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July 16, 2013

Dr. Andres Teran-Parral  
Ambassador  
Republic of Ecuador  
99 Bank St., Suite 230  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 6B9

Dear Doctor Teran-Parral,

First, allow me to extend cordial greetings on behalf of KAIROS, Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. KAIROS is eleven churches and Christian organizations working together for human rights, social and ecological justice. The principal purpose of this letter is to convey our profound concern about what is happening in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

We have learned from various sources that today, July 16<sup>th</sup>, marks the beginning of the eleventh round of petroleum licensing. This action signifies an expansion of the extraction frontier in Ecuador, covering practically the whole of the Amazon territory including ecologically fragile areas and Indigenous territories. KAIROS has a long history and experience accompanying and collaborating with partners in Ecuador, including Indigenous peoples and members of Ecuadorian civil society, who are working to defend Indigenous rights and Amazon ecosystems against destruction.

In solidarity with the Indigenous peoples who live in Amazonia, KAIROS opposes the expansion of the petroleum industry within their territories. KAIROS views petroleum exploration as a threat to biodiversity in this beautiful and fragile region. Moreover, any expansion of petroleum extraction, whether in Amazonia or in the tar sands of Canada, would contribute to climate change. Therefore, KAIROS also opposes the expansion of petroleum extraction from the tar sands.

Through the Yasuni ITT Project, Ecuador has established an example for the world showing that leaving oil underground is a viable alternative. We hope that Ecuador does not damage its good reputation by increasing oil exploration in that region.

Finally, through you we wish to extend to the Ecuadorian people, their organizations and social movements, and particularly the Indigenous nations, our commitment to accompany their struggles for their rights and to make Amazonia a territory free from petroleum extraction.

Sincerely,

John Dillon, Program Coordinator for Economic Justice