

Attorney General Diana Salazar
Fiscalía General del Estado
Av. Patria y 12 de Octubre Edificio Patria
170143, QUITO
ECUADOR

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, June 2019

Dear Attorney General,

I am writing to express my concern about human rights defenders Salomé Aranda, Patricia Gualinga, Nema Grefa and Margoth Escobar; all members of the Amazonian Women collective. In 2018, unidentified attackers targeted them through a series of attacks and death threats in Ecuador. Despite the fact that they all filed criminal complaints, your office has failed to adequately and effectively investigate these crimes and to grant them protection measures. This has forced them to risk their lives and that of their families in order to continue carrying out their legitimate and important work.

As Attorney General of Ecuador, I call on you to advance in the investigations of the attacks and threats against Salome Aranda, Patricia Gualinga, Nema Grefa and Margoth Escobar. Everyone suspected of material or intellectual criminal responsibility should be identified and brought to justice.

In addition, I ask that you design and implement an Investigation Protocol for Crimes against Human Rights Defenders, in order to strengthen the coordination between mechanisms and authorities in charge of criminal investigation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,