

October 2016

PERU: Protect a farmer from more harm

Máxima Acuña is a farmer in northern Peru.
[Say her name like this: MAXima aKUNia]

Máxima lives with her family on land that a big mining company wants.

Máxima Acuña has a right to stay on her land. She needs the land for growing crops to feed her family. The mining company wants Máxima's land so they can take copper and gold from it to sell.

The mining company asked police to attack her home to try and make her leave. The latest attack on 18 September 2016 was so bad that Máxima had to be rushed to a hospital.

In other attacks, police have even beaten her children. They damaged her home and took beds, clothes, cooking pots and food. Once, armed security guards working for the company destroyed the family's crops.



Máxima Acuña is not giving in to the bullying by a big mining company that wants her land.
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The mining company is trying to scare Máxima into leaving. But she is not going anywhere. "I will never give up my land", she says. Neither should anyone.

People in her community look up to Máxima Acuña as a leader who defends the land. They have banded together to protect her. We must, too. We must tell Peru to stop

the bullying and make sure Máxima and her family are safe.

"Our nightmare with the mining company began in May 2011. A team of engineers came to evict us. I ran to grab the title of our land and showed it to them. I told them 'Gentlemen, you have no legal grounds to kick us out. My husband and I bought this land. Here is the proof. We are the rightful owners.' But they didn't care. They tore down fences and destroyed our home. When I went to the police station to complain, they told me to go away."

- Máxima Acuña



WHAT CAN I DO?

Please write to the Minister of Interior in Peru's government. He is responsible for the safety of all citizens in Peru.

- Start with Dear Minister.
- In your first sentence, tell him something about yourself. This will make your message personal and different from all the others he gets.
- Then explain your concern for the safety of Máxima Acuña and her family.
- In your own words, ask the Minister to protect Máxima Acuña and her family from any more threats or attacks.

WHERE DO I SEND MY MESSAGE?

Carlos Basombrío
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto s/n Urb. Corpaco
San Isidro
Lima, Perú

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: 011 511 418 4030
Email: sg@mininter.gob.pe
Twitter: @CarlosBasombrio



The arrow shows the area near Máxima Acuña's home.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

If she knows she has support, it will give Máxima courage. Send her a colourful postcard, drawing, or message on coloured paper. You could tell her that you have written to the Minister of the Interior asking him to protect her and her family. You will need a \$2.50 stamp.

Máxima Acuña
c/o Amnistía Internacional Perú
Calle Manuel A. Fuentes 894
San Isidro
Lima, Perú

If you have not received this Lifesaver directly from Amnesty International's Toronto office and would like future actions, reach us at the contact information in the header. There is no cost.