

Civil Society Condemns Massacre of Indigenous People in Peru

Calls on Peru and International Community to Respect Human Rights

6 June 2009

We, the undersigned organizations, condemn the violence against peaceful indigenous protesters and police in Peru that has already resulted in at least 30 deaths.

We call on both the Government of Peru and the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Amazon (AIDESEP) to engage in a good faith dialogue to prevent further escalation. We urge the international community to send a clear message to Peru that military repression is not an acceptable form of conflict resolution.

The current violent human rights crisis is a vivid illustration of the consequences of a systematic failure in the basic governance processes related to consultation, land tenure and access to resources.

The indigenous mobilization that ended in violence on Friday began in April as a reaction to a series of laws promulgated by President Alan Garcia's government over the past year. The laws contain provisions that indigenous organizations believe threaten their fundamental rights to access and decision-making over their forests, resources and territories. They were written and passed into law without any formal or informal consultation with indigenous peoples, in violation of Peru's obligations under ILO 169.

This is the second time in less than a year that Peru's indigenous peoples in the Amazon have resorted to organizing massive and prolonged blockades of roads, rivers and extractive industry infrastructure, as their increasingly frequent calls for consultation and dialogue have gone unheard in Lima.

The tragic unfolding incident illustrates how ignoring peoples' rights and meaningful participation in processes that affect their lands and livelihoods can lead to serious social conflict and failed policies. As the world's climate negotiators gather in Bonn, we must heed these lessons and guarantee that indigenous peoples' rights are considered an integral part of any final agreement to save forests and the climate.

Amazon Alliance, US	Fundación del Rio, Nicaragua	Sarekat Hijau Indonesia
Amazon Watch, US	Global Exchange, US	Sierra Club, US
Asian Indigenous Women's Network	Global Social Justice, Belgium	Sustainability Watch Network, Central America
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact	Global Witness, UK	Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
Association for Community- and Ecologically Based Law Reform, Indonesia	Greenpeace International	Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' Int'l Centre for Policy Research and Education)
Boreal Forest Network, Canada	Humane Society International, Australia	Terra!, Italy
The Boreal Action Project, Canada	Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)	Thai Working Group for Climate Justice
COICA (Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazonica)	International Accountability Project, US	Third World Network
Bank Information Center, US	International Indian Treaty Council	Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs
Civic Response, Ghana	International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development	Union pour l'Émancipation des Femme Autochtones, DR Congo
Consumers Association of Penang, Malaysia	International Youth Caucus, Bonn	United Confederation of Taino People WALHI, Indonesia
Down To Earth, Indonesia	Nepenthes, Denmark	Wetlands International, Netherlands
Ecologistas en Acción, Spain	North East Peoples Alliance on Trade, Finance and Development, India	The Wilderness Society, Australia
Ecological Society of the Philippines	Pachamama Alliance, Ecuador	Winnipeg Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement, Canada
Environmental Investigation Agency, US	Pro REGENWALD, Germany	World Rainforest Movement, Uruguay
FERN	Quinault Indian Nation, US	
First Peoples Worldwide, US	Rainforest Action Network, US	
Forest Peoples Programme, UK	Rainforest Foundation UK	
Friends of the Earth International	Salva le Foreste, Italy	