



DINEH STRUGGLE AGAINST PEABODY COAL CONTINUES

In the wake of fragile ecosystem destruction, desecration of sacred sites, and the depletion of valuable water resources, a major campaign to hold Peabody Coal Company accountable for its actions is being launched by the Dineh peoples of the Four Corners area in the North American Southwest.

Black Mesa/Kayenta mine is the largest strip mine and only coal slurry line in the U.S.

It has been carved into the most sacred area of the Hopi and Dineh people, destroying all homes, grave sites and sacred areas in its path. Even though Peabody has been conducting its mining activities

illegally for 9 years, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and U.S. Department of the Interior have purposely neglected to enforce the law and require Peabody to stop mining with invalid permits. In addition, there have been recent reports of livestock confiscation in the region.

Your immediate action is needed now. The destruction and suffering must be stopped! Help bring justice to the sacred lands of Big Mountain by sending letters and faxes expressing the need to uphold legal mandates to:

Secretary Bruce Babbitt
U.S. Department of Interior
18th and C Streets, N.S.
Washington, DC. 20240
Fax: (202) 208-6956

For more information, please contact:

Marsha Monestersky
Dineh Hopi Alliance
2045 W, 3rd #34
Winslow, AZ. 86047
Fax/phone (602) 289-2707

ECUADORIAN INDIGENOUS MOVEMENT THREATENED

On the evening of October 31, COICA's headquarters were broken into and robbed of over \$6,000 worth of office equipment. The week prior to the incident, COICA was prompted to take extraordinary steps to improve its security when it learned that CONFENAIE's office had suffered a similar break-in.

Earlier in the month, a dead dog was found near COICA's office with messages on it saying, "Mate un indio y haga patria" (be a patriot, kill an Indian) and "Muera Lucho Macas el reformista" (Death to

Lucho Macas, the reformist). The first of these messages has also been painted on numerous walls around Quito. Luis Macas is the president of CONAIE, Ecuador's National Indigenous Federation.

While this hate crime is particularly ominous and disturbing, there is no evidence that it is connected to the burglary. As this type of event is unusual in Ecuador, members of the Indigenous community believe it could signal the emergence of a right wing effort to undermine the movement.

Valerio Grefa, General Coordinator of COICA, has written the Coalition in Support of Amazonian Peoples and the Environment asking for its moral, political and financial assistance.

Please mail or fax letters to President Sixto Durán with copies for the Pichincha police chief. Besides expressing your concern and hope that the government will take steps to protect COICA from threats and violence, your letters should state that we are closely monitoring the situation and will report any future incidents to the US human rights community and NGO's working in solidarity with Indigenous peoples.

Presidente Sixto Duran
Casa Presidencial
García Moreno 1043
Quito, Ecuador
Fax: (593) 2-580-569

More information can be obtained through Dennis Udall, Acting Coordinator for the Amazon Coalition at (617) 728-2578.



Illustration by Oswaldo Guayasamin