Alianza por los DERECHOS HUMANOS ECUADOR

ALERT

Persons linked to the company Terraturismo S.A. intensify the harassment of the Kichwa ancestral community Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi

June 30, 2026



From organizational collaborators within the ancestral Kichwa community Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi, in Napo province[1], we have been alerted that, since the company Terraturismo S.A.'s violent arrival on our territory on June 10 2026, with more than 200 people, the harassment has not just continued but grown

[1] See https://acortar.link/JsYgT1

more severe. At times, the harassment has been intermittent, but people identified as company workers have been present constantly. Most of these workers are Indigenous people from Napo and Pastaza, of the Kichwa, Shuar, and Waorani nationalities, promoting conflict between Indigenous Peoples and generating concern among Indigenous-led rights organizations[2].

Since April 2026, workers from the company Terraturismo S.A. have entered San Clemente de Chukapi with heavy machinery and excavators, clearing the forest and destroying secondary forest, chonta palm groves, and family food gardens. On June 10, 2026, as previously denounced, they established themselves in the area, entering from two sides: via a road opened from San Clemente and by crossing the bridge over the Anzu River. During this entry, an elderly woman was injured in the hand by a machete, and other people were injured by cuts and blows to their limbs and heads.

During this month, the camp established by Terraturismo S.A. – a company that aims to reinstate the Ila Bajo hacienda under the publicity premise of "generating work" and planting yuca and malanga or cocoyam – has advanced onto the ancestral territory claimed by Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi. The company reportedly maintains ties to mining companies such as Terramining and Terraearth Resources.[3]

Between April and June 2026, Terraturismo S.A. cleared approximately 100 hectares (0.4 sq. miles) of forest within the 627 hectares (2.4 sq. miles) claimed by the Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi community as part of their ancestral territory. During this period, company workers also fumigated crops in family and community gardens in Tzawata, harvested crops planted by families, and put the community's food security at risk.

Relatedly, we are aware that the permanent presence of workers has led to harassment and insecurity for women, girls, and boys, especially at night when various workers linger in the area while consuming alcohol.

Today, June 30th, 2026, a new contingent of day laborers hired by Terraturismo S.A. entered Tzawata in trucks.[4] The encampment, previously made up of improvised plastic tarps, now includes structures built of wood and zinc, erected alongside plastic huts. The arrival of this new contingent is putting extreme pressure on the families of Tzawata, made up of people of all ages, including numerous boys, girls, and infants, elders, women, men, and other vulnerable people, all of whom have stayed and remain alert, engaging in non-violent resistance. Their lives and personal integrity remain at grave risk.

In addition to all of this, territorial and environmental defenders of the community have been criminalized, increasing the risks to and vulnerability of the exercise of collective rights.

This is not an isolated action, but rather part of a systematic pattern of human rights violations and dispossession of the Tzawata-Ila-San Clemente de Chukapi Kichwa community, a situation which the Alliance for Human Rights has publicly denounced in recent days:

- On May 7, 2026, we denounced the arrest of the community's president, Kambak Wayra Alvarado Andy, a territorial and environmental defender facing a criminal trial based on accusations from Terraturismo S.A. This situation reveals a process of criminalization and judicial

[2] See (from 6:50) https://acortar.link/aXyU1x
[3] See https://www.instagram.com/reel/DZdlCY0Ooaj/, https://acortar.link/07XZSW, and https://acortar.link/tRMJcB
[4] See https://acortar.link/JsYgT1

persecution against those who legitimately engage in the defense of collective rights and Indigenous territories.[5]
- On June 10, 2026, we publicized the arrival of more than 200 people linked to the company Terraturismo S.A.[6]
- Similarly, on January 21, 2026, the Alliance spoke out, demanding the guarantee of the Community of Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi's collective territorial rights and reminding them that the affected families are ancestral inhabitants of these territories and have been so for generations.

The relevant authorities are plainly aware of this situation; however, they have not yet intervened effectively to stop the deforestation, the siege under which these families are living, the daily harassment, the food insecurity, and the psycho-social effects on the families of the community.

Therefore, according to the Constitution, the international instruments of human rights and obligations for their protection, the authorities must immediately intervene to prevent acts of violence and protect the guarantee of life, personal integrity, and rights for all the people remaining in the community.

The community has denounced that **627 hectares (2.4 sq. miles) of their ancestral territory** were allocated to the company Terraturismo S.A. – and to other companies in the past, such as Meredon – through irregular legal proceedings that ignored their collective rights and historical occupation of the territory.[7] For the community, this territory is their living space, sustenance, identity, and spirituality, comprising sacred places and the burials of the rukus (grandparents). They are not invaders; they are guardians of a territory inherited from their ancestors. The State maintains a historical debt to the community's families, as documented in various sources, including the recognition of ancestral title over their territory, and their protection guarantees the continuity of their people and their *Anzu runa* (people of Anzu) culture.[8]

Due to the gravity of these events, the **Alliance of Organizations for Human Rights makes the following demands of relevant authorities, once more**:
- The immediate adoption of effective measures to protect the life, personal integrity, and safety of all the families of the Kichwa Community of Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi
- That the State guarantees in full the collective rights of the community, including the right to ancestral territory, to community property, to self-determination, and to defend their rights without suffering violence, threats, persecution, and/or criminalization.

The protection of Indigenous Peoples against acts of territorial dispossession, and the protection of these communities and their leaders who defend their territory, is not up to the discretion of the State, but rather an immediate and indispensable legal obligation. At this moment, the action of the authorities is essential to prevent additional human rights violations and avoid irreparable consequences for the Kichwa Community of Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi.

We also call on the international community, especially the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special rapporteur of the United Nations who are familiar with the case,[9] to

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[5] See https://acortar.link/fisVIN
[6] See https://acortar.link/cKNhAJ
[7] See https://acortar.link/JTZM3k and https://acortar.link/sgOZLD
[8] See https://acortar.link/5k68YR
[9] See https://acortar.link/yvPJZF

remain vigilant and demand that Ecuador complies with international obligations within the realm of its mandate in terms of respect, protection, and rights guarantees of the Indigenous Peoples of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

PUBLIC COMPLAINT

We denounce the current, grave, and imminent displacement risk of the ancestral Kichwa Community of Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi by the intensifying harassment and destruction of our means of subsistence

Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi Community, October 17, 2026

We denounce the intensification of harassment and attempts to displace the families of the Kichwa Community of Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi, which pose a **current, grave, and imminent threat to Indigenous collective rights, personal integrity and safety, due process, and property and territorial rights**, as well as the failure to comply with strict state obligations of prevention and protection in the face of multiple acts of violence committed by persons linked to the company Terraturismo S.A., which intensified between October 15th and 17th, 2026.

On October 15, 2026, at 9 am, heavy machinery entered the community without authorization from our community authorities, including an excavator, a forklift, and a truck with three containers.

One container was installed in front of the Community House of the Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi Community, where several community members live. The other two containers were placed in other zones of our ancestral territory. These installations are an attempt to establish permanent encampments and intensify the threats, harassment, and intimidation of families in the Community.



Photos: two containers on Kichwa ancestral territory, from community records, October 15, 2026

The excavator continued opening roads and destroying primary forests and the plantain, yuca, guava, coffee, and cocoa crops that provide food and sustenance for the community, especially four families living in that area (20 people in all, including children and elders).



Photos: machinery destroying community gardens, October 15, 2026

The machinery entered the Community without our consent and damaged the pipes that provide water to families living near the house of community member W. Andy, about thirty meters from the highway and 150 meters from the community house. The machinery broke approximately 50 meters of pipes, leaving four families (20 people in total) without water, especially impacting the population of elders and children.



Photos: damage to water pipes, October 15, 2026

The National Police was present in the Community, but instead of providing neutral protection for Community members in their vulnerable, defenseless state, the police merely observed the events and failed to fulfill their constitutional mission of protection.

On **October 15, 2026**, the Office of the Ombudsman DEMANDED[10] that the Government of Napo, Police Intendant, and Police Command evaluate the situation and establish preventive and protective measures for the Community, since no protective action had yet been taken.

On **October 16, 2026,** at 10 am, a pickup truck with presumed members of the company "Empresa Eléctrica Ambato Regional Centro Norte S.A." entered the community, without authorization from our authorities or our consent, to install electric meters, according to the petition filed by the company Terraturismo S.A.



Photos: installation of electric light meters without community authorization, October 16, 2026

This action is especially concerning because the Community made an express request[11] to the electric company in 2021 to install an electric light meter to illuminate community spaces for protection. The electric company responded that installing a meter was not possible because the community was considered a risk zone.

On **October 16, 2026,** at 1 pm, Terraturismo S.A.'s machinery continued felling trees and destroying family food gardens within the Community. Although families approached the company workers to speak with them and avoid the continued destruction of their means of subsistence, the company continued its destruction. That day, the company destroyed three food gardens, each belonging to Community families, including the family of J.A.'s grandmother, a 74-year-old who lives with her three children and a 10-year-old grandchild.

[10] Oficio Nro. DPE-DPN-2026-0227-O, 15 de octubre de 2026

[11] Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi Community, December 2021, Requests [in Spanish].



Photos: machinery destroying primary forest and food gardens, October 16, 2026



Photos: the family of the 74-year-old grandmother in front of the destroyed area, in the Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi Community, October 16, 2026

In the afternoon, at approximately 2 pm, Terraturismo staff approached community members repairing water pipes and threatened two of them, telling them to leave the area. Then, the National Police arrived at the ancestral territory, stating that members of Terraturismo had called them because Indigenous community members had threatened the company's workers. The National Police listened only to the company employees and refused to listen to the community members, exacerbating the Community's vulnerability and lack of protection.

Due to sustained displacement efforts and the intensification of intimidation and harassment since May of 2026, the Community has found itself afraid and intimidated, requiring that state institutions and human rights protection bodies act with urgency to deploy mechanisms to monitor, protect, and prevent of new rights violations.

The organization Frontline Defenders[12] documented how our Community faces

> "grave threats of displacement due to actions of the company Terraturismo S.A., who seek to strengthen their hold on the territory and forcibly displace community members. Since June 10, 2026, the community has resisted acts of displacement committed illegally and directly by Terraturismo S.A., which has made the community the object of threats, aggression, and intimidation, including the criminalization of various community members, among them the community president, Kawak Wayra Alvarado Andy."

In addition, Community members and Indigenous leaders have been persecuted via criminal proceedings brought by the State Prosecutor General and persons linked to Terraturismo S.A. So far, we have identified criminal cases relating to: arms trafficking, intimidation (4), defamation (false accusation of crimes), organized delinquency, illegal land use, and violation of private property. Persons linked to Terraturismo S.A. are participating in each of these cases to seek criminal sanctions against leaders, which amounts to using criminal law to silence, intimidate, and suppress community self-determination.

Within these criminal proceedings, serious deficiencies undermine the guarantee of interculturality as part of due process and judicial protection. To point out several examples:

a) In the criminal case regarding arms trafficking, a request for declination of jurisdiction was denied, and the pretrial hearing has been scheduled for November 9, 2026;
b) In the criminal case regarding defamation (false accusation of crimes) brought by Fabian Ernesto Villaruel Sanchez, the hearing was set for October 20, and no one has responded to the request to establish intercultural dialogue mechanisms. In this context, the Community leaders face a definite risk of imprisonment.

The denounced acts consist of multiple grave violations of our human and collective rights, among them:

a) Violation of the **right to property and ancestral possession despite violent dispossession**, according to article 57, numbers 4-5 of the Ecuadorian Constitution of 2008, and the obligation to protect the territory as a substantive element of memory and of cultural, spiritual, and cosmological life; especially the state obligation of protection, which is reinforced when there is definite, current, and grave risk of displacement from traditionally occupied territory.
b) Violation of the right to respect for **government structures and to obtain consent** and authorization for carrying out actions on ancestral territory. Interventions on our territory have occurred without consultation, affecting territorial and cultural integrity.
c) Violation of the right to **personal integrity, personal safety, and protection** in the face of violence and intimidation, according to article 66 of the Constitution of 2008; and non-compliance with the state obligation to prevent, investigate, and sanction violence committed against Indigenous leaders who defend their territorial rights.
d) Violation of the right to **effective judicial recourse, investigation, and due diligence** according to articles 75 and 76 of the Constitution of 2008, especially the lack of protection from the National Police, the lack of response from state institutions, and the criminalization of Indigenous leaders.
e) Violation of the **guarantees of due process and the prohibition of criminalization** of Indigenous leaders with the aim of silencing our voice. There is currently a plan to persecute our Community's leaders using criminal law mechanisms.

[12] https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/organization/comunidad-ancestral-kichwa-tzawata-ila-chukapi

f) Violation of the **rights of nature** (Article 71 to 73 of the Constitution of 2008) and the protection of **environmental health** due to primary forest damage, biodiversity impacts, the destruction of water supply infrastructure, and the destruction of food gardens and sources of subsistence.
g) Violation of the **rights of children** (Article 44, Constitution of 2008) due to lack of compliance with the obligation of protection against violence and persecution, including damages to family food gardens.
h) Violation of the **principle of equality and non-discrimination** due to lack of consideration of structural inequalities, vulnerability, and defenselessness faced by the Community.

Due to this, the Ecuadorian State must comply with its obligations to prevent, investigate, and sanction actions that constitute risks of displacement from ancestral territory and multiple sources of violence. Consequently, urgent measures must be taken due to the continuous pattern of impacts (since May 2026) on territory and livelihoods as well as violence against families that affects their lives and personal integrity. In particular, we call on:

- The **Ministry of the Environment and Energy** to conduct inspections and diligently advance sanctions proceedings for damage to biodiversity and native forests.
- **The Ministry of the Interior** and the **National Police** to establish protective measures for the Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi Community against aggression by the Terraturismo company.
- **The State Prosecutor General** to investigate the alleged actions, establish responsibility for violations of collective rights, and apply guidelines relevant to rights defenders in the ongoing investigations against community members.
- **The Ministry of Government** to establish protective measures for the Community and vulnerable populations, including the protection of elders and children, particularly their rights to food, health, water, and culture.
- **The Office of the Ombudsman** to document rights violations, produce reports, and demand that other institutions act to guarantee collective rights.

In the same manner and in the face of state inaction, WE CALL ON international rights protection bodies:

- **The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights**, the Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, to monitor the situation, request information from the State of Ecuador regarding the violation of Community rights, and to recommend respect for such rights, particularly the right to ancestral territory.
- **The Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights** and the **Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples** to monitor the situation and demand that the State of Ecuador respect international standards of protection for Indigenous communities.

Our very existence as a Kichwa Indigenous Community and original people of the Ecuadorian Amazon is at risk. The intensification of persecution and forced displacement carried out by Terraturismo S.A., without any protective actions by the Ecuadorian State, has already caused grave and irreparable effects on our cultural identity, food sovereignty, water, and self-determination.

Tzawata-Ila-Chukapi Resists!