

AIDE MEMOIRE

Update of events in Bagua, Amazonas

1. To overcome the difficult situation which arose last week, on Wednesday, June 10, the Peruvian Congress has approved by 58 votes in favour to 49 against, Law No. 29376 which provides for an indefinite suspension of the implementation of legislative decrees 1090 (Law of Forestry and Wildlife) and 1064 (Legal Regime for the Use of Agricultural Land Use) as well as its amendments and regulations.
2. These rules were the source of protests by indigenous peoples. The new law creates the opportunity to produce a substantive and constructive dialogue aimed at reaching an agreement that meets the legitimate concerns and expectations of all concerned parties.
3. To avoid a legal gap, Law 27308 (Law on Forestry and Wildlife) and 26505 (Law of Private Investment in Development of Economic Activities in the Lands of the National Territory and the Peasant and Indigenous Communities) and its amendments, complementary rules and regulations were reinstated.
4. The parliamentary majority considered that the suspension was the best solution to the impasse in the dialogue with indigenous representatives. Other political groups, particularly the nationalist bloc, urged the repeal of the above rules.
5. At the same time and in order to restore a dialogue between all parties, the Government has established, under RS 117-2009-PCM, the National Coordination Group for the Development of Amazonian Peoples. It will be responsible for a Comprehensive Plan of sustainable development for indigenous peoples in the areas of education, health, certification, formation of land and other necessary measures.
6. The Panel, to be installed in 15 working days at the latest, will be composed of 4 representatives of the Executive, the Regional Chairmen of the Amazonian departments (Loreto, Ucayali, Amazonas, San Martin and Madre de Dios) and 10 representatives of the native people of the Amazon. Representatives from civil society organizations will act as facilitators.
7. As a result of the appeal made by the President of the Council of Ministers, the Catholic Church, the Evangelical Churches and the Ombudsman's are marching joint efforts to bring positions together and prevent further violence.

8. Various social organizations have called for a strike today in support of the demands of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon in several places in the country. There have been no confrontations.
9. For further illustration please find attached copies of the legislation mentioned in this document.

Lima, June 11, 2009