

I am writing to express my grave concern on four people, including one police officer, who have been killed and hundreds injured during protests against a planned copper mining project in southern Peru.

I need to call on the authorities to carry out full and impartial investigations into the killings of Victoriano Huayna, Henry Checcla Chura, Alberto Vasquez Duran and Ramón Colque, as well as those injured, and to bring those found responsible to justice.

I acknowledge that while the state has a duty to maintain public order, it should never use excessive force and must guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to take urgent measures so that the security forces comply in all circumstances with human rights standards on the use of progressive, selective and proportionate force when policing social protests.

I also call on them to guarantee the rights of all those communities affected by the mining project to participation, information and consultation.

Your attention and action on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,