



President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
USA

26 May 2010

Dear Mr President,

We are extremely concerned about the threats posed to 'uncontacted' tribes in the remote Peruvian Amazon. We hope you will address this issue during your meeting with Peru's President Garcia on 1 June. The brief facts are:

- In Loreto, northern Peru, between the rivers Napo and Tigre live at least two 'uncontacted' tribes.
- These two tribes are in danger because Peru's government is permitting oil companies to operate on their land. One of these companies, Perenco, is hoping to build a pipeline in the region. Another two, ConocoPhillips and Repsol-YPF, intend to explore for oil there.
- Any contact, no matter how brief, between the companies' oil crews and the tribes could decimate the latter. This is because 'uncontacted' tribes do not have immunity to outsiders' diseases. Indeed, it is common for more than 50% of an entire tribe to die following 'first contact'.
- The companies and various factions within the government deny the tribes exist – a fairly common strategy by those who want to exploit 'uncontacted' tribes' land for natural resources. This is despite the fact that, over the years, a great deal of evidence for the tribes in this region has been collected.

We urge you to appeal to President Garcia to stop the construction of the pipeline and prohibit companies like ConocoPhillips from working in this area, and indeed any area where there are 'uncontacted' tribes. Working in such areas is a blatant violation of the tribes' rights under international law and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and endangers the lives of some of the most vulnerable people on earth.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Corry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

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Right Livelihood Award 1989

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