

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 28/010/2004

UA 111/04

Fear for safety

16 March 2004

ECUADOR

Patricio Ordóñez Maico (m), aged 27
Members of *Fundación Amigos por la Vida*, Friends for Life Foundation

A gay man, who has filed a complaint against police officers who assaulted him, has survived an attempt to kill him, a week after he gave testimony about his case at an international human rights meeting.

Patricio Ordóñez Maico is a member of the *Fundación Amigos por la Vida*, Friends for Life Foundation, an NGO based in Guayaquil which campaigns for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people. On 12 March an intruder got into the *Fundación Amigos por la Vida* building and attacked him from behind with a knife. He resisted and managed to break the knife. The man then drew his pistol and threatened to shoot him. The assailant shouted at him "I am going to kill you queer son of a bitch" (*te voy a matar maricón hijo de puta*). He dropped the gun in the course of the struggle and Patricio Ordóñez managed to run away. The assailant also ran off, leaving behind the broken knife and the pistol. Patricio Ordóñez suffered knife wounds to the chest and back. He filed a complaint before the Judicial Police in Guayaquil. Although there were valuables in the office, the attacker stole nothing, suggesting that this was an attempted murder rather than a botched robbery.

Patricio Ordóñez had been arbitrarily detained and ill-treated twice by National Police officers in the capital, Quito, in May and June 2001. In the first event he was sexually abused by a police officer. He begged the police officer not to do it, and the officer stopped and warned him that if he filed a complaint against the police, they would shoot him and drop him in the Manchagara river. However, Patricio Ordóñez filed a complaint before the Judicial Police in June 2001. (See Amnesty International report: Ecuador: Pride and Prejudice, AMR 28/001/2002, March 2002).

Patricio Ordóñez received several death threats. On 25 February 2002, whilst he was in a restaurant with friends, one of the National Police officers he had accused appeared and threatened to kill him if he did not withdraw his complaint. Patricio Ordóñez filed another complaint against the officer and moved to another city because he feared for his safety.

One of the police officers accused by Patricio Ordóñez was demoted to traffic warden. However, the Ecuadorian authorities have not yet told Patricio Ordóñez the result of the investigation into his complaints and whether the other alleged perpetrators have been brought to justice.

A week before he was attacked he had presented his case to a meeting in Quito organised by the *Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme*, the International Federation for Human Rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ecuador is one of the few countries in the world whose constitution explicitly forbids discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. However, most of the crimes against LGBT people that Amnesty International has brought to the attention of the Ecuadorian authorities have gone unpunished.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish, English or your own language:

- expressing serious concern that Patricio Ordóñez was reportedly attacked on 12 March 2004;

- pointing out that you are aware that Patricio Ordóñez was reportedly attacked after he gave testimony at an international human rights meeting in Quito, organised by the International Federation for Human Rights;
- calling on the authorities to do everything necessary to ensure the safety of Patricio Ordóñez and other members of the Friends for Life Foundation, in accordance with their own wishes;
- calling for a full and independent investigation into the reported attack on Patricio Ordóñez and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- pointing out that Patricio Ordóñez has lodged a complaint that he was arbitrarily detained and ill-treated by National Police officers in Quito, on 31 May and 2 June 2001, asking what conclusion the investigation has reached, and urging the authorities to publish the investigation's findings.

APPEALS TO: (it may be difficult to get through to these fax numbers; please keep trying)

Minister of the Interior

Ing. Raúl Baca Carbo
Ministro de Gobierno, Policía, Justicia, Cultos y Municipalidades
Ministerio de Gobierno y Policía
Benalcázar y Espejo
Quito ECUADOR

Telegrams: **Ministro de Gobierno, Quito, Ecuador**

Fax: **+ 593 2 2580 067 (if someone answers, say "Tono de fax, por favor")**

Salutation: **Dear Minister / Estimado Sr. Ministro**

Attorney General

Dra. Mariana Yépez de Velasco
Ministra Fiscal General del Estado Fiscalía General del Estado
Av. Eloy Alfaro N°32-240 y República
Quito ECUADOR

Telegrams: **Attorney General, Quito, Ecuador**

Fax: **+ 593 2 2558 561 – 2558 565 (if someone answers, say "Tono de fax, por favor")**

Salutation: **Dear Attorney General / Sra. Fiscal General**

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organization

Fundación Amigos por la Vida
Los Rios 103 y Manuel Galecio
Guayaquil, Ecuador
Email: famivida2@hotmail.com

and to diplomatic representatives of Ecuador accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 April 2004.