

Statement by Protesters at Peruvian Consulate in New York

December 10, 2014

As the world looks to Lima for solutions to the global climate crisis, we call on Peruvian President Ollanta Humala to stand with Peruvian communities fighting to defend the Earth and their way of life against the oil, gas, mining, cattle grazing, logging, and plantation agribusiness industries. In pursuit of profit, corporations including Pluspetrol, Renco/Doe Run, Freeport McMoran, Barrick Gold, Hunt Oil, Newmont Mining, and Monterrico Metals are destroying rainforests and other critical ecosystems, poisoning land and water, exacerbating climate change, and using violence and murder against indigenous communities and other Peruvians who take action in defense of the environment. Unfortunately, President Humala has broken faith with communities who believed his promises --- that he would diverge from the policies of his predecessor, Alan Garcia, who facilitated the corporate plunder and ecological destruction of Peru through free trade and corporate investor rights agreements and legislative decrees and encourage the violent repression of indigenous communities and other environmental defenders. Peru now ranks as the fourth most dangerous country in the world to be an environmentalist, with a dramatic increase in the killing of environmental and land defenders in the last four years.

Illustrative of Humala's duplicity is the fact that at the same time Lima is hosting the global climate summit, Peruvian negotiators are participating in Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations in Washington, DC that will encourage further exploitation of Peru's lands and people by the industries most responsible for driving climate change. TPP will grant foreign corporation new rights to attack Peru's environmental laws in international tribunals outside the jurisdiction of the nation's court system, allowing to escape accountability for pollution and to strongarm Peru into allowing environmentally devastating projects and other activities.

We stand in solidarity with the Peruvian indigenous communities who call for President Humala to respect their territorial rights, to honor them as responsible stewards of the Earth, to take action to end the violence against environmental defenders, to compensate the families of environmental martyrs, to end the prosecution of communities fighting to defend their lands, including the 53 currently facing charges in relation to the 2009 Bagua Massacre, and to cease negotiating new ecologically and socially devastating free trade agreements like TPP and the Trade in Services Agreement while working to break or reform the US-Peru Free Trade Agreement and other trade deals currently in effect that have already done so much harm.