



PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NOW

AMNESTY
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TRANSFORMING PAIN INTO HOPE

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
IN THE AMERICAS

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YOLANDA OQUELÍ, GUATEMALA

Human rights defenders in the Americas play a vital role in exposing and combating human rights violations. Many have paid a high price for their courageous efforts to break cycles of injustice, discrimination and impunity. In the past few years, hundreds have been persecuted and attacked with impunity. Despite the lack of effective protection for themselves and their families, they continue their struggle – transforming their pain into hope.

Yolanda Oquelí survived an attempt on her life in June 2012. She was returning home from an anti-mining protest when two men on a motorcycle shot her. The attack followed a series of death threats. Yolanda Oquelí is campaigning for her community's environmental rights and against the lack of consultation over the opening of the El Tambor gold mine. El Tambor is operated by the Guatemalan company Exmingua, until August 2012 a subsidiary of the Canadian company Radius Gold.

Human rights defenders in Guatemala face grave risks because of their work. Support them by urging the government to publicly recognize their legitimate human rights work, to investigate the attacks and to provide effective protection.

TAKE ACTION NOW

SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS

Image: A local woman prays outside the entrance to the El Tambor gold mine, which protesters say is illegal. © James Rodríguez / mimundo.org
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Dear President,

I am very concerned for the safety of Yolanda Oquelí who, following repeated death threats, was the target of an assassination attempt in June 2012.

She is an outspoken defender of her community's environmental rights, and campaigns against the lack of consultation on the opening of the El Tambor gold mine. The mine is operated by Guatemala's Exmingua, until August 2012 a subsidiary of Canada's Radius Gold.

I urge you to:

- ensure that the protection already provided to her and her family remains in place for as long as necessary, and that her attackers are brought to justice
- guarantee a full investigation into abuses against human rights defenders and take all necessary measures to prevent further attacks on them
- publicly recognize the importance and legitimacy of their role.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____

Otto Pérez Molina
Presidente de la República
Casa Presidencial
6ª Avenida 4-41, Zona 1
Puera del Centro
Ciudad de Guatemala
Guatemala

Image: Yolanda Oquelí speaks at a protest against the El Tambor gold mine, March 2012. © James Rodríguez / mimundo.org
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