

Ms. Diana Salazar  
General Attorney of Ecuador  
Juan León Mera N19-36 y Av. Patria,  
Edificio Fiscalía General del Estado Quito  
Quito, ECUADOR

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*Place, date*

**Please provide protection without conditions for climate activists!**

Ms. General Attorney Diana Salazar,

I am deeply concerned by the lack of protection for the 14-year-old climate activist, Leonela Moncayo, and the other 8 children and young climate activists that are fighting against routing gas flaring in the Ecuadorian Amazon, and their families. Leonela is the daughter of two recognized human rights defenders, Donald Moncayo and Silvia Lorena Ordoñez Zambrano, from the strategic litigation organization "Unión de Afectados por Texaco" (UDAPT). On 26 February 2024, Leonela and her mother suffered an explosion from an improvised device in the yard of their house. This happened five days after Leonela and the group of brave climate activists she belongs to were stigmatized by the former Minister of Energy and Mines, Andrea Arrobo, who insinuated they "were manipulated".

Two months after these incidents, local authorities in the process of investigation, have told Leonela and her family that they can protect the girls only if they stop their activism. Ecuadorian authorities have the duty to provide human rights defenders and climate activists protection so that they can carry out their work in defence of human rights and the climate in a safe environment. In this process, it must grant effective and adequate guarantees so that they can freely carry out their activities, avoiding actions that limit or hinder their work.

**I urge you to investigate effectively, independently, impartially and without further delay what happened to Leonela and her family, and to provide protection without conditions for Leonela, the eight climate activists and their families. This group of girls and their families are leaders in the fight against climate change.**

Yours sincerely,

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*Signature*

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*First Name, Surname*

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