

URGENT ACTION

SANTIAGO MALDONADO FOUND DEAD

On 17 October, the lifeless body of Santiago Maldonado was found 300 metres from the Pu Lof en Resistencia community in the department of Cushamen, in Chubut province, Argentina.

On the morning of 1 August 2017, about 100 members of the Argentine National Gendarmerie (Gendarmería Nacional Argentina, GNA) – a government military force – entered irregularly and violently into the territory of the Mapuche community Pu Lof en Resistencia.

According to the community, the GNA fired lead and rubber bullets, and burned many families' possessions. Since this raid took place, the whereabouts of **Santiago Maldonado**, a 28-year-old activist who arrived the day before to assist the community in its suit to reclaim tribal lands, were unknown. Santiago Maldonado was last seen alive while fleeing from the GNA raid.

According to eyewitness accounts, about 30 uniformed members of the GNA entered the community and began firing, which led those present to seek safety by running towards a nearby river around 100 metres from the community. Some managed to cross it and escape. Witnesses indicate that they saw Santiago Maldonado running to protect himself from the shots before the river crossing. Those who had fled to the other shore saw Santiago Maldonado crouching to hide himself and overheard two GNA officials exclaim, "we've got one here".

On 17 October, two-and-a-half months after his disappearance, his lifeless body was found 300 metres from the Pu Lof en Resistencia community. This location had already been combed on several occasions as part of the search efforts. To date, there is no credible information on the circumstances of his death.

Amnesty International will continue to monitor the case long-term and demand that the state carry out comprehensive and impartial investigations into the acts committed on 1 August in the Mapuche community Pu Lof en Resistencia and into the death of Santiago Maldonado, to make the results public and bring those responsible for human rights violations in this case to justice.

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 191/17. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr13/6907/2017/en/

Name: Santiago Maldonado
Gender: Male

Further information on UA: 191/17 Index: AMR 13/7450/2017 Issue Date: 14 November 2017

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