

October 30th, 2015

John H. Knox,
UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment

Dear Mr. Knox,

In response to your consultation regarding the methods to promote the implementation of human rights obligations relating to the environment we would like to send you a report presented to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights during its 156th period of sessions.

The report analyzes the patterns of systematic violation of the right to water and consequently of other human rights of individuals and communities by the implementation of extractive and hydroelectric projects. The patterns that characterize this problem are the use of judicial frameworks that favor the appropriation of water resources for extractive projects, ownership of the resource that favor its use for mining projects over human use and consumption, pollution and deterioration of water sources, and the lack of consultation and free, prior and informed consent in the implementation of these projects. The report presents cases from the Latin American region in which the above-mentioned patterns can be identified.

We believe that this analysis can be an important input for your upcoming report.

Sincerely,

Acción Solidaria para el Desarrollo (COOPERACIÓN)
Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH), Bienaventurados los Pobres (BePe)
Colectivo SumajKawsay
Centro de Acción Legal Ambiental y Social (CALAS)
Centro de Derechos Humanos “Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño A.C.” (BARCA-DH)
Centro de Estudios para la Justicia Social ‘Tierra Digna’
Centro de Incidencia Ambiental (CIAM)
Centro de Investigación sobre Inversión y Comercio (CEICOM)
Comité de Unidad Campesina (CUC)
Comitê Nacional em Defesa dos Territórios frente a Mineração
Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación de la Compañía de Jesús (ERIC-SJ),
Fundación para el Debido Proceso (DPLF)
OXFAM
Grupo Internacional de Trabajo sobre Asuntos Indígenas (IWGIA)
Justiça Global
Observatorio Ciudadano, Pensamiento y Acción Social (PAS)
Pax Christi.