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Diana Salazar President Lenín Moreno

Attorney General Presidencia de la República del Ecuador
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Please also tag President Lenín Moreno in your social media posts: @Lenin (Twitter), @LeninMorenoEC (Facebook) and @LeninMorenoG (Instagram).

Dear Attorney General,

Throughout 2018, Amnesty International registered a series of attacks and threats in Ecuador against human rights defenders Patricia Gualinga, Nema Grefa, Salomé Aranda and Margoth Escobar, members of the Amazonian Women collective.

Even though these defenders all filed criminal complaints, the Attorney General’s Office has failed to investigate these crimes adequately and effectively or to grant protection measures for the defenders. This has forced them to risk their lives and those of their families to continue carrying out their legitimate and important work.

As Attorney General of Ecuador, the power and responsibility to end this situation are in your hands.

For these reasons, we urge you to:

* advance in the investigations of the attacks and threats against Patricia Gualinga, Nema Grefa, Salome Aranda and Margoth Escobar promptly, exhaustively, independently and impartially.
* investigate the possibility that those attacks could have targeted them for their human rights work, identify everyone suspected of material or intellectual criminal responsibility and bring them to justice.
* design and implement an Investigation Protocol for Crimes against Human Rights Defenders, in order to strengthen the coordination between authorities in charge of criminal investigation and their procedures.

Yours sincerely