



**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



JANI SILVA, COLOMBIA

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**PROTECTING  
THE AMAZON  
COULD GET  
HER KILLED**

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# JANI SILVA, COLOMBIA

Born in the heart of the Colombian Amazon, Jani Silva has dedicated her life to defending the trees and land that are everyone's lifeblood. From the age of 16, she's been standing with the *campesino* farmers of Putumayo, a region nestled in the south of the country and brimming with unique biodiversity.

Jani co-founded the Association for the Integral and Sustainable Development of the Amazonian Pearl (ADISPA) in 2008. Through it, she protects the environment and rights of those living in the Amazonian Pearl, a *campesino* reserve in Putumayo.

Her work placed her at loggerheads with the Ecopetrol oil company, which won a license to operate in areas overlapping with the reserve in 2006. In 2009 the license was transferred to the Amerisur oil company. Since then, at least two oil spills have poisoned the water sources that local communities depend on.



Defending the territory has had terrifying consequences for Jani. She's been followed, intimidated by unknown aggressors, and threatened with death. COVID-19 has made matters worse, confining activists to their homes and limiting their protection.

**Still, Jani remains undaunted. "Because I defend my territory, people have put a gun to my head to kill me", she says. "However, I stay ... because ... we cannot run away or let ourselves be won over by fear."**

## WRITE TO THE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA

Tell him to protect Jani and all ADISPA members so that they can safely defend the natural resources we all depend on.

**President of the Republic of Colombia**

**Mr Iván Duque**

Carrera 8 No.7-26

Bogotá, Colombia

**Email:** [contacto@presidencia.gov.co](mailto:contacto@presidencia.gov.co)

**Twitter:** @IvanDuque

**Salutation:** Dear Mr President

## SHOW JANI YOU'RE WITH HER

Tell her and fellow ADISPA members how much you admire their courage. Include one of these lines, and draw a picture that represents the one you've chosen.

Nature is \_\_\_\_\_ to me.

Thanks for taking care of it.

Water means \_\_\_\_\_ to me.

Thanks for fighting for it.

Oficina Comisión Intereclesial

de Justicia y Paz

Carrera 37ª #25B – 42

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