

URGENT ACTION

TWO INDIGENOUS LEADERS KILLED, THIRD AT RISK

Embera Chamí Indigenous leader Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez is at risk following the killing of his two nephews, who were also Indigenous leaders, in south-western Colombia.

On 1 January **Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez** and **Jhon Braulio Saigama**, Embera Chamí leaders who were living in the Indigenous community of La Esperanza in the municipality of El Dovio, department of Valle del Cauca, were stabbed to death. The bodies were found with signs of torture in different places from where they had been killed. They had been stabbed repeatedly.

On 30 and 31 December unidentified armed gunmen belonging to paramilitary forces operating in the area entered La Esperanza looking for **Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez** and approached his two nephews, Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez and Jhon Braulio Saigama. The gunmen demanded to know whether Flaminio Onogama would be in the community in the subsequent days. Flaminio Onogama and the Indigenous community of La Esperanza have opposed the arrival of paramilitaries wishing to develop drug cultivation on their lands and the arrival of powerful coal, copper and gold mining interests in the area.

During the wake of the two Indigenous leaders on 2 January, witnesses reported that unidentified individuals thought to be members of the paramilitary group operating in the area demanded to know the whereabouts of Flaminio Onogama and whether he would be attending the funerals.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- ✓ Expressing concern for the safety of Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez and other members of the Embera Chamí community of La Esperanza;
- ✓ Calling for full and impartial investigations by the civilian justice system into the killing of Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez and Jhon Braulio Saigama, for the results to be made public, for those responsible to be brought to justice and for authorities to take appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of those under threat;
- ✓ Urging the authorities to take action against paramilitary forces and to break any links between them and the security forces, in line with repeated UN recommendations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 FEBRUARY 2014 TO:

President

Señor Juan Manuel Santos
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Tel/Fax: +57 1 596 0631 (keep trying)

**Salutation: Dear President Santos/
 Excmo. Sr. Presidente Santos**

Defence Minister

Señor Juan Carlos Pinzón
 Ministerio de Defensa
 Carrera 54, No.26-29
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 266 1003

**Salutation: Dear Minister Pinzón/
 Sr. Ministro Pinzón**

And copies to:

Colombian Indigenous Organization
 ONIC
 Calle 13, No.4-38
 Bogotá, Colombia

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

All warring parties in Colombia's long-running armed conflict have repeatedly failed to respect the civilian population's right not to take part in the armed conflict and have been responsible for serious human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. Amnesty International has repeatedly called on both sides in the conflict – guerrilla groups and the security forces – to put an immediate and unconditional end to human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law.

The warring parties – the armed forces, either acting alone or in collusion with paramilitaries, and guerrilla forces – are responsible for serious human rights abuses against members of the Indigenous communities including threats and killings. In recent months there have also been several large-scale demonstrations by peasant farmers in different parts of the country. Government and State officials have insinuated that these are being led or infiltrated by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, FARC).

Indigenous leaders campaigning for the respect of the human rights of Indigenous communities have repeatedly been the target of serious human rights abuses and violations including threats, killings and forced disappearance. Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez is a prominent human rights defender and a former leading member of the Indigenous Organization of Colombia (Organización Indígena de Colombia, ONIC) where he was in charge of the organization's human rights department.

In 2009 the Constitutional Court identified the Embera Chamí Indigenous communities of the municipality of El Dovio as amongst several Indigenous communities at serious risk of forced displacement and called on the State to take measures to guarantee the safety of the communities.

Names: Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez, Jhon Braulio Saigama and Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez
Gender: m

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