

# URGENT ACTION

## INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AT RISK DUE TO THREATS

**More than 60 heavily armed individuals entered Asháninka Meantari Indigenous community territory in the Central Peruvian rainforest and forced out 21 families by subjecting them to death threats.**

In the afternoon of 3 February, around 60 unidentified armed men entered **Asháninka Meantari Indigenous community** territory in the district of Pangoa, Satipo province, in the Central Peruvian rainforest. They forced the members of the community to leave the territory by subjecting them to death threats. Due to the seriousness of the threats, the 21 families who make up the community were forced out to the neighbouring communities of San Ene and Yaviro, about a two-hour walk away. The families remain displaced and are afraid to return to their community, and local and national authorities have not taken any measures to guarantee that the armed men have now left their territory.

On 7 February the community and the Indigenous organization Asháninka Centre of the Ene River (Central Asháninka del Rio Ene, CARE) filed a complaint with the Special Prosecutor for Environmental Matters in Chanchamayo, and on 8 February informed the National Police Force and Ombudsperson, requesting their assistance in order to guarantee the displaced community's return and protect their right to territory and physical integrity. In the absence of protection from the authorities to guarantee their safe return, the members of the Asháninka community remain displaced and afraid of what could happen to them if they return. Lack of recognition as an Indigenous community and lack of titles to their land exacerbate their situation of instability and vulnerability.

Members of the Asháninka community identified the men as locals from the districts of Pichari, Sibia and Yochegua, located in the Apurimac and Ene River Valley (VRAE). According to information gathered by Amnesty International, the locals entered the Asháninka territory to recover a load of illegally extracted timber from the Indigenous territory. The load had been discovered by members of the Meantari Indigenous community's self-defence committee in January and was left in their care by the National Forestry and Wildlife Service (Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre, SERFOR) following their visit to the area on 25 January where they confirmed and seized 97 pieces of sawn timber.

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

- Calling for immediate assistance from the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defence and the Joint Command of the Peruvian Armed Forces in order to safeguard the lives of the members of the Meantari community, ensure the integrity of their territory and put an end to any illegal activity which puts the community at risk;
- Reminding the Peruvian government of their obligation to guarantee the rights of Indigenous peoples to land, territory and the environment.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 MARCH 2017 TO:

#### Minister of the Interior

Carlos Basombrio Iglesias  
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n Urb. Corpac –  
San Isidro – Lima, Perú  
Fax: +511 418 4030  
Email: dm@mininter.gob.pe /  
sg@mininter.gob.pe  
Twitter: @CarlosBasombrio /  
@MininterPeru  
**Salutation: Dear Minister / Estimado Sr.  
Ministro**

#### Minister of Defence

Jorge Nieto Montesinos  
Av. La Peruanidad s/n, edificio Quiñones  
(Campo de Marte) – Jesús María  
Lima, Perú  
Email: despacho@mindef.gob.pe /  
dmases@mindef.gob.pe  
Twitter: @MindefPeru  
**Salutation: Dear Minister / Estimado Sr.  
Ministro**

#### Head of the Joint Command of the Peruvian Armed Forces

José Luis Paredes Lora  
Calle Nicolás Corpancho 289, Santa  
Beatriz – Lima, Perú  
Fax: +511 315 1030  
Email: informaciones@ccffaa.mil.pe  
Twitter: @CCFFAA\_PERU  
**Salutation: Dear Admiral / Estimado  
Almirante**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** HIS EXCELLENCY MR CLAUDIO DE LA PUENTE RIBEYRO, Embassy of Peru, 52 Sloane Street SW1X 9SP, 020 7235 1917/8340/3802, Fax 020 7235 4463, postmaster@peruembassy-uk.com or [www.peruembassy-uk.com](http://www.peruembassy-uk.com)

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

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Meantari Indigenous community is located in the central Peruvian rainforest, in the district of Pangoa in the region of Junín. The Peruvian government has declared a state of emergency in the area due to the presence of remnants of armed groups, and has been under the control of the Joint Command of the Peruvian Armed Forces since 6 October 2016.

The government does not recognise the community as an Indigenous community and they do not have titles to their land. The recognition process is underway with the Junín Regional Directorate of Agriculture, as they have complied with all the legal requirements.

This is the second time that the Meantari community has been forcibly displaced from their territory. During the armed conflict from 1980 until 2000 the community suffered from the impact of terrorist violence. The disappearances and murders which they suffered at the hands of armed groups forced the members of the community to relocate to neighbouring communities, in particular to the Indigenous community of San Ene. From there they tended their crops, due to lack of safety in the area.

In recent years, members of the community have returned to their land, taking up their traditional practices and customs again, despite the fact that there are still remnants of armed groups present in the area involved with drug trafficking and illegal logging, which puts their lives and integrity at risk.

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