



"Oil Resistance in the Heart of the World" Indigenous Achuar Leaders in Los Angeles to Demand: Oxy, Clean Up the Peruvian Amazon!

- * **Tomás Maynas Carijano**, visionary elder of the Achuar People of Peru
- * **Andrés Sandi**, Achuar President, Federation of the Native Communities of the Corrientes River Basin (FECONACO)
- * **Lily la Torre**, leading human rights lawyer, Racimos de Ungurahui, Lima, Peru
- * **Q'orianka Kilcher**, Amazon Watch Youth Ambassador, Star of the Motion picture "*The New World*"

MAY 3, 2007

A Special Evening with Achuar Leaders from Peru

7:00 pm Reception, Program 7:30 pm

Bonsorte Design Studio

2401 Lincoln Blvd. Santa Monica, CA

(between Pico and Ocean Park)

Admission is free. Please RSVP to events@amazonwatch.org

MAY 4, 2007

Press Conference and Rally @ Oxy's Annual Shareholders' Meeting

9:00-10:30 am

Outside Fairmont Miramar Hotel

101 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

(corner of Ocean Avenue)

The approximately 12,500 Achuar who live in the northern Peruvian rainforest are some of the most traditional indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin. Their ancestral lands, which they have inhabited since before the arrival of Europeans, are one of the last refuges for countless species of flora and fauna found nowhere else on earth. To reach this region from the capital city of Lima can take up to a week by canoe and bus. Even travel on foot between villages can take days.

In the early 1970s, petroleum was discovered in the Rio Corrientes river basin, the traditional territory of the Achuar, Quichua and Urarina indigenous peoples. Occidental Petroleum, the first foreign oil company to operate in Peru, was given the initial drilling concession (known as Block 1AB), which included over one million acres of pristine rainforest. For over 30 years, Oxy dumped an average of 850,000 barrels per day of toxic oil byproducts from the extraction process directly into rivers and streams used by local indigenous peoples for drinking, bathing, washing, and fishing – approximately 9 billion barrels in 30 years of operation.

As a result of three decades of dumping, the Achuar have unsafe and illegal concentrations of a range of toxins in their bodies, including lead and cadmium. It has also poisoned local waterways to the point where the fish and game populations on which the Achuar depend for survival are no longer fit for human consumption.

Despite Oxy's announcement in December 2006 to withdraw all of its Peru operations, Achuar communities have been left with vast areas of the rainforest that require major remediation from 35 years of negligent oil extraction. On May 3, Earthrights International and Amazon Watch will be releasing the findings of an investigative mission to this region to document the social and environmental impacts of three decades of negligent petroleum production activities on five indigenous Achuar communities. Oxy must take the lead and definitively tackle its historic legacy of toxic contamination.

HELP US HOLD OXY ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS TOXIC OIL LEGACY IN PERU

For more information, to RSVP or to volunteer,
please contact 310-456-9158 or
events@amazonwatch.org

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