

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 28/013/2004

15 April 2004

Further Information on UA 111/04 (AMR 28/010/2004, 16 March 2004) Fear for safety

ECUADOR

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

Foundation

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Patricio Ordóñez Maico and members of *Fundación Amigos por la Vida*, Friends for Life Foundation, a non-governmental organization (NGO) which campaigns for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people. This follows a telephoned bomb threat to the NGO on 11 April and a man acting suspiciously at the organization's offices in the town of Guayaquil.

Staff at *Fundación Amigos por la Vida* received a telephone bomb threat from an anonymous caller who told them that a bomb would be placed at their offices, so that they would be blown up for being queer sons of a bitch (*se iba a colocar una bomba en la Fundación para que vuelen con todo ya que son unos maricones hijos de puta*).

Earlier on the same day, an unknown individual went to *Fundación Amigos por la Vida* asking for Patricio Ordóñez Maico. The person was wearing plain cloths and identified himself as a member of the Ecuadorian National Police. He told the staff at *Fundación Amigos por la Vida* that he had come to take Patricio Ordoñez Maico to the police station to make a statement. When the man was asked to show his identification, he apparently left and was reportedly seen entering a gold car with dark windows and no number plate.

Both incidents appear to be attempts to intimidate Patricio Ordóñez Maico and *Fundación Amigos por la Vida*, where he works, to force him to drop the complaint he filed against police officers who assaulted him in the capital, Quito, on 31 May and 2 June 2001. On both occasions he was detained without charge and ill-treated by National Police officers. After filing 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 Maico received a series of death threats and had to move to another town because he feared for his life.

Acts of harassment and intimidation against Patricio Ordóñez Maico followed and on 12 March 2004, a week after he 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, an attempt was made on his life.

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

- expressing serious concern for the safety of Patricio Ordóñez Maico and members of *Fundación Amigos por la Vida*, Friends for Life Foundation;
- pointing out that you are aware that on 11 April staff at *Fundación Amigos por la Vida*, Friends for Life Foundation received a telephone bomb threat and that the same day a person who said to be a police officer came to the organization's office claiming that he had to take Patricio Ordoñez Maico to the police station to make a statement;
- pointing out that this is the second incident against Patricio Ordóñez Maico and other members of *Fundación Amigos por la Vida*, Friends for Life Foundation since Patricio Ordóñez Maico gave testimony at an international human rights meeting in Quito, organised by *Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme*, the International Federation for Human Rights;

- calling on the authorities to do everything necessary to ensure the safety of Patricio Ordóñez Maico and other members of *Fundación Amigos por la Vida*, Friends for Life Foundation, in accordance with their own wishes;
- calling for a full and independent investigation into the events of 11 April 2004 and the reported attack on Patricio Ordóñez Maico on 12 March 2004, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- pointing out that Patricio Ordóñez Maico has lodged a complaint that he was detained without charge 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:

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 May 2004.