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Professor James Anaya
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights
and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people
c/o OHCHR-UNOG
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

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

14 October 2010

Dear Professor Anaya,

Survival is exceedingly concerned about oil exploration and exploitation that could decimate 'uncontacted' tribes in Loreto, northern Peru.

According to anthropological research, this region is home to at least two 'uncontacted' tribes who are extremely vulnerable to any form of contact because of their lack of immunity to outsiders' diseases. Despite this, Peru's government is permitting oil companies to operate in the area. These companies include Perenco, Repsol-YPF and ConocoPhillips:

- Perenco has recently transported 50,000 tons of material and consumables into the region as part of its plans to exploit an estimated 300 million barrels of oil. It has applied to Peru's Energy Ministry to build a pipeline into the region, which is scheduled to be 207 kms long and to impact the rainforest for 500 metres on either side.
- Repsol-YPF, together with partner ConocoPhillips, has also applied to Peru's Energy Ministry to cut 454 kms of seismic lines in its bid to find oil.

All three companies are under considerable pressure to abandon their operations. Leading indigenous organizations such as AIDSESEP and ORPIO have spoken out against the companies, and a lawsuit has been filed against them in Peru's Constitutional Court. AIDSESEP has also appealed to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.

By permitting the companies to operate in this region Peru's government is flagrantly violating international law. Survival urges you to investigate this situation and to urge Peru's government to prohibit the companies from working there. If that is not done, some of the world's most vulnerable citizens could be wiped out.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

Founded 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989

Survival International
Charitable Trust
Registered Charity 267444
Company registered in England
no. 1056317
Registered office as above