

**European advocacy tour, EIDHR project 'Defending land and nature is our right'  
Broederlijk Delen, March 2018**

**Óscar Mollohuanca (Peru, social leader and former mayor of Espinar):** Oscar



Mollohuanca has been involved in the social movements in the Espinar province and other provinces since the end of the 80s. He was mayor of the Espinar province twice: in 1999-2002 and 2011-2014. Both times he developed a strong participatory administration and spearheaded complex processes of resistance and negotiation with the mining companies that operate in the province (especially the mining projects Tintaya and Antapaccay, conducted by Glencore). Oscar Mollohuanca can give a coherent, well-argued overview, linked to particular cases, of the

situation of mining conflicts and violence against defenders of environmental rights in Peru. Mollohuanca has been prosecuted after social protests occurred against mining activities in the Espinar province in 2012. His personal experience serves as a concrete example of the way the politics of criminalization of social protest in Peru have escalated.

**Isabel Cristina Zuleta (Colombia, Movimiento Ríos Vivos):** Isabel Cristina Zuleta is the



spokeswoman for political issues and advocacy of Movimiento Ríos Vivos (MRV) for the department of Antioquia. MRV is a social movement with bases in 8 Colombian departments that advocates for the development of an energy and mining policy that respects the autonomy and self-determination of the populations who live in the territories, and for the defense of the social and environmental rights of the affected communities. In the department of Antioquia, the most emblematic case is the conflict surrounding the hydroelectric project Hidroituango. One of the primary advocacy focusses for the MRV is the protection of the people involved. The MRV has

systematized the serious attacks against the movement, individual attacks as well as collective ones: stigmatization, discrimination, persecution, attempted kidnapping, arrests, attempts at enforced disappearance, cases of torture, threats and third-party attacks. On a personal level, Isabel Zuleta has had 8 court cases filed against her and was threatened multiple times. She can give a first-hand testimony of the serious situation that environmental activists in Colombia are facing and of the advocacy processes that the MRV carries out to expose this.

**Francisco Hurtado (Ecuador, CEDHU):** Francisco Xavier Hurtado Caicedo is a lawyer and



Human Rights specialist, with a master's degree in sociology. In February of 2017 he joined the CEDHU team to work on the project 'Defending land and nature is our right'. Since 2009 he has been working in support of the social movement that resists the mining agenda in Ecuador. He participated in various environmental advocacy campaigns and processes, including the campaign 'Amazonía por la Vida' and the campaign of the Yasunidos collective, both aimed at defending the ecosystem and against the oil industry activities in the Yasuní National Park. CEDHU also supports the social organization CASCOMI and a part of the Shuar population who have been affected by the Mirador

mining project. CEDHU sponsored the case of José Isidro Tendetza Antún before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). Antún was a Shuar leader who was murdered and whose murder was left unpunished. Previously, Francisco Hurtado was part of a hearing by the IACHR in July of 2017 in Lima, about the shortcomings of the Public Prosecution of the State in cases about attacks against human rights defenders. In December of 2017 he participated in the VIII negotiation round to include an article for the protection of defenders of territorial and environmental rights (9bis) in the binding agreement that enforces the 10<sup>th</sup> Principle of the Declaration of Rio about Environment and Development.

**Marco Gandarillas (Bolivia, CEDIB):** Marco Gandarillas is a sociologist, social researcher



and former executive director of Centro de Documentación e Información Bolivia (CEDIB). CEDIB is renowned for its research and diffusion work on policies related to the extraction of natural resources and the impact on human rights in Bolivia. In the past years, the organization has been affected by administrative and political measures, hindering its work. The case of CEDIB is a clear example of the restriction of the freedom of association through regulation of legal personalities. Among other cases, CEDIB worked on the infringement of rights of populations who were not consulted with regard to the hydrocarbon exploration in Nueva Esperanza in the

north of the La Paz department by the Chinese company BGP (contractor of the state-owned company YPF). Another emblematic case of theirs is about the infringement of rights of farmer communities because of hydrocarbon exploration in the protected area of Tariquía in the central zone of the Tarija department.

---

*Contact:*

Wies Willems (Broederlijk Delen) - (0032) 485 679 619 - [wies.willems@broederlijkdelen.be](mailto:wies.willems@broederlijkdelen.be)