



Plataforma Europa Perú

11th June, 2009

To whom it may concern:

Dismayed by the serious acts of violence that occurred in the Peruvian Amazon on Friday 5th June, the below-signed European organizations (members of the Peru Europe Platform<sup>1</sup>), ask the European Council to send a statement to the Peruvian government condemning the excessive use of violence and requesting: an exhaustive investigation into the facts and for a renewed dialogue with the indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples from the Peruvian Amazon have taken part in strikes and protests for almost two months in an effort to seek the repeal of different legislative decrees introduced by the current government that they consider a threat to both their culture and ecosystem. The aforementioned decrees were enacted by the government within the framework of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States and give greater access to foreign investors to natural resources. For a long time, the indigenous peoples have asked to be consulted on all measures that could affect their way of life, a right enshrined in the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Convention 169, which has been ratified by Peru.

On Thursday June 4th, following yet another postponement of a congressional debate on the forestry law (known as Decree 1090), the indigenous peoples decided to step up the protest by blocking the access road to the town of Bagua. The forced eviction of protestors from the route by police left between 30 and 84 people dead – both police and indigenous peoples – and more than 100 people wounded. The majority of sources confirm that the indigenous peoples were fired upon from police helicopters. There have even been reports that the bodies of indigenous victims have been disappeared. Peruvian human rights organizations describe as unacceptable the government's repressive measures and criticize the lack of true willingness for dialogue on the part of the Peruvian government with regard to the substantive demands, that is to say the repeal of the decrees.

Given the importance of human rights in general and the rights of Indigenous Peoples in particular, we ask the European Council to send a statement to the Peruvian government, highlighting the following:

- A great concern for the disproportionate level of violence used by the police force when evicting protestors from the road block;
- An exhaustive and independent investigation into the events that took place and that those responsible for human rights violations are punished;
- A renewed dialogue with the indigenous peoples of the Amazon region as soon as possible in order that a satisfactory solution to the concerns of the indigenous population can be found.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this letter.

Yours Faithfully,

Flemish Coalition for North-South Cooperation – 11.11.11 (Belgium)

Secours Catholique – Caritas Francia (France)

Commissión Justice et Paix Belgique Francophone (Belgium)

CATAPA (Belgium)

Hivos (Holland)

Mensen met een Missie (Holland)

Oxfam Novib (Holland)

Peru Support Group (United Kingdom)

Peru Kommittén för MR (Sweden)

ICCO (Holland)

Plataforma Q'atary Perú, de Cataluña (Spain)

Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (Spain)

Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE)

KWIA, Flemish Support Group for Indigenous Peoples (Belgium)

CNCD-11.11.11 (Belgium)

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<sup>1</sup> The **Peru Europe Platform** (PEP) is a network of European civil society organizations working to raise awareness on human rights and development issues in Peru at EU and member state level and to coordinate advocacy activities in conjunction with Peruvian partner organizations. The PEP promotes the implementation of the TRC's recommendations.