

## **FECONAU Statement: Another criminal attack, National and international alert**

Yesterday, November 11, a delegation of 11 members of the native community of Santa Clara de uchunya (President; Carlos Hoyos Soria, Lieutenant Governor; James Lozano Sangama alongside community members Miguel Fasabi Sinuiri and Ivan Flores Rodríguez, as well as 7 other people including; 2 members of the federation of native communities of Ucayali (FECONAU - Arturo Mori, Vice-President; Edinson Mahua, indigenous social communicator) and 1 member of the Institute of Legal Defence (IDL - Alvaro Másquez Salvador). From the centre of the native community, they set out together to visit one of the sectors of their ancestral territory, crossing the river Aguaytia. The presence of land traffickers had been reported there and the delegation wished to confirm it.

In the area, half an hour from the bank of the Aguaytia river, a plantation of bananas was observed with a diameter of approximately 250 metres. According to community members, the crops belonged to the community member Miguel Fasabi Sinuiri and had been expropriated by the land invaders, who were intending to use them to try and demonstrate their occupation of the area and thus obtain a 'certificate of possession' from the government's regional Agricultural agency. In the furthest section of the plantation a house was identified.

At the head of the delegation were Mahua, Mori, Hoyos Soria, Lozano Sangama and Flores Rodríguez. The other members were 15 meters behind. They had got halfway there when a man fired a shot, apparently in the air. He was carrying a shotgun, wearing a cap and a long sleeve white t shirt. The community members claim that he is a well-known enforcer of the palm oil company Ocho Sur Pe SAC whose official plantation is located 5 km away. Seconds later, another subject, this time from the house, fired two other shots directed especially at Mahua from a distance of less than 100 meters. Mahua was taking pictures of the crops and deforestation with his cell phone. One of the bullets grazed his chest and caused a slight injury, causing burning and redness of the skin. The delegation then retreated except for Flores Rodríguez and Mori. They approached close to the house to remonstrate with the land invaders for their attitude, as well as to inform them that the territory belonged exclusively to the native community. The invaders, including the author of the second and third shot, claimed to be in the area with the knowledge of the regional directorate of Agriculture, in order to obtain a possession certificate for 620 hectares of land, today mostly primary forest.

Once Flores Rodríguez and Mori returned, the delegation returned to the center of the community. Once there everyone concluded that the same pattern of dispossession was being repeated. These invaders, once they obtained their possession certificate, would sell the land to the palm oil company, which is expanding its area of operations. Soon, it would be just more dead land. More and more, they surround the community and some of its members are particularly at risk, especially Fasabi Sinuiri, Rodit Guerra Tenazoa and Huber Flores Rodríguez, whose houses are located closest to these invaders.