

GUATEMALA

Threats finally stopped after several attacks against activists opposing mining

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UA 80/05



Dominga Vasquez holding up the Urgent Action which had been issued on her behalf during a visit to the US in late 2006.

Holding up the Amnesty International Urgent Action (UA) alert which had been issued on her behalf, indigenous mayor Dominga Vásquez says: **“After the UA, there were no more threatening phone calls...the authorities’ attitude seemed to change... the pressure on us was reduced.”**

“I am so excited and very moved that so many people took action to help me and my colleagues.” Dominga Vásquez, four other indigenous leaders and a journalist were accused by the Governor of Sololá in central Guatemala of inciting protests and blocking the road used to transport mining equipment. Dominga then received a death threat which was intended to stop her and her colleagues from speaking out against the expansion of mining in the area.

She wanted to pass on her thanks to all those who wrote appeals: **“Sometimes we felt almost alone, but I realize now that we did have support. Please thank your members very much, and ask them to keep**

writing letters for everyone in situations like ours.”