

LAND IS LIFE



Dr. Lourdes Tiban
CODENPE
Quito, Ecuador

July 29, 2008

Dear Lourdes,

We cordially write to you to express our concern regarding the current situation of the Zápara people. As you know, there are people who have adjudicated to themselves the name of our Zápara brothers and sisters in order to create and legalize the organization NASAPE. We feel that this is a topic of critical urgency.

For your information, we would like to notify you that the organization that represents the Zápara, elected by the Zápara, is NAZAE. Furthermore, NAZAE has been recognized by CONFENIAE and CONAIE for years. Their work has a national and international history. They work with UNESCO and participate in the annual meetings of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Our organization, Land Is Life, is a coalition of Indigenous peoples of the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. We have been working with the Zápara for five years. We know the Zápara communities and NAZAE's work, and there is no doubt about their legitimate representation.

CODENPE, as the institution responsible for legalizing and registering Indigenous organizations, has the responsibility to assist the leaders of NAZAE in fixing this situation immediately.

As you know, the Zápara have a history of being assaulted by these same people; they have been victims of violations and attempts to assassinate them. You personally know Mr. Washu Mucushigua (who lost an eye) and Mrs. Amada Mucushigua who were attacked by a leader of NASAPE in August of 2007.

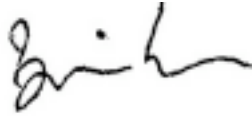
This situation must be resolved immediately. It is a full violation of the rights of the Zápara people. For this reason we must ask you to recognize, legalize and register the new Zápara leadership immediately.

Thank you for your attention,

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Marcos Terena in blue ink, underlined.

Marcos Terena
(Comite Inter-tribal,
Brazil)

Handwritten signature of Brian Keane in black ink.

Brian Keane
(Land is Life,
Director)

Handwritten signature of Viktor Kaisiepo in blue ink, on a light blue background.

Viktor Kaisiepo
(Papua Customary
Council, West Papua)