

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 28/012/2004

07 April 2004

Further Information on UA 75/04 (AMR 28/005/2004, 28 February 2004) and follow-up (AMR 28/009/2004, 15 March 2004) - Death Threats/ Fear for safety

ECUADOR

Members of the human rights organisation *Fundación Pachamama*  
Pablo Xavier Ortiz (m) academic and adviser at the indigenous  
organization *Instituto Amazanga* (Amazanga Institute)  
All staff at the *Instituto Amazanga*

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The human rights organization *Fundación Pachamama* received a telephone bomb threat on 6 April, and Amnesty International is seriously concerned for their safety. This is the latest in a series of acts of intimidation and threatening phone calls they and the *Instituto Amazanga* have suffered since February this year. Both organizations have supported the Sarayaku indigenous community in their campaign against plans by a foreign oil company to drill for oil in their territory in Pastaza province.

The caller told a *Fundación Pachamama* staff member, "We already told you and you did not listen, now we have left a little present in the building" ("*ya les advertimos y no nos hicieron caso. Ahora les dejamos un regalito en el edificio*"). The caller apparently sounded like the man who made a threatening phone call to the organization in February.

The staff evacuated their office and called the police, who searched the building but found nothing. A few hours later a box was left outside the organization's front door. Police checked the box, but it was empty. The organisation reported both incidents to the Attorney General's office.

Members of *Fundación Pachamama* also reported the death threat they received in February 2004 to the Attorney General's office. However, the Attorney General's office is not known to have carried out any investigation.

Pablo Xavier Ortiz and members of *Instituto Amazanga* have not reported any further death threats since the beginning of March 2004. Amnesty International is not aware of any investigation by the Attorney General's office into these death threats.

On 27 February 2004 Amnesty International received a letter from the Ecuadorian Ministry of Energy and Mining in response to this Urgent Action, stating that the safety of all Ecuadorian citizens at *Fundación Pachamama* was guaranteed by the Ecuadorian State and that it was a priority for the Ecuadorian government to ensure the wellbeing of all its citizens. However, the letter did not state whether the Ecuadorian authorities had opened any investigation into the complaints filed by the members of *Fundación Pachamama*; nor did it say what measures the Ecuadorian state would take to ensure their safety and to guarantee that such acts are not repeated.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the staff of *Fundación Pachamama*, who have received a series of death threats;
- urging the authorities to guarantee their safety, in line with their international obligations;
- calling on the authorities to open an immediate investigation into the alleged death threat reported in February 2004 and the bomb threat allegedly received on 6 April 2004, and bring those responsible to justice;

- pointing that in February 2004 Amnesty International received a letter from the Ministry of Energy and Mining which stated that the rights of all members of *Fundación Pachamama* were guaranteed by the Ecuadorian State, but did not mention what measures the Ecuadorian authorities would take to ensure the safety of those threatened, or whether the authorities had carried out any investigation into the death threats so as to bring those responsible to justice;
- pointing out that to date Amnesty International is not aware of any investigations into the death threats reported by *Fundación Pachamama* in February 2004;
- reminding the authorities of their duty to ensure that human rights violations are investigated and punished.

**APPEALS TO:**

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 Mr. 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 (if someone answers, say "Tono de fax, por favor")**

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

**COPIES TO:**

Centre for Documentation of Human Rights

Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos

"Segundo Montes Mozo SJ≅ CSMM

Coordinador: Pablo de la Vega

Nicolás Jiménez, E 4, 223, y Av. 12 de Octubre, piso 5, Of.E- 3

Quito, Ecuador

Casilla: 17-08-8069

Quito, Ecuador

**Telefax:** **+ 593 2 2543 845 (if someone answers say "Tono de fax por favor")**

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 19 May 2004.