

## Statement By Techantit

12<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 20-31 May (2013-05-29) Agenda Item 8:

Consolidated report on extractive industries and their impact on indigenous peoples (e/c.19/201316)

Good Afternoon Distinguished Chairperson, Permanent Forum Members and all delegations. The Nahuat Pipil, Kakawira, Lenca and Chorti nations of the territories known today as El Salvador, in the assertion of our ancestral territorial rights, would like to call the forum's attention to the critical issues and challenges that we are confronting in the defence of our earth mother and livelihood specifically concerning the impact of extractive and hydro industries on our territories.

Our recommendations for the Permanent Forum are the following:

- 1) To urge all States including the State of El Salvador to consider and implement the specific recommendations made by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on its follow up report on Indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making, with a focus on extractive industries (UN doc No. A/HRC/EMRIP/2012/2). We believe that this report covers in greater detail the use of private security forces hired by transnational extractive and hydro industry corporations as armies to kill indigenous leaders.
- 2) To urge all States, including El Salvador, to review existing legislation granting rights to natural resources which indigenous peoples have a claim and ensure consistency with articles 19, 26, 27, 28 and 29 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. More specifically, the State of El Salvador has passed last week the Legislation Public-Private Partnership Law (Ley de Asocio-Publico Privado) by doing this the government of El Salvador is placing in the hands of the private sector (private corporations) our lands and territories. This will severely impact the rights of indigenous peoples by restricting their access to rivers which provide their daily livelihood and food sources. Instead, it gives to the extractive

industries the right to continue the destruction and contamination of our land.

Here we highlight the arguments that force us to make recommendations reflected in this document.

These recommendations are supported by historical events that affected and continue to affect our lives since the invasion, colonization and subsequent imposition of a government model and law system which ignores and excludes our existence.

Since 1492 we have been invaded, our land taken by force and access to our water denied. These actions have resulted in the impoverishment and marginalization of our indigenous nations to the point that currently our ancestors are dying of starvation and lack of proper nourishment.

We declare that we have been victims of perpetual genocide / ethnocide since 1932, with more than 35,000 Indian brothers and sister killed in a span of three months. The massacres in El Chupadero in Kakawira territory in 1981, where mostly indigenous women and children were victims, the massacre of El Mozote, Sumpul, Las Hojas, and San Jose el Carrizal Santa Maria Ostuma. Extractive industries have and continued to be located in the areas where these massacres occurred.

We find ourselves being threatened by the presence of extractive industries that not only threaten our lives but also contaminate our environment and violate the rights of mother earth and our rights under UNDRIP with projects that forcibly displace us from our ancestral territories causing us to lose our traditional knowledge and connection to the land.

Padiush, Yawaliwalan, Gracias, Thank You.

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