

URGENT ACTION

THREE KILLED, HUNDREDS INJURED DURING PROTESTS

Three people have been killed; two by-standers and one police officer, and hundreds have been injured as a result of violent clashes and excessive use of force by police during weeks of anti-mining protests in southern Peru. As new protests are announced for 27 and 28 May, risk of further human rights violations remains.

Since 23 March ongoing protests have taken place in Islay province, Arequipa department, in southern Peru, against the planned Tía María copper mining project in the Tambo Valley. Those opposing the project have raised concerns of the impact of the mining activities on the community's access to clean water for agricultural and domestic use. Reports state that excessive force was used against protesters by the security forces, including the use of firearms, as well as clashes between protesters and security forces. Three people have been killed, including a police officer, and scores of protesters and police officers have been injured. On 14 May during clashes between protesters and police officers a further 20 people have been reported injured.

Sixty-one-year-old by-stander **Victoriano Huayna** died after being shot by police officers following clashes with police in nearby Cocachacra on 22 April. By-stander **Henry Checlla Chura** was shot dead on 5 May when police allegedly opened fire against protesters blocking a highway in the Alto Inclán area of Mollendo. The third victim is **Alberto Vasquez Duran**, a police officer who died on 9 May after being injured in clashes with protesters three days earlier.

Following a speech by President Ollanta Humala on 15 May explaining to the nation why the mining project could not be stopped, the Southern Peru Copper Corporation mining company announced a temporary suspension of the Tía María project for 60 days to allow for further dialogue with the affected communities. However, the communities have confirmed that they will go ahead with the planned two-day regional strike on 27 and 28 May, so the risk of further clashes and human rights violations remains.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to carry out full and impartial investigations into the killings of Victoriano Huayna, Henry Checlla Chura and Alberto Vasquez Duran, as well as those injured, and to bring those found responsible to justice;
- Acknowledging that while the state has a duty to maintain public order, it should never use excessive force and must guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly; and to take urgent measures so that the security forces comply in all circumstances with human rights standards on the use of progressive, selective and proportionate force when policing social protests;
- Calling on them to guarantee the rights of all those communities affected by the mining project to participation, information and consultation.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 JUNE 2015 TO:

President

Ollanta Humala Tasso
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**Salutation: Mr President /Sr.
Presidente**

Interior Minister

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Ministro del Interior
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Teléfono: +511 418 4030
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Salutation: Dear Minister/Sr. Ministro

Attorney General

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Fiscal de la Nación (i)
Ministerio Público
Fiscalía de la Nación
Teléfono: +511 625 5555 o 208 5555
E-mail: psanchez@mpfn.gob.pe
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/Sr.
Fiscal de la Nación**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The conflict surrounding the Tía María mining project is not new. Since the Southern Peru Copper Corporation (SPCC) mining company started the exploration phase in 2006, the affected communities have been raising concerns of the impact of the mining activities on the community's access to clean water for agricultural and domestic use, due to the risks of pollution and the high amount of water the mining project will require for copper extraction. On 7 April 2011, following anti-mining protests against the project, three people were killed in clashes with the security forces, and the military was deployed in the area.

The tension has increased since August 2014 when the Ministry of Energy and Mines approved the second version of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report presented by the company. The first EIA was rejected by the Ministry of Energy and Mines in 2011 following an analysis by the United Nations Office for Project Services which raised, amongst others, concerns about the lack of adequate consultation with the affected communities, the lack of evaluation of the impact on the area, including economic impact and how it will affect nearby roads, and the lack of contingency plans in case of environmental emergencies.

Although the authorities claimed that all these issues have been addressed in the second version of the EIA, those opposing the Tía María project have expressed their concerns that the assessment has not taken into account the views of independent experts and that there has not been an adequate and meaningful consultation with the affected communities.

Amnesty International has previously highlighted to the Peruvian authorities how the security forces have repeatedly deployed excessive use of force against protesters, often with deadly consequences. In the past four years alone, almost 40 people have died in circumstances where it appears the police used excessive force.

The overwhelming majority of these cases have yet to be investigated. On 29 April, in response to a letter Amnesty International sent in January 2015, Peru's Public Prosecutor's Office said there were only two open investigations into the deaths of two individuals allegedly caused by excessive use of police force during previous protests. This covers only one person from the list of almost 40 names Amnesty International supplied to the Public Prosecutor.

In April a video showing police officers planting "evidence" in an attempt to frame some of the protesters was published and circulated on social media. The authorities deployed the armed forces on 9 May to the area.

Name: Victoriano Huayna (m), Henry Checlla Chura (m), Alberto Vasquez Duran (m) and those injured during anti-mining protests in Peru
Gender m/f: both

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