

## **Civil Society Organization Statement Regarding Talisman Operations in Achuar Ancestral Territory Northern Peruvian Amazon**

1 May 2012

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our concern about the social and environmental impacts of Canadian multi-national oil company Talisman Energy in the remote Peruvian Amazon Rainforest.

Talisman Energy is operating in Oil Block 64 in the territory of the Achuar people in Peru. We are concerned to hear news and information from the region regarding Talisman's impacts on the lives and livelihoods of the Achuar people and the fragile rainforest ecosystem. In particular we are concerned at the allegations that Talisman is fomenting divisions, contaminating the environment and operating without the consent of the Achuar people who live in Block 64.

A large proportion of the Achuar who live in and in close proximity to the concession want the company to leave. These communities have held formal votes in assembly on this issue, in accordance with Peruvian law, and the results are overwhelmingly in favour of the company leaving. Talisman claims to uphold free, prior, and informed consent but isn't respecting the results of the assembly votes.

Since 2006, Export Development Canada has provided Talisman with as much as a billion dollars in financing for its global operations. The Canadian Pension Plan currently holds \$71 million of equity in the company.

We call upon Talisman Energy to uphold its stated commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to commit to respect the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – a declaration whose importance is acknowledged in Talisman's own Global Community Relations Policy. We call on Talisman Energy to respect the rights of the indigenous peoples affected by operations in Block 64, and only operate where it has free, prior, and informed consent. We also call on the Canadian government to refrain from funding, subsidizing, or otherwise supporting companies that do not respect free, prior, and informed consent.

Signed:

- (1) Alberta Wilderness Association
- (2) Arusha Centre
- (3) Athabasca Bioregional Society
- (4) Calgary Centre for Global Community
- (5) Canadian Union of Postal Workers
- (6) Canadian Union of Public Employees
- (7) Coalition québécoise sur les impacts socio-environnementaux des transnationales en Amérique Latine (QUISETAL)
- (8) Council of Canadians
- (9) Friends of the Earth Canada
- (10) Global Indigenous Conference Organising Committee
- (11) Halifax Initiative

- (12) Indigenous Environmental Network
- (13) Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement Ottawa
- (14) Inter Pares
- (15) KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
- (16) Keepers of the Athabasca
- (17) L'Entraide Missionnaire
- (18) Mining Injustice Solidarity Network
- (19) Mining Watch Canada
- (20) Polaris Institute
- (21) Project of Heart
- (22) Project Ploughshares Calgary
- (23) Public Service Alliance of Canada
- (24) Rights Action
- (25) Sierra Club Canada
- (26) Sierra Club Chinook Group
- (27) Sierra Club Prairie Chapter
- (28) Sustainable Calgary
- (29) United Steelworkers
- (30) Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Indigenous Food Network