

July 20, 2016

Mr. Juan Manuel Santos Calderón
President of the Republic of Colombia
Casa de Nariño
Bogotá, Colombia

Copied to:
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Mines and Energy
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Peoples Defender (Ombudsman)
Solicitor General of the Nation
Ecopetrol

Mr. President,

We, the below-signed national and international civil society organizations, respectfully write to you in expression of our support and solidarity with the U'wa indigenous nation and their process of demanding their rights. Fundamentally we would manifest our concern with the Colombian State's lack of compliance with agreements signed between the national government and the U'wa Nation more than two years ago in May of 2014. Following the agreement in June of 2014, many of our organizations sent a similar letter requesting that the Colombian State take all necessary measures to protect and respect the life, integrity and other rights of the U'wa Nation. On this occasion, given the lack of progress and compliance with the accords, we would reiterate that request.

For more than two decades, the U'wa Nation has been a point of reference for the just insistence of indigenous peoples' collective rights, as much in Colombia as elsewhere around the world. In recent months, we have monitored with keen interest the various peaceful collective actions that the U'wa, in conjunction with other indigenous peoples and campesino communities, has taken in defense of their sacred and ancestral territories. We greatly admire the vision, patience and discipline with which the U'wa Indigenous Guard has acted around Mt. Zizuma (El Cocuy), their sacred snow-capped mountain peak, and more recently near the gas extraction platform Gibraltar, which is found just outside the U'wa reserve but within their ancestral territory.

We are concerned about the State's lack of will to fulfill the agreements signed on May 1st and June 6th of 2014 – show by stalling and a lack of effective responses – the many meetings between the U'wa Nation and government notwithstanding. We understand that the U'wa are not alone in their situation of waiting, given that the recent Agrarian, Campesino, Ethnic and Popular Mobilization (Minga) was launched because of over 1200 similarly unfulfilled agreements and that this is now in a dialogue process.

As such, we believe the current negotiation with the U'wa is a great opportunity for the Colombian State to finally fulfill the signed accords in a real and effective manner, therefore showing your commitment to the respect and guarantee of the individual and collective rights of this ancestral Nation, that have been violated for decades. This is an opportunity for the State to turn its stated

commitment to indigenous peoples into a reality, something that is certainly necessary for any durable peace process.

As organizations that have a history of accompanying the U'wa Nation, we will continue to be very attentive to the next steps. We hold out hope that the Colombian State will comply with the signed agreements, in addition to your national and international commitments to respect indigenous peoples rights. Please guarantee the life, integrity, development and culture of the U'wa Nation, as a fundamental base for the Social State of Rights.

Sincerely,

CEDINS	Colombia
Censat Agua Viva - Amigos de la Tierra Colombia	Colombia
Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo	Colombia
Congreso de los Pueblos	Colombia
Corporación Visión Renacer	Colombia
Endémica Studios	Colombia
Fuerza de Mujeres Wayuu	Colombia
Fundación Hemera	Colombia
Kinorama Producciones	Colombia
Proceso Popular Asamblea SUR	Colombia
Pueblo Muisca Mhuysqa	Colombia
VITAL-IDEA/OCA	Colombia
Intercontinental Cry	Canada
MiningWatch Canada	Canada
ACCIÓN ECOLÓGICA	Ecuador
Almáciga	Spain
Asociacion Entreiguales Valencia	Spain
Asociación Perifèries	Spain
Master cooperación internacional para el desarrollo, Universidad de Alicante	Spain
Alternativa Intercambio con Pueblos Indígenas	Spain
Colectivo Maloka Colombia	Spain
Observatorio por la Autonomía y los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas	Spain
HREV - Human Rights Everywhere	Luxembourg- Spain-Colombia- Panamá
Instituto de Defensa Legal del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible - IDLADS PERÚ	Peru
Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)	Regional
PBI Suiza	Switzerland
Wayunkerra Indigenous Women's Initiative	Switzerland
This Changes Everything UK	United Kingdom

Tribes Alive/Indigenous People's Cultural Support Trust	United Kingdom
Amazon Conservation Team	USA
Amazon Watch	USA
AntFarm	USA
Center for International Environmental Law	USA
Colombia Human Rights Committee, Washington , DC	USA
Colombia Land Rights Monitor	USA
Earthjustice	USA
EarthRights International	USA
EarthWays Foundation	USA
Ingrid Washinawatok Flying Eagle Woman Fund	USA
International Rivers	USA
Latin America Working Group	USA
Mujer U'wa	USA
Rainforest Action Network	USA
T.E.J.A.S	USA
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)	USA
Indigenous Environmental Network	USA
Peace Development Fund	USA
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries	USA
United Steel Workers	USA
Women's Studies, Southern Connecticut State University,	USA
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	USA and Switzerland

