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Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

Local 15 Canadian Federation of Students

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Minister of the Interior and Justice
Néstor Reverol (Major General)
Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Interiores y Justicia
Esquina Platanal, Este 1, Av. Urdaneta
Caracas, Venezuela

Indigenous activists should be able to operate without stigmatization

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union we urge you to investigate the treatment of environmental rights defender Lisa Henrito with respect to her work on the end of militarization and mining exploitation of Indigenous ancestral territories.

We are deeply troubled by reports from Amnesty International that Indigenous environmental rights defenders are facing stigmatization and slander. Lisa Henrito has received backlash in regards to her actions in defences of Indigenous community rights as enshrined in the Venezuelan Constitution.

We strongly believe that an informed consultation or analysis of social impact should be considered. We urge you to ensure that the safety of Lisa Henrito, and to make sure that all humans rights defenders can operate freely without fear of restrictions and discrimination.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Gilbert
President
TRU Students' Union

Sierra Rae
Vice-President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc: His Excellency Luis Augusto Acunã Cedeño, Alfredo Ruiz



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