION NOW

SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS

Image: Laísa Santos Sampaio, schoolteacher and environmental campaigner. © Esther Gillingham/CAFOD
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Dear Minister José Eduardo Martins Cardozo,

Laísa Santos Sampaio, a schoolteacher and environmental activist from the Praia Alta Piranha settlement, Pará State, has been repeatedly threatened and fears for her life. Two members of her immediate family were killed in 2011 following similar threats.

She is one of scores of human rights defenders working in the Amazon to defend the forest's ecosystem, communities and livelihoods in the face of violence. Meanwhile illegal loggers, charcoal producers, ranchers and land grabbers operate with impunity.

Please act immediately to:

- effectively protect Laísa Santos Sampaio
- thoroughly investigate all threats against her
- address the entrenched criminality that lies behind such violence and protect communities at risk.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____

**Exmo. Sr. José Eduardo Martins Cardozo
Federal Minister of Justice
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco "T"
70064-900 - Brasília/DF
Brazil**

Image: Schoolteacher and environmental campaigner Laísa Santos Sampaio fears for her life after being repeatedly threatened.
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