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We help tribal peoples defend
their lives, protect their lands
and determine their own futures.

Sra Maria das Graças Foster, CEO,
Petrobras,
Av. República do Chile, nº 65,
Rio de Janeiro,
20031-912
BRAZIL

24th March 2014

Re: Oil and gas prospecting near isolated and uncontacted Indians' land, Amazonas state

Dear Sra Maria das Graças Foster,

Survival International is extremely concerned to hear that Petrobras is prospecting for oil and gas in the Tapauá river basin in Amazonas state, without having consulted the local population.

Local sources have reported that 15 Petrobras barges have been installed in the area, and that prospecting is currently underway close to seven indigenous territories including the lands of the isolated and recently contacted Suruwaha, Banawa, Deni and Paumari Indians.

Your presence in the area could bring grave repercussions to the forest and the tribes, which depend on their forest for their survival. Brazilian experts have warned that over 1,300 Indians could suffer irreversible impacts from your work.

We understand that you have not consulted the indigenous peoples about your activities, in a clear breach of Brazilian and international law (article 231 of the Brazilian constitution and Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization).

You are also breaking points 3, 4 and 5 of your Social Responsibility Policy and point 12 of your Safety, Environment and Health policy.

We are deeply concerned about the uncontacted Hi Merimã Indians who live close to the exploration site. They are extremely vulnerable to any contact with outsiders as they have no immunity to common diseases. Your work could prove fatal for them.

You may recall that when Petrobras explored for oil in the Javari Valley in the 1970s and 1980s, several uncontacted Indians, as well as FUNAI and Petrobras employees, died in conflicts sparked by the exploration activities. When Shell carried out oil exploration in the Peruvian Amazon, around half of the isolated Nahua tribe died as a result of diseases transmitted by oil workers.

We urge you to halt these activities immediately, and not to restart unless and until you have consulted the indigenous communities and obtained their free, prior and informed consent.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Corry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping tail.

Stephen Corry

Director