

I am writing to express my grave concern on the criminal proceedings against brothers Victor Hugo and Darwin Javier Ramirez Piedra. Darwin and Victor are well known and outspoken community leaders and environmental activists who have campaigned for years against the impact of mining on the environment and the right to water of peasant communities in the Intag region. Despite a lack of evidence, the two have been charged with rebellion. Darwin has been in preventive detention since April 2011. Victor is at large.

The unsubstantiated charges against them seem to be an attempt to silence them and put an end to the long-standing opposition of their community to mining activities on their land.

I, therefore, urge you to present solid evidence to substantiate the charge of rebellion against the two, or to drop the charges and release Darwin immediately and unconditionally.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,