

AIDSESEP reiterates the need for the Peruvian state to ensure the protection of peoples in initial contact and isolation of the Territorial Reserve for the Kugapakori, Nahua, Nanti and other peoples.

AIDSESEP, as the representative organisation of indigenous Amazonian peoples, which over the last 30 years has worked in the defense of indigenous territories, establishment of bilingual teachers, intercultural health systems, and protection of the health and life of indigenous populations in initial contact and isolation located in the existing and proposed territorial reserves of Peru highlight our rejection of the comments emitted on *La Hora N* on the 10th of October and in the editorial of the newspaper, *El Comercio* published on Sunday 13th October of this year as well as in other media sources that have followed the same thread.

We wish to highlight that prior to this, in a letter to the President Ollanta Humala on the 9th of August we expressed our deep concern at the process of approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the **Expansion of the Programme of Exploration and Development of Lot 88** (Camisea Project) highlighting the imminent danger of violation of the fundamental rights to life and health of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact of the Territorial Reserve for the Kugapakori, Nahua, Nanti and other peoples (RTKNN) which would bring with it the extermination of these populations.

In fact and for several years AIDSESEP has been participating in the elaboration of the Parallel reports to the ILO in Peru with the support of the Working group on indigenous peoples of the National Coordinator on Human Rights (CNDDHH) using emblematic cases to expose a whole series of problems and failures of the state with regard to the protection of the rights of indigenous populations. One of these cases is the emblematic one of the Camisea Project and its overlap with the RTKNN.

For this reason, and with the objective of making public these concerns related to the RTKNN, a working breakfast for journalists was organised in coordination with the CNDDHH and Rights, environment and resources (DAR). With regard to the information disseminated in various media sources about this event we wish to highlight the following:

1. The working breakfast was aimed at journalists and was instigated with the objective of presenting findings from the Parallel Report amongst these being; the failure of the State to establish mechanisms to protect the RTKNN located in the regions of Cusco and Ucayali, the vulnerability of populations in initial contact and voluntary isolation and initial contact that inhabit it and at the same time request once more that the State meet its obligations by implementing urgent measures to protect the RTKNN.
2. Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation exist in the regions of Cusco, Ucayali, Madre de Dios, Loreto and Huanuco and this is a reality recognized by national authorities amongst them the Ministry of Culture and as well as by AIDSESEP, its regional indigenous organisations and by private actors including academics, NGOs and companies.

3. The request for State protection of the RTKNN has not only been made by AIDSESEP but also on two occasions by senior members of the UN Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (UN-CERD), by the national human rights ombudsman, and by the Vice Ministry of Interculturality via Resolution W 005-2013-VMI-MC which highlighted the serious nature of the impact on the health on these populations.

4. We clarify that the absence of the AIDSESEP representative in the event was strictly due to the unforeseen health problems of the designated person, a situation that was communicated to those attending the event and not due to other motives as some of these media sources have suggested. At the same time one must remember that Santa Rosa de Serjali is a one of various groups that inhabit the RTKNN some of whom are in initial contact and others in isolation but both of whom are vulnerable.

5. We specify that the delegation presented in the media as representatives of the Nahua people should be composed of the legitimate authorities of this people and not by people who assume this responsibility by themselves.

6. We reject the claims in *El Comercio* that attempts to discredit the request for a thematic hearing presented to the Inter American Commission of Human Rights (CIDH) by AIDSESEP that will present the unmet obligations of the State in over 10 years since the Camisea project was initiated and the pending debt with the indigenous population in voluntary isolation and initial contact of the RTKNN. We will request that the State implements an urgent strategy to protect the lives and health of these peoples thereby preventing the repeat of the deaths of the population of the RTKNN that occurred in the 1980s as a result of contact with the workers of Shell and others alien to these populations.

Finally, the problem of the indigenous peoples who inhabit the lower Urubamba requires an integrated strategy coordinated with indigenous representatives that tackles measures of inclusion, development, monitoring and mitigation of the impacts for indigenous peoples settled in titled native communities in the area affected by the Camisea project as well as adequate measures to ensure the protection of and interactions with indigenous peoples in initial contact as well as strict measures of protection for those peoples in voluntary isolation.

The Board of Directors