

His Excellency Martín Vizcarra
President of the Republic of Perú
Despacho Presidencial
Jirón de la Unión N ° 264 - Edificio Palacio, Cercado de Lima,
Lima, Perú

AMAZON IN EMERGENCY:

We Request Urgent Support for Indigenous Peoples

Dear President Vizcarra,

In the context of global emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the undersigned organizations express our solidarity with the demands of the Indigenous Peoples of the Peruvian Amazon and urge the Government of Peru to provide them with the comprehensive care necessary to safeguard their rights. To this effect, we request both that they be provided with medicines, medical care and food, and that the reactivation of economic activities that put the health of indigenous communities at risk be immediately suspended.

Based on the above, we reiterate the demands put forward by the Indigenous Peoples of the Peruvian Amazon presented in the AIDSESEP public statement of July 10, 2020. As the indigenous leaders have stated, urgent and immediate actions need to be implemented.

Among them are:

1. Schedule a direct working meeting between indigenous leaders, the President of the Republic, Mr. Martín Vizcarra, and his cabinet of ministers.
2. Urgent medical care available to towns and communities, including medicines, oxygen, medical personnel, and biosafety equipment for the medical staff, for the team in charge of transportation, for the patients, and for their families. In order to make the shipment of medicines viable and facilitate the transfer mechanisms for people infected with COVID-19 in communities, actions must be coordinated between all levels of the State, including when necessary, the Air Force and the Navy.
3. Strengthen the work being carried out by community health agents, with “telemedicine” services and equipment that allow the provision of advice and supervision by doctors and nurses by telephone or radio for the areas that have coverage.
4. Postpone the reactivation of economic and extractive activities close to the communities as they would increase the risk of contagion among the indigenous population, risking a potential ethnocide. Nor should such activities be reactivated in nearby areas or overlapping with reserves of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) or in the requested areas in favor of PIACI.
5. Suspend in person consultation processes until the risk of contagion for the communities has subsided, and definitively discard the proposal for virtual prior consultations.
6. Coordinate directly with the indigenous organizations the design and implementation of culturally safe and physically viable mechanisms to resume school education for

indigenous children and teenagers who do not have appropriate access to the internet, radio signal, or other remote means of communication.

Mr. President Martín Vizcarra, we understand that the situation is extremely complex at a global level and that it has exceeded the capacities of the State. But, more than five months after declaring the emergency, it is unacceptable that the attention provided to the grave situation of Indigenous Peoples has been so limited. We appeal to your humanity and responsibility towards all Peruvians. We trust that you will take immediate action to begin to resolve a crisis that exacerbates the situation of discrimination and exclusion that Indigenous Peoples have been suffering for generations, and that has also aggravated the precarious security situation in which they live, making them victims of new threats, attacks and murders, all of which must be investigated and punished as soon as possible.

As documented and explained in the recent United Nations report, "Preventing the Next Pandemic – Zoonotic Diseases and How to Break the Chain of Transmission," COVID-19 is just one example of the growing trend of virus-borne illness that has leapt from animal hosts to the human population. The report concludes that this upward trend in zoonotic diseases is largely driven by the degradation of the environment and soil; by the change in land use from forest to grassland or crops; by the exploitation of wildlife; and by intensive extraction of forest resources and by climate change.

As science has shown that deforestation and forest degradation are a major cause behind the emergence and spread of dangerous infectious diseases, the post-pandemic economic reactivation proposal cannot be based on increased threats to forests and their inhabitants, which not only violates basic human rights and exacerbates climate change, but increases the risk of new pandemics.

For all these reasons, President Vizcarra, we strongly urge you to reconsider the country's economic reactivation mechanisms, since they must not be promoted at the cost of the lives of Indigenous Peoples.

Sincerely,

Adelante Prensa Popular
Alternativa Centro de Investigación Social y Educación Popular
Amazon Frontlines
Amazon Watch
Amazónicos por la Amazonía - AMPA
APAHADI
APORVIDHA
Asamblea Unitaria de Lima Norte
Asociación Arariwa
Asociación círculo de trabajo colectivo de jóvenes indígenas de la Amazonia - ACITCJIA
Asociación Civil Centro de Cultura Popular Labor
Asociación Civil El Puente de la Amistad
Asociación Civil Escuela de Artes y Culturas Amazónicas
Asociación de Personas con Discapacidad de Locomoción La Libertad
Asociación intercultural e investigación RONIN
Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana- AIDSESP

Frente de defensa de los intereses del pueblo Sanchez Carrion - Huamachuco
Frente Patriótico de Huánuco
Friends of the Earth
Fundación Ecuménica para el Desarrollo y la Paz
FZS Peru (Sociedad Zoológica de Frankfurt Peru)
Global Witness
Grupo de Iniciativa Nacional por los Derechos del Niño - GIN
Hermanas de Santa Cruz
Ifejant
Illa, Centro de Educación y Comunicación
INDIAM Comunicación Intercultural
Instituto Chaikuni
Instituto de Defensa Legal
Instituto de Salud MSC Cristoforis Deneke = ISDEN
Instituto de Salud y Derechos Humanos
Instituto del Bien Común - IBC
Instituto para el Desarrollo y la Paz Amazonica IDPA
Instituto Peruano

Asociacion Nacional de Centros ANC
 Asociación Paz y Esperanza
 Asociación pro Derechos Humanos -APRODEH
 Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de España
 Asociación ProPurús
 Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales
 Association Qollana
 Barrí wesna
 BNP Profesionales
 Buckner Peru
 CEDAL - Centro de Derechos y Desarrollo
 Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
 Centro Amazónico de Antropología y Aplicación Práctica
 Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán
 Centro de Políticas Públicas y Derechos Humanos - Peru EQUIDAD
 Centro de Promoción de la Mujer Micaela Bastidas
 Centro de Promoción y Desarrollo Poblacional
 Centro Loyola Ayacucho
 Centro para el Desarrollo del Indígena Amazónico. CEDIA
 COFADER-PERU
 Colectivo Por La Igualdad de Género
 Comisión de Justicia Social de la Diócesis de Chimbote, Perú
 Comité de Defensa del Agua
 Comité de Derechos Humanos-III
 CooperAcción
 Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales DAR
 Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente (DHUMA)
 Digital Democracy
 Ejecutor de Contrato de Administración de la Reserva Comunal
 Amarakaeri (ECA-RCA)
 Emcoagor
 Environmental Investigation Agency / Agencia de Investigación
 Ambiental (EIA)
 Equipo de educación y autogestión social
 Federación Nacional de Mujeres, Micaela Bastidas-Tupac Amaru
 Fern
 Forest Peoples Programme
 Foro Ecológico del Perú
 FORO SALUD - Foro de la Sociedad Civil en Salud
 Foro Salud Huánuco
 Foro salud Loreto
 FOVIDA
 Frente Amplio Por Justicia Vida y Libertad - Grupo Impulsor Loreto
 Instituto Sur Andino de Derechos Humanos- ISADH PUNO
 International Rivers
 Jóvenes Parlamentarios de la Región Ucayali
 Jóvenes promotores de Derechos Humanos (JOPRODEH)
 Kené, Instituto de Estudios Forestales y Ambientales
 La RED de Luchas Sociales y Políticas
 Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
 Marcahuasi Casa Del Protector
 Marie Anne Galvez Escudero
 Movimiento Ciudadano Ambientalista Foro Ecológico
 Movimiento Manuela Ramos
 Observatorio Amazónico de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos
 Observatorio de inequidades en salud bucal, UPCH
 Organización Regional de Defensa y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de
 Alto Amazonas - ORDEPIA
 Organización Regional de Mujeres Indígenas de la Provincia de Atalaya-
 ORMIPA
 Oxfam en Perú
 Proética - Capitulo Peruano de Transparencia Internacional
 Pronaturaleza - Fundación peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza
 Rainforest Action Network
 Rainforest Foundation US
 Red de Estudiantes y Egresados de Maestrías y Diplomados en Infancia y
 Adolescencia en el Perú.
 Red Descolonialidad y Autogobierno
 Red Infante Juvenil por el Buen Vivir - REDINJUV
 Red interquorum Ucayali
 Salva la selva
 SEDYS Trujillo - Servicio Educativo para el Desarrollo y la Solidaridad
 Servicios Educativos Promoción y Apoyo Rural - SEPAR
 Servicios en Comunicación Intercultural Servindi
 Sociedad Peruana de Ecodesarrollo
 Stand.earth
 Subcomisión de justicia y paz - derechos humanos del Vicariato Apostólico
 de Iquitos
 Terre des Hommes Suisse
 The Rainforest Foundation UK
 The Washington Office on Latin America
 TIERRACTIVA PERÚ
 Upper Amazon Conservancy / Conservación Alto Amazonas
 Willakuy
 WWF