

PRESS RELEASE
FROM THE WIXÁRIKA COMMUNITY
OF SANTA CATARINA CUEXCOMATITLÁN
JUNE 3, 2009

To the Public Opinion of Jalisco and the Nation,

The Wixárika community of Santa Catarina Cuexcomatitlán notifies the public that we remain firm in our legal claim against the series of offenses that various governmental officials carried out during their effort to illegally impose the Bolaños-Huejuquilla road last year.

Moreover, out of this struggle for our rights, we have advanced a communal project for a model of development that we aspire to and that responds to our identity and values, and to the sacred relation that as a culture we maintain since time immemorial with our Mother Earth and the essences of life. The same ones that western civilization has erroneously and simply catalogued as natural “resources”, and that by disparaging them as such is provoking unprecedented environmental destruction, throwing a grave shadow on the future of humanity and life in general.

Along the line of this ethical struggle, we sustain the imperative need to construct sustainable development projects as it is also our responsibility to fight against the impunity that permits all types of violations against the peoples and communities of this country. In our case, these violations include the falsification of records and a terrible destruction of our forest, our hills, aquifers, rivers, fences and even homes, all with the utmost lack of respect for people and nature.

Under these considerations, we communicate that in addition to maintaining the agrarian injunction that permitted a judicial suspension of the road project, we also will continue to uphold the denunciation that we presented before the Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA) and the Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) that led to the closure of the project which has since been illicitly continued. On May 29, we presented a suit before the District Judges in Civil Matters against the authorities and contracting businesses for the damages with the objective of obtaining repairs, in some cases impossible, of the damages caused.

We also want to inform the public that we are in the process of presenting a law suit before the Attorney General against the officials and corporations that perpetrated the illegal destruction of the natural environment of our community. We will continue with this effort for justice until those responsible pay for their offenses.

However, we would like to tell you that far from only wanting to pursue the offenses committed against us, our community is placing the utmost efforts toward the construction of a future project that is once and for all dissociated from the atmosphere of simulation, corruption, and limitless greed that has Mexico on the edge of ungovernability.

In this sense, we are developing, with the support of our community technicians and a competition between non-governmental organizations and universities that accompany us, projects for the construction of an intercultural educational model appropriate for our people and culture. At the same time, we are advancing in the necessary investigations and administration toward the integral and sustainable management of our forests, aquifers, fauna, flora, and other life essences that populate along with us Tatei Yurianaka (Our Mother Earth). Through this criteria, we begin to build various aspects of the development of roads that stand as an alternative to the ones that they would like to impose upon us and that, as they are currently proposed, in no way will bring us benefits as they are part of the larger road megaprojects that are at the service of international deals for the transportation of merchandise and the extraction of resources from the territories that they traverse.

For the reasons noted, we invite the citizens of Mexico and the world to think, like us, that it is time to resolutely stop arrogant and corrupt actions from their source of power. But at the same time, build with all of the energy that we are capable of another way through which to apply science, technology and humanities, and develop new roads that will bring to light the new civilizing projects that all living beings and our Mother Earth need.

We also place a demand on all honest governmental authorities to facilitate the development of practices that lead toward our own model of development that is part of our established universal rights. To leave behind the attempts to impose plans that only respond to the predatory business projects that have demonstrated their unfeasibility, and which have furthermore shown their criminal overtaking as seen in the criminalization of diverse social struggles throughout the nation.

Given in Santa Catarina Cuexcomatitlán May 31, 2009

By the Traditional Authorities

Jaime Carrillo Carrillo
Traditional Governor

Benjamín García González
Captain

Florentino Robles Carrillo
Secretary of the Governor

By the Agrarian Authorities

Juan Ávila de la Cruz
President of Communal Goods

Pedro de la Rosa de la Rosa
President of Vigilance Council

Lino Cosío Nazario
Treasurer of the Commisary

Omar Carrillo Carrillo
Secretary of the Vigilance Council

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