

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 89/04 (AMR 34/003/2004, 01 March 2004) Fear for safety/ Death threats

GUATEMALA

Eloída Mejía Samayoa (f)

Eloída Mejía Samayoa, President and Legal Representative of *Asociación Amigos del Lago Izabal*, Friends of Izabal's Lake Association, has sent the following message to Amnesty International: "*Después de la acción urgente que Amnistía hizo a mi favor empecé a recibir protección de las Brigadas de Paz Internacionales y esto realmente me salvo la vida*", "After the Urgent Action Amnesty issued on my behalf I received protection from Peace Brigades International and this really saved my life".

She is no longer receiving death threats as a result of her work opposing the reactivation of mining activities in the Izabal Department. The authorities have begun investigations into the threats but those responsible have yet to be brought to justice. Mining activities in Izabal have been reactivated, but the situation remains tense as a result of continued opposition. On 11 January, one rural worker was killed, whilst 4 others and 16 police officers were injured in Los Encuentros, Sololá Department. This followed a confrontation between local residents and more than 750 police officers and soldiers who were escorting equipment to a gold mine in northern Guatemala.

No further action is required from the UA Network at present. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.