Online petitions

There are problems with some of the independent ‘online petition’ organizations, which is why Survival International does not recommend them.

1) Some publish misleading, or incorrect, information.

2) Some wrongly claim that signing a petition or a letter has ‘saved’ peoples. In fact, such actions are only useful as a part of integrated and sustained campaigning activity running for years.

3) Some wrongly claim that peoples have been saved when they haven’t.

4) Some wrongly promote the idea that signing their petitions is all that is needed: this undermines efforts to foment a permanent groundswell of informed public opinion, the only thing which will bring long-term change.

5) Some solicit donations for actions they cannot confirm they will actually carry out, and which may not be relevant anyway.

6) Some of the biggest are profit-making ventures, collecting email addresses for commercial purposes.