

## Statement in Solidarity with Patricia Gualinga and Indigenous Earth Defenders



*Patricia Gualinga, Amazon rainforest and community defender of the Kichwa People of Sarayaku. Photo/WECAN International*

### **To Ecuadorian Authorities:**

We, the undersigned individuals and organizations, are supporters and allies of Patricia Gualinga, her community of Sarayaku, and the broader Ecuadorian Amazonian indigenous movement. We have worked with Patricia for decades and are extremely concerned by the attack on her house and the death threats she received on the night of January 5th, 2018. Since then we have been monitoring the response and investigation by local and federal authorities and are dismayed by the results.

We are concerned that the local police were extremely slow to respond and that the investigation has not appeared to yield concrete results. Beyond measures to protect Patricia from further attacks, we believe the most effective protection would be to identify the perpetrators and to hold them accountable for their actions, attacking the impunity of these threats at the source.

We want to make clear that our concern is not only for Patricia Gualinga but also for the numerous other indigenous women and men who have also suffered threats, attacks, criminalization, and murder. We support the #AmnistiaPrimero movement to end criminalization of indigenous leaders for their peaceful activism.

Regarding Patricia Gualinga's case, we join our voices in:

- Calling on the Minister of Interior and Ombudsman to implement protection measures to safeguard the integrity of Patricia Gualinga and her family that are in consultation with her and in accordance with her wishes;
- Urging the Minister of Interior to publicly recognize her legitimate work, and the work of all people who defend rights related to land, territory and the environment;
- Calling on the Attorney General to promptly and thoroughly investigate the attack, make the results public so far they found and bring the material and intellectual perpetrators to justice.

**Sincerely,**

**Amazon Watch** - Leila Salazar-López, Executive Director

**The Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) International** -  
Osprey Orielle Lake, Executive Director

**Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)**

**Global Witness**

**Frontline Defenders**

**The Global Fund for Women**

**Urgent Action Fund Latin America - Fondo de Acción Urgente America Latina y el Caribe**

**The International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL)**

**Idle No More SF Bay**

**Movement Rights**

**Cultural Survival** - Suzanne Benally, Executive Director

**Indigenous Environmental Network** - Tom Goldtooth, Executive Director

**Rainforest Action Network**

**OILWATCH**

**Acción Ecológica**, Cecilia Cherrez, President

**Pachamama Alliance** - Bill Twist, President

**Fundación Pachamama** - Belen Paez, President

**Greenpeace USA** - Annie Leonard, Executive Director

**International Union For The Conservation of Nature, National Committee of The Netherlands** - Christine Lain, Coordinator

**Sierra Club** - Sarah Hodgdon, National Program Director and Susana Reyes, VP for Conservation, BOD

**Small Planet Institute** - Anna Lappé, Founder

**Honor the Earth** - Tara Houska (Anishinaabe), National Campaigns Director

**Climate Justice Alliance** - Angela Adrar, Executive Director

**Grassroots Global Justice Alliance** - Cindy Wiesner, National Coordinator/Executive Director

**GenderCC Women for Climate Justice** - Board of Directors and Steering Committee

**Reacción Climática Bolivia** - Carmen Capriles, Director

**The Indigenous Women of the Americas Defending Mother Earth Treaty** - Pennie Opal Plant

**Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas, North Region** - Rosalee Gonzalez, Co-Coordinator

**Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)** - Bridget Burns & Emma Illick-Frank

**Sakhalin Environment Watch, Russia** - Dmitry Lisitsyn, Chairman

**Save Narmada Movement and National Alliance of Peoples' Movements** - Medha Patkar

**Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM de Argentina)** - Mabel Bianco, President

**The African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)** - Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet

**Campaign for Peace & Democracy, Manipur** - Dr. Malem Ningthouja

**Kentucky Environmental Foundation** - Craig Williams, Program Director

**AIDB, Burundi** - Severin Sinsizera, Coordinator of National Program

**Melina Laboucan-Massimo** - David Suzuki Foundation Fellow, Lubicon Solar, Canada

**Sally Ranney** - Chairman & Co-Founder, Earth Restoration Alliance, President & Co-Founder, AREI American Renewable Energy Institute

**Thilmeeza Hussain** - Voice of Women Maldives

### **Goldman Environmental Prize Recipients:**

Ignace Schop, Director/President EUROPARC Federation, Goldman Prize Recipient & Ashoka Fellow

Bobby Peek, GroundWork & Goldman Prize Recipient of 1998 for Africa

Prafulla Samantara, Goldman Prize Recipient for India

Randall Arauz, Goldman Prize Recipient 2010 for Central and South America

Oscar Rivas and Elías Díaz Peña, Goldman Prize Recipients for Paraguay

Laila Iskandar Kamel, Goldman Environmental Prize Recipient 1994 for Africa

Desmond Mathew D'Sa, Goldman Environmental Prize Recipient for Africa

Howard Wood, Goldman Recipient 2015 for Europe

Rodrigue Mugaruka Katembo, Goldman Prize Recipient

Heffa Schuecking, Goldman Prize Recipient 1994, Director of Urgewald, Germany

Von Hernandez, Goldman Prize Recipient 2003

Malgorzata Gorska, Goldman Prize Recipient 2010 for Europe