

KEITH TAYLOR
Green Party
for the South East of England

Thomas Hammarberg
Commissioner for Human Rights
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
FRANCE

Dear Commissioner,

Re-instatement of residency permit for Paul McAuley, UK citizen in Peru

Paul McAuley is a UK citizen and a lay activist with the La Salle Christian Brothers. He has spent much of the last 20 years in Peru doing educational work, particularly with indigenous groups. He has been awarded an MBE by the British Queen for his work, along with The Spanish Order Medal and Prize.

McAuley's work in Peru is now under threat. On 1 July his residency permit was revoked and he was given seven days to leave the country and never return. The grounds given by the Peruvian Interior Ministry were that McAuley participated in "political activities contrary to public order". On 7 July, a local court granted an injunction permitting McAuley to stay in the country for the immediate future while he fights the expulsion order. However his situation remains uncertain, and a final decision on McAuley's status is expected in the next couple of months.

McAuley's work may be controversial – he has worked with communities protesting against the effect of oil, gas and mining exploitation on their environment, and has educated indigenous communities on human rights issues – but he has not been charged with any crime and has broken no laws. It is likely that he is being asked to leave because he has spoken out. Amnesty International's comment on the matter included: "This attempt to expel a human rights advocate who has worked tirelessly to protect Amazon communities and their environment is the latest example of the attack on indigenous people's rights that is taking place in Peru."

I welcome your thoughts on how the EU can help in this situation. I urge you to use the appropriate channels to raise concerns with Peru over the upholding of human rights, as the EU has trade and diplomatic relations with the country. I also urge you to call for a full re-instatement of McAuley's residency permit.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



For Keith Taylor, Green MEP, South East England.