

CHRONOLOGY OF INTIMIDATION AGAINST COALITION LEGAL TEAM

October 13, 2005: The wife of Amazon Defense Coalition president Ermel Chávez receives a visit from a man seeking information on her husband. He identified himself as military and his manner was intimidating and insistent. The Coalition is pursuing an historical civil suit against the Chevron Corporation (formerly Texaco) for its disastrous pollution of the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest.

October 14, 2005: Pablo Fajardo Mendoza, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, receives a death threat from an unidentified individual claiming to be responsible for a series of extra-judicial and politically-motivated killings in the Lago Agrio area.

October 20, 2005: A car with darkened windows is observed outside the Lago Agrio offices of the Amazon Defense Coalition noting all who enter and leave.

October 24, 2005: Luis Yanza, the Coalition coordinator of the case against Chevron, is contacted by members of the National Police who tell him that his phones have been tapped by military intelligence and that the FDA has been infiltrated by a military intelligence spy.

October 28, 2005: The Quito office of Alejandro Ponce Villacís, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, is broken into and a disk of back-up files and three computers used for work on the Chevron case are stolen. Cash and other valuable office equipment are left behind.

November 11, 2005: Alejandro Ponce Villacís' wife receives a threatening phone call at home at 5:00am. The unidentified man threatens: "Is your alarm system switched on now?"

November 15, 2005: An unidentified man and a woman break into the Coca home of Luis Yanza in an attempt to kidnap his 9-year-old daughter. The attempt is foiled by neighbors who chase off the kidnappers.

December 22, 2005: The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights orders the Ecuadorian government to provide protection for Amazon Defense Coalition lawyers suing Chevron.

April 21, 2006: A female friend of Guadalupe de Heredia, a spokesperson for the Amazon defense Coalition in its lawsuit against Chevron, is attacked by two men as she arrives to visit Ms. de Heredia. One of the men beats her about the head, while the other takes her notebook. The woman offers her purse to the man beating her to try to make him stop, but he shows no interest in her personal effects other than in her notebook. Guadalupe de Heredia's family find their friend bleeding from head wounds. The human rights organization Amnesty International believes the men attacked the woman by mistake, thinking she was Guadalupe de Heredia.

April 29, 2006: A truck with no license plates attempts to force Guadalupe de Heredia's car off the road and into a ditch while she travels with her daughter in Quito.

May 19, 2006: The office of Amazon Defense Coalition attorney Julio Marcelo Prieto Méndez in Quito is broken into and files searched. Nothing is taken despite the fact that it contained expensive equipment.

June 14, 2006: The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) sends a letter to the Ecuadorian authorities to manifest "its profound preoccupation for what it considers to be serious and repeated acts of harassment against Ecuadorian lawyers who represent 30,000 plaintiffs in a case against the U.S. corporation, Chevron for environmental damage and health damage caused by the company's 28-year oil exploitation in the region".

June 30, 2006: The home of Amazon Defense Coalition press officer Joseph Mutti is broken into and his press recording equipment stolen.

July 25, 2006: Juan Mateo Borrero Brauer, an attorney who works with the lead attorneys on the case against Chevron, upon leaving his office is accosted by well-dressed armed individuals in an expensive vehicle. They steal his laptop computer.

October 22, 2006: An unknown person representing himself as a local security guard told Amazon Defense Coalition press officer Guadalupe de Heredia that he had emptied his pistol into the air to "scare off" four men and a woman he alleged had attempted to scale the wall of her home in Quito, where she lives with her two young daughters. When enquiries were made the next day it was discovered that no such guard existed in the neighborhood.
