

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUÉ
WAORANI NATIONALITY ORGANIZATION OF ORELLANA

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

In response to the violence that occurred yesterday in the Waorani village of Yarentaro, located in the Vía Maxus, Block 16 – REPSOL, the Waorani Organization of Orellana, after talking with our families and relatives of Ompore and Bogueney who died after being speared by clans of the Waorani living in isolation, wants to express the official version of what happened:

1. This occurrence needs to be understood from the perspective of the Waorani culture and the relation between our families who were violently contacted in different moments starting at the end of 1956 and those families that reject contact.
2. Before contact, the Waorani lived in an expansive territory that extended from the Napo and Curaray Rivers from Peru to the modern-day cities of Puyo, Coca, and Tena. In 1956 our ancestral territory covered 2 million hectares. In that same year, the majority of our families were forced into communities created by the Summer Institute of Linguistics in the highest part of the territory that was named the Oglán Reserve.
3. Some families were never contacted and continue to occupy large areas of ancestral territory up until this day. According to the relatives of Bogueney and Ompore, the bloody event yesterday in Yarentaro was carried out by a family of more than 50 members.
4. This means that many Waorani families, known as the Tagaeri and Taromenane, still live in the way we traditionally lived in nearly all of the territory that is currently known as Yasuní. Removing us from our ancestral territory facilitated the arrival of the oil companies, their roads, and platforms. Along with them came colonization by other indigenous nationalities and mestizos, and with them came deforestation, agriculture, and cattle ranching.
5. Yesterday, at approximately 8:40 in the morning, Ompore, leader of the village of Yarentaro, was walking about 150 meters from the houses in the village, along the banks of the Ñemegono River. He was accompanied by his wife Bogueney and an elder woman named Nemongona. The elder, due to her difficulty in walking, was a few meters behind them at the moment they encountered their attackers— who they had already encountered in other occasions, and with whom there had been spearing skirmishes at the time when all Waorani were free and uncontacted.
6. The attackers belong to a Taromenane family. They expressed their anger to Ompore and Bogueney about the noise, unknown crop planting, too many cowodi (non Waorani), trees being cut down, and the kompaneapatá (oil platform). They wanted Ompore and Bogueney to stop all of this. Evidently, Ompore and Bogueney could not help.
7. Ompore died with 12 spears in his body. Bogueney was speared five times and lived for a few minutes after, conscious and recounting the event before dying in REPSOL's medical station. Nemongona survived for having stayed back. Bogueney recounted that the isolated peoples

attacked them while scolding them for having done nothing to stop the noise and activities in Waomoni territory.

8. Yesterday at midday, a commission formed by the leaders of ONWO and functionaries of the Provincial Attorney's Office for the Province of Orellana entered the village of Yarentaro.

Given these occurrences, the Waorani Nationality Organization of Orellana (ONWO), demands that the national and international community, and the Ecuadorian government:

- a. Halt any attempt to use these bloody events, whose victims were contacted families, as an excuse to forcefully contact isolated peoples, which would result in death, displacement, and possibly brutal violence between Waorani.
- b. Reinstate the Plan for Preventative Measures, carried out by the Justice, Human and Cultural Rights Ministry, in the manner intended by the constitution, the law, and the preventative measures authorized by the International Court of Human Rights in 2006. This plan should include the infrastructure, materials, mechanisms, and Waorani participation necessary for the monitoring process that will indicate whether the Ecuadorian state has done everything possible to protect our lives and the lives of our family members living in isolation.
- c. Reinforce the communiqués sent out by ONWO to diverse state institutions demanding the halting of colonist penetration, new infrastructure and roads, planting of con traditional crops, and the legal and illegal logging as proved in 2012, in accordance with the constitution and the law.
- d. Implement the constitution and the law to guarantee that the territory inhabited by isolated and contacted peoples be off limits to extractivist and colonist activities.
- e. Solicit the office of Indigenous People's Rights of the United Nations to visit our territory and support our survival and our right to be Waorani, as well as that of our families in isolation to live freely and in isolation.
- f. The recognition of the Waorani Nationality as a "Recently Contacted People" with families in "Voluntary Isolation" is included in article 101 of COOTAD.

Finally, we declare:

- a. That families living in isolation move throughout our territory and for that reason, sectors like Bogopo (Armadillo, Dikapare, Ñoneno, Tobeta, Mihuaguno, Yawepare, Nampahueno), Dicaron (Ganketapare, Yarentaro, Guiyero, Timpoca, Iro, Gabaro), Tigüino, and Bataboro, Cawimeno (Garzacocha), Boanamo, Omacaweno, and Baameno are at risk.
- b. The absolute defenselessness of our people, and we confirm that the deaths of Ompore and Bogueney are the result of incorrect actions due to a lack of understanding about Waorani life and respect for our condition as a recently contacted people by the responsible authorities. If penetrative activities did not exist, isolated families would remain free and these violent encounters would be reduced.