

URGENT ACTION

INDIGENOUS LEADER THREATENED IN COLOMBIA

William Carupia Cuñapa, President of the Indigenous Organization of Antioquia (OIA) in north-western Colombia, is believed to be at risk following a death threat.

William Carupia Cuñapa is President of the Indigenous Organization of Antioquia, (*Organización Indígena de Antioquia* (OIA) an organization representing Indigenous communities in the north-western department of Antioquia. On 18 October 2011 he received a telephone call at his home. The anonymous caller threatened the Indigenous leader telling him: "Don't be stupid, messing around with that nonsense about reclaiming land for Indigenous people, you are going to die and find yourself underground" ("*no fuera bobo, que por estar jodiendo con el cuento de reclamación de tierras para los indígenas se iba a morir e iba estar bajo tierra*").

Currently the leader of OIA does not have protection measures. Given this lack of protection, this threat raises serious concern for the safety of the Indigenous leader. Over the last year there have been numerous threats and killings of human rights defenders who have attempted to secure the return of lands stolen often as a result of human rights abuses and violations committed by the security forces and their paramilitary allies.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Call on the authorities to launch a full and impartial investigation into the death threat against William Carupia Cuñapa, to publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Express concern for the safety of William Carupia Cuñapa and other members of the OIA and call for protection measures to guarantee their safety, in line with their wishes;
- Remind the Colombian authorities to fulfil their obligations to protect human rights defenders as specified in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 DECEMBER 2011 TO:

President

Señor Juan Manuel Santos
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Carrera 8 No.7-26, Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 596 0631

**Salutation: Dear President Santos/
 Excmo. Sr. Presidente Santos**

Minister of Interior

Germán Vargas Lleras
 Ministerio Del Interior
 Carrera 9a. No. 14-10,
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 599 8961

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

And copies to:

NGO

Organización Indígena de Antioquia
 Carrera 49 N° 63-57
 Medellín
 Colombia

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Over many years of internal armed conflict, many Indigenous people have been forced to flee their lands or seen the lands they claim occupied. It is estimated that between 1980 and July 2010 over 6 million hectares were illegally appropriated or abandoned. Indigenous people have been subject to numerous human rights abuses and violations in the course of their efforts to claim rights over land. Guerrilla forces have also been responsible for many killings and threats of members of Indigenous communities they accuse of siding with their enemies and in the context of protecting their rights to land.

Name: William Carupia Cuñapa

Gender m/f: male

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