

# URGENT ACTION

## MEMBERS OF INDIGENOUS ORGANISATION ATTACKED

**Several members of an indigenous peoples organization have been physically attacked and threatened in recent weeks in northern Guatemala. One member was killed. The others remain at risk.**

The **Council of K'iche' Peoples** (Consejo de los Pueblos K'iche', CPK) is an organization based in Santa Cruz del Quiché in the department of Quiché that works on Indigenous Peoples rights, extractive industries and corruption issues. **Aura Lolita Chavez** is one of its leaders.

On 4 July CPK organised a peaceful demonstration against discrimination, alleged economic mismanagement and abuse of power by the mayor. At 4.15pm, after the demonstration, participants were returning to their community by bus when their vehicle was stopped by a group of 8 people, armed with stones, pocket knives, machetes and batons. As the group threw stones at the bus, several CPK members got off it to see what was happening. The group asked where Aura Lolita Chavez was and violently attacked two women and a girl who participated in the demonstration. The activists were injured, with two women reporting a knife wound and a fractured ankle respectively.

Previously, on 27 June, **Gaspar Tipaz**, CPK member and local leader, had received phone calls threatening him to death. A male caller asked him about the number of people who were going to attend a demonstration planned for 28 June and told him "tomorrow I'm going to kill you" ("Mañana te voy a matar").

Weeks earlier, on 12 June, **José Tavico Tzunun**, another CPK leader, was killed by armed gunmen who raided his house at night. The house was a meeting point for CPK activists.

### Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging them to take immediate steps to provide appropriate protection to members of the executive committee of the CPK according to their wishes;
- Calling on the authorities to order an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of José Tavico Tzunun, and the threats and attacks against CPK members;
- Reminding them that human rights defenders have a right to carry out their activities without any unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 AUGUST 2012 TO:

#### Attorney General

Claudia Paz y Paz Bailey

Fiscal General de la República

Ministerio Público

15ª Avenida 15-16, Zona 1, Barrio Gerona

Ciudad de Guatemala,

Guatemala

**Fax: +502 2411 9210**

**Twitter: @mpclaudiapaz**

**Salutation: Estimada Sra. Fiscal General**

#### Presidential Commission for Human Rights

Carlos Morales

Executive Director

Comisión Presidencial para los Derechos

Humanos (COPREDEH)

2 Av. 10-50 Zona 9,

Guatemala City

Guatemala

Fax: + 502 2334 0119

**Salutation: Dear Director / Estimado Sr. Director**

#### **And copies to:**

Consejo de los Pueblos K'iche'

Email: [consejodepuebloskiches@yahoo.es](mailto:consejodepuebloskiches@yahoo.es)

**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.

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In Guatemala human rights defenders, including journalists and trade unionists, continue to be threatened, harassed and attacked, by those seeking to dissuade them from their work. In 2011 local organizations documented 402 cases of attacks and intimidation against local human rights defenders, whose work ranges from the protection of human rights of forcibly evicted indigenous communities to the investigation of human rights violation committed during the internal armed conflict. For more information, please see "Guatemala – Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee for the 104<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Committee (12-30 March 2012)" (AI Index AMR 34/001/2012)", available at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR34/001/2012/en>

Name: Aura Lolita Chavez ; José Tavico Tzunun, Gaspar Tipaz; Council of K'iche' Peoples

Gender m/f: Aura Lolita Chavez (F); José Tavico Tzunun (M); Gaspar Tipaz (M); Council of K'iche' Peoples (both)

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