

ADVOCATES

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June 15, 2009

Via Facsimile & E-Mail

Mr. Alan García

President of the Republic of Peru

Palace of Government

Plaza Mayor s/n

Cercado de Lima, Peru

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Dear Mr. President García,

We write to you on behalf of the ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL, a global network of legal professionals that has been active since 1991 and currently links more than 35,000 lawyers in 135 countries. Our network includes hundreds of legal professionals in Latin America, including the Republic of Peru. In addition to the international human rights conventions to which Peru is a signatory, ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL is guided in its mission and methods by Christ's guidance to legal authorities set forth in His most famous Good Samaritan parable. *Luke 10:25-37*. Working relationally, professionally, and spiritually with those in law and related professions, ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL seeks to "go and do likewise" by encouraging, equipping and enabling a global network of skilled advocates committed to religious liberty, human rights, equal access to justice for the poor, conflict resolution and reconciliation, the rule of law and professional ethics. In doing so, we seek to put into practice at all levels the Samaritan Strategy as well as the "Golden Rule" ('Do to others as you would have them do to you') which Jesus taught as summing up the law. *Matthew 7:12*.

We are deeply concerned about the recent attack on indigenous protestors at the "Curva del Diablo" near Bagua on June 5, 2009, resulting in the deaths of at least twenty police and fifty protestors as well as the wounding of over a hundred indigenous civilians, including young children. We condemn the reported use of unprovoked, excessive and unnecessary violence against civilians by armed Peruvian police. We are concerned about the danger for further abuses of human rights portended by the Government's decision to declare a State of Emergency on Saturday, May 9, 2009. We are also concerned about the large number of wounded who still need medical attention as well as those civilians who have been imprisoned, often in military barracks where access to civilian medical care and support is limited and no guarantees for their human rights exist; and

We respectfully call on your administration and the Peruvian Congress to:

1. Refrain immediately from using force on peaceful indigenous demonstrators and to respect the fundamental rights of the individuals who have been imprisoned.
2. Ensure that all those wounded in the confrontation receive timely medical attention.

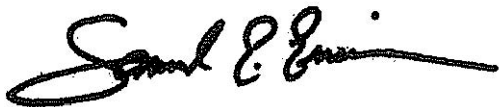
Doing Justice with Compassion

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3. Uphold the constitutionally guaranteed rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination, to their ancestral territories, and to prior consultation and consent over any policies and activities that affect them, including the fair settlement of their communal and private land claims and title disputes impacted by the natural resource concessions the government has granted or is currently negotiating to the detriment of the indigenous people who may have a claim to or a communal interest in these lands.
4. Suspend the State of Emergency and curfew in effect, and withdraw the special military forces that have been deployed in the conflict zone, and proactively seek a peaceful dialogue with the Amazonian communities to resolve this conflict.
5. Revoke the ten legislative decrees which undermine indigenous rights and endanger reserved forest spaces.
6. Repeal the decrees that permit police and military to fire freely on protestors while protecting government forces from subsequent persecution regardless of the unprovoked, excessive or unnecessary nature of the government's use of force.
7. Preserve and provide public access to all evidence pertaining to this conflict and see that a thorough, nonpartisan independent investigation takes place concerning the recent acts of violence, including tortures and kidnappings of Amazonian leaders, and ensure that the intellectual authors of the massacre are brought to justice.

It is our hope that your administration will lead a period in the history of Peru where the respect for the fundamental rights of all citizens is upheld, and the protection of fragile ecosystems is prioritized.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel E. Ericsson
Founder and President, Advocates International Inc.
UNITED STATES

Teresa Conradie

Teresa Conradie
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Vilma C. Balmaceda, Ph.D.
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