

WAORANI FAMILIES REJECT FORCED CONTACT WITH FAMILIES LIVING IN VOLUNTARY ISOLATION

Yasuní, Ecuador—Following statements by various authorities calling for a “forced contact” with groups living in voluntary isolation, the Waorani Nationality Organization of Orellana Province (ONWO) expresses its opposition to these measures that would only increase territorial displacement and eventually result in the complete extermination of these peoples.

César Quimontari Nihua Nenquimo, president of ONWO, made these declarations after visiting the families in Yarentaro that lost two of their members, allegedly in an encounter with a group of isolated peoples.

According to preliminary investigations by the Attorney’s Office of Orellana Province, on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at 8:40 am, two Waorani leaders, Ompore (70) and Boguenei (64), were speared by a group of people living in isolation near the community of Yarentaro.

In response to this atrocity, the leader of ONWO expressed his dissatisfaction with the inadequate application of the Plan for Preventative Measures, designed to avoid the kind of situation that occurred on Tuesday, March 5th.