



"Año de la consolidación democrática"

Puerto Maldonado, April 03, 2006.

Letter N° 121-2006-FENAMAD

Sirs:

Government of the United States
And Importers of Wood

Subject: *Makes known the danger and the impact caused by illegal logging and trade to the lives of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation in the Peruvian Amazon.*

I am pleased to write to you, to salute you cordially in the name of the indigenous peoples of Madre de Dios and at the same time express the following:

In the Peruvian Amazon there exists a variety of problems and threats that weakens the integrity of indigenous people through hydrocarbon and mining projects, as well as indiscriminate illegal logging placing at risk not only the flora and fauna, but also the lives and territory of our indigenous brothers who live in voluntary isolation, as well as the future life of the entire population of this planet.

Our regional organization, the Native Federation of the Madre de Dios river and Tributaries (FENAMAD) has for many years made known this problematic situation, and as a result of an arduous effort in 2002 the government of Peru created the Territorial Reserve for Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation through Ministerial Resolution Number 0427-2002-AG, asimismo implementa la política de la actual Ley Forestal (Ley N° 27308) and at the same time implemented the policy of the current forestry law (Law Number 27308) with a vision of modernization, sustainability and legal certainty for 40 years through [the granting of] forestry concessions; however, several years have passed and there are no deep changes in forestry policy and there is no commitment on the part of the government to eradicate illegal logging and trade in woods, there is also no support for



the promotion of forest concessions and [small-scale] Brazil nut farmers. To the contrary, illegal loggers are invading the territories of our indigenous brothers who live in voluntary isolation to plunder the natural resources that exist in their reserve, putting at risk the lives and the territory of the indigenous peoples who are vulnerable to any kind of disease, like the flu, as occurred at the time with our Nahua brothers in 1985 and earlier in the decades of the 40s and 50s with the Harakmbut.

In the summer season there are confrontations between loggers and indigenous people at the time when the latter go out to undertake their traditional [egg] collection activities on the banks of the rivers, principally the Upper Piedras River. These facts have been made known at various opportunities to the judicial and political authorities of Madre de Dios, who have not done that which is required by law, such as guarantee the integrity of the lives of our indigenous brothers who live in voluntary isolation, as a result of this it is evident that Peruvian laws are not being followed and criminal violations are taking place including crimes against humanity (*lesa humanidad*) resulting in the violation of international treaties, including Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and CITES, in that [the Government] does not show a commitment and responsibility to assume the defense and [ensure] the integrity of the territory of indigenous peoples, nor the adequate sustained management of natural resources.

In light of this, we publicly and in the presence of the spirits of our ancestors make the following request of the international community:

- a) Not to buy wood from the Amazon forests of Peru that comes from illegal logging and trade of wood.**
- b) To demand of the government of Peru and timber companies that they adhere to the CITES treaty.**
- c) That they guarantee the rights and the lives of our indigenous brothers who are in danger.**



d) That the international community subscribe to a pledge not to buy mahogany or any wood product from illegal sources.

We make known to the organizations and indigenous peoples of all countries, as they are our brothers: Navajo, Hopi, Guarani, Harakmbut, Huwas, Ashaninka, Shuar, Kichua, Eseeja, Matsigenkas, Mapuches, Secoyas, among others, as well as the Governments of the countries that import wood, to the timber exporters, timber importers and the environmental organizations.

e) That these violations of human rights are not justified by any economic project in any country that places at risk the lives of our indigenous peoples who are the ancestral owners of their territories.

For the reasons presented in this letter, we request the solidarity of the entire world, since our appeal is just and is supported by law in various legal instruments worldwide, to respect our right to life and the territory which guarantees our existence, as well as the appropriate use of our natural resources, as well as the life of our planet.

Without anything further I wish you fairwell.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE ON ORIGINAL]

Víctor Kameno Manuaje
Vicepresident
DNI N° 44741848

[TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH BY NRDC]