

24 June 2019

Peru: break-in at home and theft of work database of Miluska Luzquiños

On 8 June 2019, the home of woman human rights defender **Miluska Luzquiños** was broken into, and important digital and physical materials used in the work of RedLacTrans were stolen. The police formally opened an investigation on the case, however, there are no developments registered so far.

[Miluska Luzquiños](#) is the National Coordinator of **RedLacTrans** in Peru. As a trans woman and a lawyer, she has worked over the past years to promote advocacy, protection and capacity-building for the LGBTI+ community in the country. She has gained national recognition for her work as a human rights defender, and has advocated for the adoption of a law on gender identity.

In the morning of 8 June 2019, the home of human rights defender Miluska Luzquiños was broken into. Unidentified perpetrators took documents, including the passports of two members of the organisation, and objects such as laptops, flash drives and cellphones, all containing sensitive information crucial to the work of RedLacTrans. A safe was also stolen, containing the tokens allowing the organisation to access its bank accounts. The stolen materials included information on the organisation's advocacy plans, especially regarding their work on the promotion of the draft law on gender identity (*proyecto de Ley de Identidad de Género*).

The incident was reported to the San Borja district police in Lima. Although an investigation has been opened, to date, the police has not visited the home of Miluska Luzquiños to gather evidence.

Front Line Defenders is worried about the break-in at the house of Miluska Luzquiños and the theft of RedLacTrans' databases and advocacy plans, as it is believed to constitute an attempt to curtail her human rights work. Front Line Defenders is also worried about the [lack of meaningful investigations](#) prioritising the links between the attacks or thefts against LGBTI+ human rights defenders and the character of their work. Front Line Defenders expresses further concern about the continuous lack of acknowledgement by the Peruvian authorities of the targeted character of violence against LGBTI+ human rights defenders, which is instead treated as common crime.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Peru to:

1. Strongly condemn the break-in at the house of LGBTI+ human rights defender Miluska Luzquiños and the theft of RedLacTrans' databases and advocacy plans;

2. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the break-in and theft at the house of Miluska Luzquiños, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
3. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Miluska Luzquiños, as well as of all members of RedLacTrans, in coordination with them;
4. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Peru, especially those working on LGBTI+ rights, are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw your attention to Article 12 (2): *“The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.”*

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Anderson
Executive Director