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UDAPT Requests Immediate Application of Embargo Over The Sanction The Ecuadorian State Has To Pay To Chevron

The Embargo over the \$106 million in favor of Chevron's victims is valid, claim the representatives of Indians and villagers that won the case for environmental damages against the multinational. With these funds the plaintiffs will initiate environmental reparation processes.

Quito, August 4, 2015.- After the District of Columbia Circuit Appeals Court in Washington this morning ratified the verdict of the Arbitral Tribunal at The Hague (Netherlands), determining Ecuador should pay compensations for \$106 million to Chevron, representatives of the UDAPT (Coalition of Texaco's Victims) urged the Government of Ecuador to apply the judicial embargo affecting this amount.

These actions are protected by the resolution issued on June 27, 2013, by the Presidency of the Provincial Court of Sucumbíos, which was notified to the State Attorney General, the Minister Coordinator of Economic Policies, and to the Minister of Economy and Finance. According to the opinion issued, the \$96 million plus interests and legal costs, should be paid by the State in favor of the plaintiffs against Chevron who won the environmental case heard by the Ecuadorian courts.

It is important to highlight that a first embargo order over the same amount, issued on October 15, 2012 by the Sucumbíos Judge was reversed as the State Attorney's Office claimed the impossibility of paying the credit, given the existence of pending legal actions that included the appeal for annulment filed by the Ecuadorian State before the Dutch courts, as well as the ruling on the appeal. Once all these proceedings have concluded, there are no excuses for the State to fail to comply with the verdict rendered, claimed lawyer Pablo Fajardo, common attorney for the plaintiffs in the environmental process. He also claimed it would not be fair that Chevron, after intentionally causing the worst environmental damage in Ecuador, may force the State to pay the company and not its own citizens.

This embargo is part of the payment of the judgment convicting Chevron issued by the Provincial Court of Sucumbíos and ratified by the National Court of Justice, which condemns the oil multinational to pay over \$9.5 billion to the victims for the reparation of damages caused in the Ecuadorian Amazon. According to Pablo Fajardo, the funds are to be invested on environmental reparation actions, according to what is set out in the judgment.

The recognition and application of the embargo demands from the State respect for the independence and decisions of the Judicial Power, apart from showing the world that in one way or another, Chevron has to obey judicial orders. “By hook or by force, finally the company will pay its debt to the victims and the rainforest that belongs to all Ecuadorians,” said Humberto Piaguaje, Coordinator of the UDAPT.

He also claimed that the \$106 million would be used to directly and immediately initiate actions to repair the over 480 thousand hectares of contaminated lands, which will urgently mitigate damages and contribute to improve life conditions of people in the zone, who currently suffer the highest rates of oil related diseases stemming from the use of oil production chemicals, -many of them lethal-, such as cancer.

This would be the first payment the Ecuadorian victims would receive as a result of the order issued by the Court of Sucumbíos and ratified by the National Court of Justice in a legal process that has already taken 22 years. Plaintiffs’ attorney Pablo Fajardo reiterated recovery actions continue outside of Ecuador and the pronouncement of the Canada Supreme Court is expected in the upcoming months.

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