

# URGENT ACTION

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER HARASSED

**Francisca Ramírez, coordinator of the Council for the Defence of Our Land, Lake and Sovereignty, reported that the Nicaraguan police damaged and took possession of a pickup truck and another truck which she uses for her work, without notice. The retention of her vehicles could constitute an act of reprisal for her work as a human rights defender, and any further harassment could put her physical integrity at risk.**

On 1 December **Francisca Ramírez** travelled to Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, to speak out publicly against a series of acts of repression suffered by protestors during the demonstrations organized by the Council for the Defence of Our Land, Lake and Sovereignty against the possible negative impacts of the upcoming construction of the Nicaraguan Grand Interoceanic Canal. That same day, members of her community called her to let her know that the police had taken possession of her vehicles and were taking them to a nearby police station.

Francisca Ramírez relies on both vehicles to be able to work and ensure the security of her and her family's livelihood. Without them her work is at risk. In previous months Francisca Ramírez has spoken out publicly about acts of harassment against her and members of her family. Amnesty International is concerned that the retention of her vehicles constitutes an act of reprisal for her active participation in the *campesino* (peasant farmer) movement and her human rights work.

On 5 December, due to the lack of information on the grounds for the retention of her vehicles, Francisca Ramírez went to the Nueva Guinea police station. She stated that after waiting for three hours, she still was not provided with an official response as to the alleged legal grounds for the retention, nor information on the possible return of her means of work.

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

- Calling on the police to inform Francisca Ramírez of the grounds for the retention of the vehicles and the procedures to follow for their prompt return;
- Urging them to refrain from harassing and using acts of reprisal against Francisca Ramírez for carrying out her legitimate work as a human rights defender;
- Reminding them of their obligations to protect human rights defenders according to the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2016 TO:**

Director General of the National Police of  
Nicaragua

Aminta Elena Granera Sacasa  
Centro Comercial Metrocentro, 2  
Cuadras al Este, Edificio Faustino Ruíz  
Policía Nacional (Plaza el Sol)  
Managua, Nicaragua  
Email: [agranera@policia.gob.ni](mailto:agranera@policia.gob.ni)  
[relacionespublicas@policia.gob.ni](mailto:relacionespublicas@policia.gob.ni)  
**Salutation: Dear Director General /  
Estimada Señora Directora**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** HER EXCELLENCY GUISELL MORALES-ECHAVERRY, Embassy of Nicaragua, Suite 31 Vicarage House 58-60 Kensington Church Street W8 4DB, 020 7938 2373, Fax 020 7937 0952, [embaniclondon@btconnect.com](mailto:embaniclondon@btconnect.com)

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

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Francisca Ramírez has been the coordinator of the Council for the Defence of Our Land, Lake and Sovereignty since 2015. The council is a *campesino* (peasant farmer) community authority established in 2014 in response to the impacts that the Nicaraguan Grand Interoceanic Canal could have on communities and their human rights.

On 30 November hundreds of *campesinos* planned to travel from their communities to Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, for a peaceful demonstration against the upcoming construction of the Grand Interoceanic Canal and the possible negative effects of this project on their rights and communities. Civil society organizations and the media reported acts of violent repression against the protestors.

For further information on Francisca Ramírez and the demonstration on 30 November see: “*We have hope, we have human rights, we will win this fight*” (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/10/we-have-hope-we-have-human-rights-we-will-win-this-fight/>) and *Nicaragua: Freedom of expression and the right to public and peaceful protest should be guaranteed by the state* (<https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr43/5245/2016/es/> - only available in Spanish).

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