

Minister of Justice

Randriamanantenasoa Landy Mbolatiana
Ministere de la Justice
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Dear Minister,

I am writing to request your urgent intervention in the case of environmental human rights defender **Angélique Decampe**, President of the community association Razan'ny Vohibola, and to address the ongoing threats and attacks she and her colleagues have faced in their efforts to protect the Vohibola forest in Madagascar's Toamasina region.

In June 2022, Razan'ny Vohibola – which means “the ancestors of Vohibola” in Malagasy, an association of environmental human rights defenders from surrounding villages – won a case against a poacher who was sentenced to six months in prison for his illegal actions in the forest. However, the individual has not yet been apprehended. On 5 July 2023, when Angélique was investigating the killing of a crocodile whose tail was found at a makeshift barbecue spot in the forest, she saw near the house of the poacher's brother, a tree cut down from the forest. She promptly took a photo as proof of illegal action. After that, the poacher's brother who had apparently cut down the tree and killed the crocodile, together with two other men, approached Angélique Decampe at her home and made death threats warning her that she will die and leave her daughter orphaned.

The lack of action from the authorities to protect the forest and those who work to defend it is perpetuating a cycle of violence and sends a message that these threats and attacks are condoned by the authorities. Previous attacks against members of Razan'ny Vohibola remain in total impunity, including the killing of Mickaël Stenor on 24 June 2022 and the arbitrary detention of two other members of the association as part of efforts to silence and intimidate them.

I urge you to ensure an independent, impartial and effective investigation into the death threats against Angélique Decampe and into the killing of Mickael Stenor and bring all those responsible to justice in fair trials. I further urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure Angélique Decampe and other Razan'ny Vohibola's members are adequately protected, in consultation with them and accordance to their wishes, to ensure they are able to carry out their peaceful activities in defense of the Vohibola forest safely and without fear of reprisals.

Yours sincerely,