

I am writing to express my grave concern on three members of the Chañaral Wichí Indigenous community for defending their territory who have been facing the legal proceedings which violate their right to defence and access to justice remain open.

Martín Acosta, Dalmacio Acosta and Demetrio Campos, three members of the Chañaral Wichí community from Salta province, in northern Argentina, are still facing a trial which does not comply with guarantees of due process for defending their territory. The three Indigenous defenders are facing criminal charges for threats and damages brought against them by a landowner who is seeking to occupy the land where the community have traditionally lived. This is due to an incident which took place in 2014 whereby the Indigenous people objected to a group of individuals fencing off part of their ancestral land, obstructing their passage to their hunting and fishing grounds along with their access to water and lumber, thereby jeopardizing their livelihood.

I am urging the authorities to adopt the measures necessary to guarantee due process and access to justice, and particularly the right to defence of Martín Acosta, Dalmacio Acosta y Demetrio Campos. I am also calling on them to propose an in-depth solution to the Chañaral Wichí community's land claim and grant collective ownership titles to the territory.

Your attention would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,