

# URGENT ACTION

## COMMUNITY LEADERS ACQUITTED OF CHARGES

**Manuel Trujillo and Manuela Pacheco, community leaders in San Pablo de Amalí, central Ecuador, have been acquitted of the unsubstantiated charges of organized terrorism.**

On 25 January the court in Guaranda, Bolívar province, acquitted **Manuel Trujillo** and **Manuela Pacheco** of the charges of organized terrorism. The hearing began on 19 January without any incidents and was adjourned until 25 January. Although the Public Prosecutor's Office could appeal the decision, Manuel Trujillo and Manuela Pacheco's defence lawyers hope this will be the end of the unfair legal proceedings against them, which began in 2012.

Manuel Trujillo and Manuela Pacheco were charged in relation to an attack on four police officers travelling in a vehicle on 14 August 2012. The unsubstantiated charges against them seemed to be an attempt to silence them and put an end to their community's long-standing opposition to a hydroelectric project, which they believe will negatively impact on the community's right to water.

Amnesty International is concerned at the use of unsubstantiated charges against people who are critical of the authorities or those who campaign to defend the rights of communities affected by extractive industries, as well as at the chilling effect that these unfounded prosecutions may have on others wishing to exercise their right to freedom of expression and association.

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

This is the first update of UA 10/16. Further information: [www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr28/3205/2016/en/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr28/3205/2016/en/)

Name: Manuel Trujillo (m) and Manuela Pacheco (f)  
Gender m/f: all

Further information on UA: 10/16 Index: AMR 28/3324/2016 Issue Date: 26 January 2016

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