

URGENT ACTION

INDIGENOUS LEADER THREATENED BY ARMED MEN

Amada Martínez, human rights defender from the Tekoha Sauce Indigenous community of the Avá Guaraní People in south-east Paraguay, was threatened by three armed men wearing uniforms of the Itaipú Binational (Paraguay-Brazil) hydroelectric plant on 8 August, in the presence of three minors, her sister and a taxi driver.

On 8 August, human rights defender **Amada Martínez**, her 7 years old son, her 1 and 8 years old nephews, her sister and a taxi driver were followed and intercepted when leaving their community by a truck with five men on board with the logo of the Itaipú Binational hydroelectric plant, in Minga Pora city, department of Alto Parana, south-eastern Paraguay. Amada Martínez told Amnesty International that three armed men with shotguns and a revolver got out of the truck wearing balaclavas and ranger uniforms with the logo of the Itaipú Binational hydroelectric plant. One of them pointed a shotgun at her face while another threatened her, saying that they will find her alone on the road one day and that she was a "loudmouth woman" (*mujer bocona* in Spanish). After this threat, the men got back in the vehicle and drove off.

Amada Martínez filed a complaint statement with the Guaruva police, who should escalate the complaint to the Attorney General's Office and the Court of Peace. Amada Martínez told Amnesty International that her son, nephews and sister are extremely scared after witnessing this incident.

On 3 August, a working meeting was held between representatives of the Tekoha Sauce community and the Vice-president of Paraguay in which they discussed the human rights situation of the members of the community, including their rights to territory and the consequences they have suffered due to being displaced from their territory by the construction of the Itaipú Binational hydroelectric plant. On 2 August, Amada Martínez denounced the situation of the human rights defenders of the Tekoha Sauce community before the United Nations Special Rapporteur. Amada Martínez believes that the threat against her was due to her work defending the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.

1) TAKE ACTION

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:

- Urging the authorities to implement protection measures to safeguard the life and physical integrity of Amada Martínez, her family and the members of the Tekoha Sauce community, in consultation with her and in accordance with her wishes;
- Calling on the authorities to investigate in a timely, independent and impartial manner the attack against Amada Martínez to identify the perpetrators and those behind the attack, and bring all those responsible to justice;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that those who work to defend the human rights of Indigenous Peoples can carry out their activities in a safe environment.

Contact these two officials by 21 September, 2018:

Interior Minister

Ariel Martínez Fernández

Email: buzonciudadano@mdi.gov.py

Twitter: [@minteriorpy](https://twitter.com/minteriorpy)

Salutation: **Dear Minister**

Ambassador Germán Rojas Irigoyen.

Embassy of Paraguay

2209 Massachusetts Ave. NW,

Washington, DC 20008

Phone: 1 202 483 6960 | Fax: 1 202 234 4508

Contact Form:

<http://www.mre.gov.py/Sitios/Home/Contact/embaparusa/ENG>

Email: secretaria@embaparusa.gov.py

Salutation: **Dear Ambassador**

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the 1970s, at least 36 communities of the Avá Guaraní Indigenous People were forcefully displaced from their ancestral territory by the construction of the Itaipú Binational hydroelectric plant in the border between Paraguay and Brazil.

The Tekoha Sauce community of the Avá Guaraní People has claimed the right to have access to ancestral territory that was not flooded by the hydroelectric dam. Members of the community have faced various legal proceedings over land ownership. The Tekoha Sauce community was displaced from their territory for several years and were taken in by the Arroyo Guazú Indigenous community.

Amnesty International is aware of at least two judicial processes, one criminal and one civil, against members of the community in the context of the land ownership dispute.

The community filed an action against the judicial decision that adjudicates the property to a local businessman, which subsequently gave rise to the eviction order. Currently, the Indigenous community is living on the Limoy de Itaipú reserve, where their survival is in danger because, among other issues, they cannot hunt or fish due to restrictions on the reserve.

Name: Amada Martínez

Gender m/f: f

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