Public Statement by the Achuar People of the Pastaza River – FENAP
Against the approval of Geopark’s Environmental Impact Study and public
hearings convened by SENACE
For the nullification of Block 64 and the withdrawal of GeoPark!

The Achuar People of the Pastaza River, represented by the Federation of the
Achuar Nation of Peru (FENAP), made up of 45 communities and three
organizations (ATI, ORACH, and AIM), located between the basins of the
Huasaga, Huituyacu, Manchari, and Morona; within the Andoas, Morona, and
Pastaza Districts, Datem del Maranon province, Loreto, and recognized by R. E.
No253-2018-GRL-P; in response to the call for Public Hearings of the
Environmental Impact Study detailed “Development Project of the Northeast
(Situche Central) of Block 64,” presented by GeoPark Peru S.A.C, carried out by
the National Service for Environmental Certification for Sustainable Investment
(SENACE), on October 29th and 31st, in the native communities of Katira and
Brasilia, located in the Morona district, neighbors of the community of Putuntsa
of the Achuar People of the Pastaza River.

We declare:

1. We reaffirm the nullification of Oil Block 64, that overlaps 60% of our
territory, and all of the other blocks, that cover 100% of our territory,
established without prior, free and informed consultation, which we have
demanded in an injunction, currently pending a ruling.

2. We reject and oppose the environmental impact study (EIS) presented by
GeoPark Peru SAC, and the public hearings organized by SENACE
because:
   a. The EIS excludes us despite the fact that our territory is within the
      project’s area of influence;
   b. SENACE did not apply the requirement of “prior consultation of the
      indigenous peoples”, but instead “citizen participation”;
   c. It is about an unconsulted oil concession and therefore, null.

3. We demand that SENACE and MINEM (Ministry of Energy and Mines) do
not give any authorization to GeoPark, and order the suspension of
activities while there is no firm ruling on the claim of the afor-mentioned
injunction.

4. We demand that OEFA supervise the spills not remediated in Situche
Central that affect us.

5. We denounce the corporation GeoPark Peru SAC and demand its
withdrawal from the country, because:
a. They insist on carrying out activities in Block 64, knowing that they did not consult, nor have prior, free and informed consent, and that it is legally challenged;

b. They promote divisions and territorial conflicts between indigenous organizations, repeating what the oil corporation Talisman did in 2009, accused of attempted genocide (according to the Fiscal Accusation No 148-2014 of 19/9/2014).

6. We reject that the Peruvian army (Base Camp Sargent Puno), serves as the headquarters of the transnational corporation GeoPark Peru SAC., considering that the previous corporation used that base in order to arm civilians and attack the Achuar People of the Pastaza River in 2009 (according to the Fiscal Accusation).

7. We demand that the regional government of Loreto fulfill the demarcation and titling of the indigenous territories, in order to guarantee legal security and avoid territorial conflicts.

8. We demand the President of the Republic comply with the international obligations of Peru on matters of the rights of indigenous peoples instead of hindering its compliance.

9. We ask the Congress of the Republic and the Ombudsman (Defensoría del Pueblo) to oversee SENACE, MINEM, PetroPeru, PeruPetro, Gorel and MINCUL for not fulfilling their functions.

10. We ask the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and international human rights organizations to monitor this situation and pressure the Peruvian state to fulfill its international obligations; and we ask for solidarity of the people, citizens, churches, REPAM, and the international community, in order to maintain vigilance while we guarantee our rights as indigenous peoples.

San Lorenzo – October 29, 2018

Long live the fight and resistance of indigenous peoples!

Long live the Achuar people of the Pastaza River!

Long live FENAP!

Translated by Amazon Watch. Original version in Spanish here.