

## WATER RIGHTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Ladies and gentlemen of the Permanent Forum, brothers and sisters delegates from indigenous / native, and friends present at the session of the Permanent Forum to receive our greetings as a representative of the indigenous peoples of Peru in the Congress of the Republic, participated in this meeting to share our worldview and our experience in the struggle for full recognition of our right to water as a human right. At present the problem of Freshwater gets harder every day to the situation of increased water demand (for a growing world population) and the continued reduction of freshwater supplies globally result of global warming, contamination of freshwater supplies and the threat of those who seek to privatize and profit from the water for us depository of ancient cultures is our life and for future generations.

This problem is not only access to clean water, safe and healthy that we all human beings but also the realization that our indigenous / native Peru, the water is also linked to ancient life forms and our culture as the water is like blood to mother earth, according to the worldview of our indigenous / native, as well as blood through our bodies carrying nutrients to every cell, it is water that runs through the Pachamama or Mother Earth, nurturing each plant to germinate and to keep alive to every living being on top of that water for our people has a special meaning life

So our ancestors in ancient Peru rose Tipon archaeological park where water was worshiped not only the water of rivers, lakes and ponds but any form of water as rain, the basement and the clouds , there were going to thank our gods for all their blood supply (water) brought to our people, under this can be seen that the relationship you have with the water of our peoples is a relationship of respect brotherhood.

Therefore, the problem of water is not the same for us is much more serious as the lack of it, affects how we see the world relate to him and the way we live, not just a problem of access is a problem how to exist.

That is why the Council instructed the Permanent Forum on Human Rights by the recognition of water as a fundamental human right and a right of indigenous / native, this recommendation is not being implemented or is being fulfilled in the member countries of the forum.

Since the beginning of our work as Indigenous Congress of the Republic of Peru Understanding the importance of this issue in 2009 proposed a (3871/2009-CR Bill) which includes the right to water as a fundamental human right (in the access to water which should not be privatized or conditional access.) Which until now was not approved by Congress because of particular interests of those seeking to benefit economically from water

However, the current legislation in force in Peru, helps companies and allowed commercial concessions, meaning that water can be traded for their own economic benefit from this resource, you can restrict access by private interests that block water sources to appropriate the land around preventing the access of indigenous in the rivers, ponds or lakes, when conducting projects embalming or other similar or worse when, for exploration and mining or industrial polluting our waters with lead , cadmium, mercury and other minerals affecting the health of indigenous families, destroying the environment and thus the way we live in harmony and respect for mother earth and water.

That is why we are fighting against this standard and raised the amendment thereto with 3162/2008-CR Bill (draft amending the Law on Water Resources) presented the year 2008 project which has among its key strengths to include order that water is a fundamental human right and CAN NOT profit from the administration of the resource, including users of water resources on institutions that are designed to control water use allowing the participation of indigenous peoples indigenous / native, the decentralization of decisions on water resources

by basin bringing decisions our people, the right to access clean water permanently and the right of prior consultation with the people who might be affected by infrastructure projects take place on lands of indigenous communities and peasants, and the right to participate in these projects as partners.

When we raise our voice in protest against the existing rules from the executive branch, proposed changes in legislation from Congress, and not only did not want Congress to hear the other but, driven by economic interests seeking to profit from the water and our resources are natural indigenous lands, began a persecution against me and indigenous leaders in particular for not having been able to quell the suspensions, began a smear campaign through print and television, even using other congressmen to do so, keep our struggle for respect for water as a fundamental human right of our indigenous / original and always will.

We say that this fight is even more unequal social protest is criminalized and therefore invoke for international solidarity of the Permanent Forum that the slope of our indigenous struggle and join us in our process of confrontation to that in my country and in any other place that has a similar problem call attention to this problem and achieve a just universal right of access to water.

Thanks Uspalay

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