

Dear organizers of the Virtual Regional Meeting on the UN EMRIP,

 [S. J. Manuin-Awajun-CPPA-Perú.mp4](#)

I am writing from the Province of Condorcanqui, in the Amazonas Region, in Peru.

I am project coordinator for the Agricultural Service for Research and Economic Development - SAIPE , an NGO working for the Awajun and Wampis indigenous peoples in Peru.

SAIPE gives technical support to many initiatives from the Awajun and Wampis organizations, among other works.

Currently, SAIPE is managing a project with the support of the EU based on the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. In that regard, SAIPE is supporting urgent needs of the indigenous Awajun and Wampis peoples amid the pandemic.

In this opportunity, considering that the Awajun people have been looking for ways of getting the attention of the government and international bodies that support indigenous peoples' rights, to attend to indigenous peoples' urgent needs brought about by the pandemic and by government's action to prevent the spread of the virus and promote economic recovery, SAIPE has shared the news about the regional meeting of the UN EMRIP with the Permanent Council of the Awajun People (CPPA).

According to the Ministry of Culture of Peru, the population of Awajun people in the country is estimated to be about 65,000. [<https://bdpi.cultura.gob.pe/pueblos/awajun>]

CPPA is an indigenous council representing the interests of the Awajun people of Peru. CPPA has experience defending the rights of this indigenous people, for example, by contributing, on site, with the legal demand against the Peruvian State for the concession of a permit to explore and exploit oil in the area called Lot 116, in the Province of Condorcanqui. With the support of different allies, like the Institute of Legal Defense (*Instituto de Defensa Legal-IDL*), the judiciary system cancelled the concession because the government had not enforced the Law of Prior Consultation which was supposed to do. This and other objective results were achieved with the support of CPPA and other important indigenous organizations and allies. [<https://revistaideele.com/ideele/content/les-pararon-el-macho>]

CPPA has expressed their interest in participating as presenters in the Virtual Regional Meeting on the UN EMRIP, region Central and South America and the Caribbean. Therefore, this request is on behalf of CPPA, considering that SAIPE helps CPPA with technical support.

We must point out that before the pandemic, CPPA was headed by the indigenous leader Santiago Manuin Valera, a humble, hard-working and internationally recognized Awajun leader. The pandemic took away his life, among that of many others.

[<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/08/world/americas/santiago-manuin-dead-coronavirus.html>]

SAIPE was co-founded by Santiago Manuin Valera and the Jesuits working in Condorcanqui in the early 90's. Since then, SAIPE has faced many challenges and takes the pandemic as the biggest challenge yet. Anyhow, SAIPE is determined to go on, working with indigenous leaders and the youth who we believe are very important.

We believe that the demands of the indigenous Awajun peoples are legitimate and we are sure that if given the opportunity CPPA will present an objective statement, showing not only how the pandemic affects the health of indigenous peoples, even in an existential way, but they will also show how government actions worsen the challenges that indigenous peoples have to face amid the pandemic.

I am attaching the video statement of Santiago Jesus Manuin Mayan, son of Santiago Manuin Valera and current technical secretary of CPPA. The video is in Spanish.

Shall you have any interest to know more about us, please feel free to get back.

We are looking forward to hearing some positive news back from you.

Yours faithfully,

Rafael Eduardo Molina
Project coordinator
SAIPE-Peru