

April, 2014

To the President, Ministers and Assembly Members

To the Judicial Authorities

To the Authorities of the County of Cotacachi and in the area of Intag

**Social organizations, ecologists, and human rights advocates request:
Immediate release without charge for Mr. Javier Ramírez, President of the
community of Junín, province of Imbabura, Ecuador**

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 10, 2014 at 8pm, Mr. Polibio Pérez and Mr. Javier Ramírez, community leaders in the area of Intag-Cotacachi in the province of Imbabura, Ecuador were detained.

Mr. Javier Ramírez, President of the community of Junín, remained in detention, apparently for 30 to 90 days of preventative prison sentence for the “supposed crime of rebellion against the public administration”. The charges were filed by ENAMI, the Ecuadorian state-owned mining company. The next day, on the 1th of April, Javier was also charged with the more serious crimes of Terrorism and Sabotage by the District Attorney of Cotacachi County.

According to press reports, the charges stem from a April 6th altercation between community members and ENAMI employees in which Javier was nowhere near. His brother Hugo Ramirez is also facing criminal charges, but has not been jailed. We fear that other community members are also on the list.

Mr. Ramírez is a peaceful and honourable small farmer and life time member of the Junin community who cannot be considered to have carried out any such acts of “rebellion”. To the contrary, Mr. Ramírez and his neighbours are internationally known for their fierce struggle that their community has undertaken over the years in defence of their forest, biodiversity and nature, which deserves our respect and admiration.

As organizations committed to the defence of human rights and nature, we are very worried about what is taking place in Ecuador, a country that has ratified multiple international treaties that guarantee human rights and their defenders, that has a Constitution that recognizes the rights of nature, the right to water and that guarantees food sovereignty. Ecuador has also recognized the right to resistance against acts and omissions of the public administration or of non-state individual or legal persons that violate or could violate their constitutional rights.

The news that Mr. Javier Ramírez is detained appears to be a repetition of the nightmare that Intag has had to live through in the past and that is widely documented by numerous organizations, human rights defenders, documentarians, academics, etc, including human rights violations such as the threat of displacement, contamination of water and soil,

criminalization of community leaders, paramilitarism and corruption over the course of successive governments.

Various community leaders previously detained were ultimately absolved of all charges that they had been accused for lack of evidence, many of them granted amnesty under this current government.

Community opposition to open-pit, large scale mining is not arbitrary, but rather an outcome of careful study and analysis carried out at the community level on the part of local authorities and by recognized scientists concerning the impacts that everyone in Intag would face (for example, see the study by [Earth Economics](#)). Respect the community's will and do not criminalize community members.

We demand:

- Clarification of what was published in the newspaper El Norte on Saturday April 12, 2014 stating that the “order of arrest was not for this person and that yesterday morning (the authorities) changed the written order” (see: <http://www.elnorte.ec/sucesos/47315-prisi%C3%B3n-preventiva-para-dirigente-rura.html>)
- The immediate release of Mr. Javier Ramírez without charge. We request an exhaustive explanation concerning what took place and clarification about the exact circumstances in which this irregular detention took place.

Thank you

Signing on

Ecuador

Acción Ecológica

Asamblea Nacional Ambiental

CEDENMA (60 organisations)

Colectivo Ecologista Quizha-Quizha

Colectivo Unidos por Intag

Comisión Ecuménica de Derechos Humanos CEDHU, Ecuador

Comuna de Pucará, Íntag, Cotacachi, Peter Shear, Presidente

Defensa y Conservación Ecológica de Intag DECOIN, Intag, Ecuador

Ecolex

Ecuador Terra Incognita (revista)

Frente por la Salud de los Pueblos, Azuay

FUNDECOL, Ecuador

Pueblos del Manglar y del Mar

Red de Colectivos Ecologistas de Cuenca

International:

Alianza Internacional de Habitantes, Mexico

Asamblea Departamental de Huehuetenango, Guatemala
Asociación Ceiba, Guatemala
Asociación Intag e.V., Germany
Asociación Jalisciense de Apoyo a los Grupos Indígenas, A.C. (AJAGI, A.C.), Mexico
Asociación Proyecto Amigo, Perú
Asociación Tierra y Libertad para Araucoi, Arcueil, France
Associação Cerne da Terra, Galicia, Spain
Asociación Derechos Humanos sin Fronteras - Cusco Perú.
Asociación Petón do Lobo, Galicia, Spain
Asociación Q'anil, Guatemala
Associação Socio-Cultural O Iríbio, Galicia, Spain
Barnard-Boecker Centre Foundation of Victoria, BC, Canada
Bios Iguana A.C. Colima, Mexico
Christians at Work, Canada
Club de Perezosos/ The Sloth Club, Japón
Coalición Quebequense sobre los Impactos Socio-Ambientales de las Transnacionales en América Latina (Coalición QUISETAL), Canada
Colectivo ALDEAH, France/Latinoamérica
Colectivo Tarpuy MIta, Perú
Colectivo Voces Ecológicas - COVEC, Panamá
Collectif Causse Méjean
Comité contra el extractivismo – Paris – France
Comite Ecológico y Cultural Esperanza de Vida, Alto del Carmen, Chile
Comité por los derechos humanos en América latina – CDHAL, Montreal, Canada
Comité Regional de Promoción de Salud Comunitaria, Centro America y Mexico
Consejo de Defensa del Valle del Huasco, Chile
Contramínate, Galicia, Spain
Earthworks, USA
Ecosistemas, Chile
Ecuador-Etxea, País Vasco
Ekologistak Martxan, País Vasco
European Water Movement
FENTAP, Perú
Forest Peoples Programme, Reino Unido (Tom Griffiths)
Human Rights Everywhere (HREV)-LAC
Lavida, Mexico
Lumière Synergie pour le Développement, Senegal, West Africa
Lucha Indígena, Perú
Maderas del Pueblo del Sureste AC , Oaxaca-Chiapas, Mexico
Medio Ambiente y Sociedad, A.C., La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico
Mining Injustice Solidarity Network (MISN), Canada
Mining Justice Action Committee, Victoria, BC, Canada
Mining Justice Alliance, Vancouver, Canada
MiningWatch Canada (Alerta Minera Canada), Canada
Movimiento Mesoamericano contra el Modelo extractivo Minero - M4
Movimiento para la Salud de los Pueblos – Latinamerica

Movimiento Unificado Francisco Sánchez 1932 MUFRAS-32, El Salvador
Instituto Galego de Estudos Internacionais e da Paz, Galicia, Spain
Intag Solidarity Network / Red de Solidaridad de Intag - EE.UU.
Observatorio de Conflictos Mineros en América Latina OCMAL
Organización Intercultural Para la Educación Autónoma WAINJIRAWA - Maracaibo, Venezuela
Otros Mundos AC/Chiapas, Otros Mundos AC/Amigos de la Tierra, Mexico
Partido da Terra de Vila Cova, Galicia, Spain
Plataforma pola defensa de Corcoesto e Bergantiños, Galicia, Spain
Plataforma pola protección da Serra do Galiñeiro, Galicia, Spain
Pobladores Ac, Mexico
Pro Derechos Humanos – APRODEH, Perú
Proceso de Autogestión de los Pueblos (PIAP), Mexico
Red Mexicana de Afectados por la Minería (REMA), Mexico
Salva la Selva, Spain
Sindicato Labrego Galego, Galicia, Spain
SOS GROBA, asociación ecologista de Galicia, Spain
Red de Integración de América Latina / Abya Yala, Desde Abajo
Rede ContraMINAcción, Rede contra a Minería Destrutiva na Galiza, Galicia, Spain (21 colectivos)
Rettet den Regenwald, Germany
Taddart, Turismo Justo y solidario, Paris, France
Union Latinoamericana de Mujeres, Peru
Verdegaia, Galicia, Spain
Véspera de Nada, Galicia, Spain

Adhieren también

Alberto Achito Lubiasa, Autoridad tradicional indígena Embera- Chocó-Colombia
Alberto Chirir, Antropólogo
Boris Maraño, UNAM, Mexico
Valerie Raoul PhD. Professor of French and Women's Studies, University of British Columbia
Marc Becker, Professor of History, Truman State University
Shad Payne-Meyer, Universidad de Vermont
Thomas Moore, Antropólogo
Roberto Espinoza, "Red Ubuntu: Crisis de Civilización y Paradigmas Alternativos", Lima, Perú
Maria Jose Castelo Lestón
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Becca Brady, Solebury, New Jersey, Usa
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Liisa L. North
Iñès COMPAN, Cineasta
Beatrice Collet, France
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Ing.Felix Delgado Montenegro, Perú
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Andrés Vallejo Espinosa, Ecuador
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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