

CHILE – Solidarity action



Rodrigo Mundaca and MODATIMA

This World Water Day (22nd March), take action in support of Rodrigo Mundaca and the Defence Movement of Earth, Environmental Protection and the Access to Water (MODATIMA) in Petorca Province, Chile.



‘There are colleagues that don’t go out into the street because they’re afraid. All of those that have been on the front lines against water theft have suffered from these situations’

Rodrigo Mundaca

In an arid region of central Chile, Rodrigo Mundaca defends community access to water and exposes its illegal extraction by politicians and businesses. A spokesman for MODATIMA, a non-governmental organisation that aims to protect people’s right to water, Rodrigo has received death threats, been physically attacked, and taken to court.

Between 2012 and 2015, the Chilean authorities initiated four criminal cases against Rodrigo for exposing illegal water extraction in Petorca Province. Other MODATIMA members have faced legal action, death threats, and attacks. Many are afraid to leave their houses.

Campaigning by activists like you around the world has already had an impact on Rodrigo’s situation. He and his colleague Verónica from MODATIMA were summoned to testify at a hearing on Thursday 25 January in a case that was opened following MODATIMA making a complaint about death threats. Rodrigo believes this new hearing was a result of Amnesty’s campaigning: before our efforts, the case was completely paralysed.

However, since Rodrigo and Verónica testified, there has been no news from the prosecution.

Rodrigo has little faith in the investigation.

Rodrigo Mundaca and MODATIMA are one of 5 cases that Amnesty UK are campaigning with and for as part of our Brave campaign for Human Rights Defenders. Find out more about the campaign here: www.amnesty.org.uk/brave

Take actions

1 - Solidarity

Tell Rodrigo and other members of MODATIMA that you stand in solidarity with them in their fight to defend their community’s access to water. Send cards and letters to:

Rodrigo Mundaca
Correos de Chile – La Ligua
Calle Esmeralda
La Ligua, Región de Valparaíso
Chile

You could also play this film in your meeting before you write the solidarity messages:

https://youtu.be/1H_Rdn7c8HM

2 - Write to the Chilean Embassy in the UK:

Tell the Chilean Embassy in the UK about the action you've taken in solidarity with Rodrigo and MODATIMA and why.

Urge the Chilean Embassy in the UK to use their influence to allow Rodrigo Mundaca and MODATIMA to be able to continue their human rights work free from threats, harassment and intimidation.

Call on them to provide effective protection for Rodrigo Mundaca and all other MODATIMA members at risk, in consultation with them, and in accordance with their wishes.

Ask them to publicly recognise the important and legitimate work of human rights defenders working on land, territory and environment issues.

Send your letters to the following address:

HIS EXCELLENCY MR ROLANDO DRAGO
Embassy of Chile
37-41 Old Queen Street
London
SW1H 9JA

3 - In your community:

Why not ask your local shop to hand out action cards for Rodrigo Mundaca and MODATIMA to any one who buys bottled water?

You can order Rodrigo action cards by calling 01788545553 quoting HRD005.

Don't forget:

Let us know if you have taken any of these actions with photos if you can by emailing activism@amnesty.org.uk

Your local group can also sign up to campaign on Rodrigo Mundaca and MODATIMA's case long-term. Please email iar@amnesty.org.uk to do so.