

Confederation of indigenous nationalities CONTIGO, Ecuador



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Who you are:

Marlon Santi

President of the confederation of indigenous nationalities CONTIGO, Ecuador

Mara Tristán

Vice-president the confederation of indigenous

Frida Santos

Representative of the Sarayaku community

Humberto Álvarez

Representative of the Sarayaku community

You are an Ecuadorian NGO which defends the rights of indigenous populations in Yasuní National Park. You are from the Kichwa-speaking area of Sarayaku, and you campaign against oil production in your territory. You do this by means of public awareness-raising, informational events, demonstrations and petitions.

Your position regarding Yasuni national park:

Yasuní National Park, Ecuador's southern and as yet largely intact Amazon region, has around 1,200 inhabitants. For years, they have been regarded as pioneers of non-violent resistance against multinational oil companies. In addition, Yasuní National Park and the surrounding rainforest is home to the last indigenous groups living in voluntary isolation: the Tagaeiri and the Taromenane, currently numbering around 3,000. They shun all contact with the outside world and preserve their traditional way of life. Their survival depends directly on the preservation of the national park.

In the last 30 years, various oil companies have been granted licenses to prospect for and extract oil in the Kichwa area around Sarayaku. In 2002 and 2003, this led to massive human rights violations being committed against the indigenous inhabitants of Yasuní National Park: oil workers accompanied by soldiers invaded the area, destroying 260 hectares of rainforest and burying 1,450 kg of explosives in the ground for seismic surveys. Oil production leads to soil and water pollution; leaking pipelines deposit heavy metals, chrome, cadmium, barium and other highly toxic substances. As the animals in the forests and rivers die, hunting and fishing are no longer possible. Local inhabitants are afflicted by severe health problems, in particular cancer and malformations.

Your demands:

You demand compensation payments for the indigenous population and the removal of all explosives from Sarayaku. You also demand the unconditional termination of oil extraction activities in Yasuní National Park.

Your task for the first unofficial round of negotiations:

Seek out potential coalition partners who you think might have interests similar to yours. Discuss in your group who will negotiate with whom. Approach the other groups and find out whether you can form an interest group to further your position.