

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Mr. Zhong Shan, Minister

Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China
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State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council
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Re: SARS-CoV-2 related problems in the mining projects of Toromocho, Marcona, Las Bambas in Peru; Heavy Crude Pipeline, the Trans-Ecuadorian Oil Pipeline System and the Shushufindi Polyduct, and the Mirador Mining project in Ecuador; Condor Cliff-La Barrancosa Hydroelectric Complex in Argentina -immediate action by Chinese institutions is required to meet the demands of local organizations in Peru, Argentina and Ecuador.

Dear Mr. Zhong Shan and Mr. Hao Peng,

Please receive kind greetings on behalf of the Collective on Chinese Investments, Human Rights and Environment (CICDHA), as well as from all the signatory organizations bellow.

As it is known to the public, Chinese enterprises and financiers continue to participate in large infrastructure and extractive projects in the region. The large majority of them have been questioned due to the environmental and social impacts they have spawned. Nevertheless, the challenges generated by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic bring forth new threats to local communities and workers. These threats require immediate and decisive action not only from national governments, but from Chinese enterprises and financiers. In the Annex to this letter we provide a detailed summary of the main flaws of Chinese enterprises in handling the pandemic in the mining projects of **Toromocho, Marcona, Las Bambas in Peru; the rupture of the Heavy Crude Pipeline, the Trans-Ecuadorian Oil Pipeline System and the Shushufindi Polyduct, and the Mirador Project in Ecuador; the Condor Cliff - La Barrancosa Dams in Argentina.**

While we recognize the altruistic spirit of many Chinese entities that have generously donated ventilators, testing reagents, surgical face masks, digital thermometers, and protection suits, in several countries in Latin America, we believe that humanitarian support is not sufficient nor does it solve all the problems related to the pandemic. We regret that the companies **Minera Chinalco Peru; Shougang Hierro Peru; MMG Las Bambas LLC; China Andes Petroleum; Ecuacorrientes LLC (consortium formed by China Railway Construction Company and Tongling Nonferrous Metals Group Holding Company) and the China Gezhouba Corporate Group in association with Hidrocuyo LLC and Electroingeniería LLC** have ignored the requests of workers and local communities related to the temporary suspension of activities, protection of workers and respect for their rights, and the creation of a

confinement circle around the neighboring communities. The creation of a confinement circle is a priority especially for indigenous peoples, and has been proposed as a priority measure to prevent the spread of the pandemic in extremely vulnerable sectors, considering that several cases of workers infected with SARS-CoV-2 have already been registered.

Through this letter we want to request that the Chinese Ministry of Commerce adopts and promotes the implementation by Chinese companies of various measures, and thereby demonstrate the strong commitment for and priority given to the well-being of workers and local communities in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The proposed measures are:

- 1. Design a SARS-CoV-2 pandemic prevention and management plan both at the project site and throughout the entire supply chain, that is, from the point of extraction to the final destination unloading point.** The most important points on the production site and in the supply chain must be closely supervised and regularly audited. This Plan must guarantee total transparency in information and effective coordination and communication with the workers and with the populations of the areas of direct and indirect influence of the project and with other interested parties. The Plan must include the health protocols established by the governments and the national and sub-national health authority, as well as the specific requirements of the workers and the communities directly and indirectly affected by the project. In particular, the request of various local organizations to create “confinement circles” around vulnerable local communities must be met. These confinement circles seek to prevent and restrict the entry of outsiders into the community such as workers and personnel of Chinese companies and their sub-contractors.

This Plan must follow the Guidelines on Environmental Protection in Investment and Cooperation Abroad (Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Environment, February 2013), especially Art. (14) which indicates: *“Companies should design crisis management plans for potential environmental incidents and other emerging incidents based on their nature, characteristics, and potential environmental damage. They should put in place reporting and communication systems to report to local government, environmental agencies, the potentially affected public and the headquarters of companies in China. The crisis management plan should include the organization's structure and responsibilities for crisis management and prevention, alarm systems, procedures and logistics, post-crisis restorations, etc.”*; the Chinese Guidelines for Due Diligence for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains, especially Art. 7.4 which states: *“At identified points in the supply chain, companies should audit their due diligence practices through third parties...”*; the Social Responsibility Guide for Chinese International Contractors (China International Contractors Association, September 2012), especially Art. EO9 which states: *“[Must] Establish and improve response plans, control and address crises and incidents of social responsibility more effectively and prevent an expansion of adverse impacts,”* and the Guidelines for Social Responsibility in Mining Investments Abroad (Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Mineral and Chemical Metals for Import and Export, 2017), especially Art. 3.4.6. which states: *“...Adapt existing due diligence measures to the specific needs of conflict-affected and high-risk areas. If the company is at a key point in the mineral supply chain...third party audits of its policies and due diligence measures are required. When operating in a high risk and/or conflict affected area, take measures to monitor*

commercial relationships, transactions, flows of funds and resources, and manage the risks of acquisition or transaction of mineral resources....”

- 2. Guarantee full respect for the rights of workers regardless of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic context.** We specifically refer to the rights of workers to a safe work environment; to the protection of their health and work day; to stability in the workplace, and to the rights to denounce and protest in accordance with national legislation, international instruments and Chinese guidelines. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic cannot be used as an excuse to detract from any of these rights. On the contrary, in the face of the emergency, efforts must be redoubled to ensure full compliance with labor obligations with specific measures such as conducting testing for SARS-CoV-2 on a regular basis, both to personnel entering and leaving their places of work; the provision of personal protection equipment to all workers; the establishment of safe and dignified stations for isolation of infected workers; the necessary equipment for the companies' health departments so that they are able to provide on-site care in those locations where there are no properly equipped public health centers; and training on health protocols in the workplace and in the place where the project is based. All of these measures must be implemented both at the project site and throughout the supply chain.

The good practices that Chinese companies implement with respect to the aforementioned issues, must follow the criteria of the Social Responsibility Guide for Chinese International Contractors (China International Contractors Association, September 2012), especially Art. HHRR 13 which states: "*[Must] Control and eliminate the hazards that threaten the health and safety of employees...Handle emergency situations to minimize hidden risks to health and safety in the workplace*"; and the Art. HHRR 14 which states: "*[Must]...improve disease prevention measures, especially in cases of contagious diseases...*"; and the Guidelines for Social Responsibility in Mining Investments Abroad (China Chamber of Commerce of Minerals, Metals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters, 2017), in particular Art. 3.6.2 which states: *[Must] "Take all practical measures to prevent deaths, injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Ensuring workplace safety... Address and prevent risks that are not directly related to the workplace, but that could affect your safety (e.g. fatigue, alcohol and drug abuse, highly communicable diseases) ... Provide training in an understandable form and language. Customize health and safety risk training related to employee roles; train designated first-aid personnel and regularly train staff to respond in the event of an emergency."*

- 3. Formation of a grievance mechanism on matters related to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic under the auspices of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.** The seriousness of the impacts caused by a lack of appropriate policies and measures by Chinese companies regarding the prevention and management of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic requires the creation of an instance with authority over such companies that has immediate reaction capacity and which local workers and communities can go to. This mechanism should be easily accessible and its main functions should be the receipt of complaints, investigation thereof, and the definition of remedies for damages caused to claimants.

This Mechanism should be formed under the principles of the Guidelines for Social Responsibility in Mining Investments Abroad (China Chamber of Commerce of Minerals,

Metals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters, 2017), in particular Article 3.4.1 which states: "...Develop a human rights due diligence process, including the establishment of the necessary grievance mechanism, to identify, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts... Develop a reparation mechanism, to provide an effective solution for those affected by impacts...", and Article 3.8.4 which states: *"Establish a formal grievance mechanism that includes the participation of third parties, to ensure a timely response and effective management of community issues. Ensure that all stakeholders can use the grievance mechanism, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups. The grievance mechanism must be legitimate, accessible, predictable, equitable, transparent and rights-compatible, and should be able to provide support for learning and continuous improvement. The claims system will allow anonymous complaints to be filed in a secure environment..."*

The Chinese government has stated in several official documents that Chinese companies are "the face of China" abroad and that they should establish a "model of foreign investment and cooperation in the field of respect for the law, honesty and reliability, resource savings and environmental protection, oriented towards people and the construction of a harmonious society."¹ We believe that the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic is testing the Chinese government's ability to realize its commitments and guidelines.

Yours sincerely,

1. Agricultural Development Center (Centro de Desarrollo Agropecuario – CEDAP).
2. ALDEA Foundation (Fundación ALDEA).
3. Alejandro Labaka Foundation (Fundación Alejandro Labaka).
4. Alternative Center for Social Research and Popular Education (Alternativa Centro de Investigación Social y Educación Popular).
5. Amazon Frontlines.
6. Amazon Center of Anthropology and Practical Application (Centro Amazónico de Antropología y Aplicación Práctica – CAAAP).
7. Amazonian Community of Social Action Condor Mountain Range (Comunidad Amazónica de Acción Social Cordillera del Cóndor – CASCOMI).
8. Amazon Watch.
9. Andean Center for Education and Promotion José María Arguedas (Centro Andino de Educación y Promoción José María Arguedas – CADEP).
10. Andean Development Center (Centro de Desarrollo Andino – SISAY).
11. ARARIWA Association (Asociación ARARIWA).
12. Argentine Birds (Aves Argentinas).
13. Argentine Wildlife Foundation (Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina).
14. Association for Human Rights (Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos – APRODEH).
15. Autonomous Territorial Government of the Wampis Nation (Gobierno Territorial Autónomo de la Nación Wampis).
16. Bank of Forests Foundation (Fundación Banco de Bosques).
17. Blessed are the Poor (Bienaventurados los Pobres).

¹ Chinese Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, and Commission for the Administration and Supervision of State-owned Assets. Circular to Regulate Foreign Investment and Cooperation of Chinese Companies. (June 2018).

18. China-Latin America Sustainable Investments Initiative (Iniciativa para las Inversiones Sustentables China-América Latina – IISCAL).
19. Citizen Proposal Group (Grupo Propuesta Ciudadana).
20. Civil Society Platform on Business and Human Rights (Plataforma de la Sociedad Civil sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos).
21. Cocama Association of Development and Conservation San Pablo of Tipishca (Asociación Cocama de Desarrollo y Conservación San Pablo de Tipishca – ACODECOSPAT).
22. Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Amazonía Ecuatoriana – CONFENIAE).
23. CooperAcción.
24. Collective on Chinese Investments, Human Rights and Environment (Colectivo sobre Inversiones Chinas, Derechos Humanos y Ambiente - CICDHA).
25. Critical Geography Collective (Colectivo de Geografía Crítica).
26. Dignity Foundation (Fundación Dignidad).
27. Disaster Prevention Center (Centro de Prevención de Desastres – PREDES).
28. Ecuadorian Coordinator of Organizations for the Defense of Nature and Environment (Coordinadora Ecuatoriana de Organizaciones para la Defensa de la Naturaleza y el Medio Ambiente - CEDENMA).
29. Ecumenical Center for Promotion and Social Action North (Centro Ecuménico de Promoción y Acción Social Norte – CEDEPAS Norte).
30. Ecumenical Commission on Human Rights (Comisión Ecuménica de Derechos Humanos – CEDHU).
31. Ecumenical Foundation for Development and Peace (Fundación Ecuménica para el Desarrollo y la Paz – FEDEPAZ).
32. Ecuarunari.
33. Educational Services Promotion and Rural Support (Servicios Educativos Promoción y Apoyo Rural – SEPAR).
34. Environment and Natural Resources Foundation (Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales – FARN).
35. Environmental Culture Ecological Cause Foundation (Fundación Cultura Ambiental Causa Ecologista – CAUCE).
36. Equity Peru (Perú Equidad).
37. Federation of Kañaris Organizations of Azuay (Federación de Organizaciones Kañaris del Azuay – FOA).
38. Flora Tristan Women's Center (Centro de la Mujer Flora Tristán).
39. GRUFIDES.
40. Human Rights and Environment (Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente – DHUMA).
41. Human Rights Without Borders (Derechos Humanos sin Fronteras – DHSF).
42. Institute for Development and Amazon Peace (Instituto para el Desarrollo y la Paz Amazónica – IDPA).
43. Institute of Studies of Andean Cultures (Instituto de Estudios de las Culturas Andinas – IDECA).
44. Labor Advisory Center of Peru (Centro de Asesoría Laboral del Perú – CEDAL).
45. LABOR Pasco Center (Centro LABOR Pasco).
46. Land is Life.
47. Latin American Network Churches and Mining - Peru Node (Red Latinoamericana Iglesias y Minería – Nodo Perú).

48. Manuela Ramos Movement (Movimiento Manuela Ramos).
49. Marianist Association (Asociación Marianistas – AMAS).
50. Muqui Network (Red Muqui).
51. National Association of Centers (Asociación Nacional de Centros – ANC).
52. National Coordinator of Human Rights (Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos – CNDDHH).
53. National Initiative Group for the Rights of the Child (Grupo de Iniciativa Nacional por los Derechos del Niño – GIN).
54. Natura Institute (Instituto Natura).
55. Network Joining Hands (Red Uniendo Manos).
56. Observatorio Minero Ambiental y Social del Norte del Ecuador – OMASNE (Environmental and Social Mining Observatory of Northern Ecuador).
57. Pachamama Foundation (Fundación Pachamama).
58. Panamazonic Ecclesial Network (Red Eclesial Panamazónica – REPAM).
59. Peru Solidarity Forum (Forum Solidaridad Perú).
60. Peruvian Center for Women Micaela Bastidas (Centro Peruano de la Mujer Micaela Bastidas).
61. Population Promotion and Development Center (Centro de Promoción y Desarrollo Poblacional - CEPRODEP).
62. Pro Human Rights Collective (Colectivo Pro Derechos Humanos - PRODH).
63. Promotion of Life (Fomento de la Vida - FOVIDA).
64. Regional Human Rights Advisory Foundation (Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos - Inredh).
65. Research, Education and Development Center (Centro de Investigación, Educación y Desarrollo – CIED).
66. Research and Economic, Educational, Social and Cultural Studies Center (Centro de Investigación y Estudios Económicos, Educativos, Sociales y Culturales – CIESCU).
67. Research, Documentation and Population Advisory Center (Centro de Investigación, Documentación y Asesoría Poblacional - CIDAP).
68. Rural Educational Services (Servicios Educativos Rurales – SER).
69. Santa Cruz River – El Calafate (Río Santa Cruz - El Calafate).
70. Sara Lafosse Center for Research and Social Promotion (Centro de Investigación y Promoción Social Sara Lafosse - CIPS).
71. Saramanta Warmikuna Women’s Network (Red de Mujeres Saramanta Warmikuna).
72. Southern Oil Observatory (Observatorio Petrolero Sur – OPSUR).
73. Water, Development and Democracy Network (Red Agua, Desarrollo y Democracia – REDDAD).

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Annex of Projects Affected by SARS-CoV-2

Toromocho Mining Project, Peru

Operator: Mining Chinalco Peru

- On May 7, the Chinalco Peru LLC Unified Workers' Union decreed the complete halt of the Tunshuruco mining camp of Chinalco, in Junin, demanding that the company carry out tests to rule out 600 workers who were confined with a worker whose test came out positive. Up to that day, 264 cases of mining workers, infected nationally, had been reported.²
- On April 27, the Chinalco Peru LLC Unified Workers' Union reported non-compliance with SARS-CoV-2 safety and contagion prevention regulations. This was confirmed by a report issued by the National Superintendency of Labour Control which verified the lack of health conditions in the camp; the fact that four workers infected with SARS-CoV-2 were taken to Lima, that several workers remained in solitary confinement and having to use unsanitary sanitation facilities. The Union said at least 30 workers were infected and that conditions in the mining camp are deplorable.³

Marcona Mining Project, Peru

Operator: Shougang Hierro Peru

3. On April 28, the Shougang Federation of Miners reported to the National Superintendency of Labor Control the improper granting of vacations to workers which was also done without consulting them after failing to comply with the Emergency Decree No. 38-2020, Supreme Decree No. 11-2020-TR and Superintendency Resolution No.-766-2020-SUNAFIL. Workers claim that the Chinese company seeks to impose decisions outside of dialogue and the lawful provisions.⁴
4. On March 17, Shougang Hierro Peru LLC continued to operate in the Marcona district of Ica, despite Supreme Decree No. 044-2020-PCM, according to which workers from private and public companies should remain in mandatory isolation for 15 days to avoid SARS-CoV-2 contagion. However, according to the Shougang Workers' Union, the Chinese state-owned company forced workers to continue their work without providing the minimum safety equipment. Likewise, the transport on the company's buses was carried out without ensuring social distancing.⁵

² Junin: Chinalco workers halt activities due to COVID-19 contagion. (May 6, 2020). Retrieved from <http://conflictosmineros.org.pe/2020/05/07/junin-trabajadores-de-chinalco-paralizan-actividades-ante-contagio-de-covid-19/>

³ More than 200 mining workers have coronavirus in Peru. (April 28, 2020). Retrieved from <https://kaosenlared.net/mas-de-200-trabajadores-mineros-tienen-coronavirus-en-peru/>

⁴ Shougang Federation of Mining Workers. (April 28, 2020). The [@FedMinShougang](https://twitter.com/FedMinShougang) complaints to [@SunafilPeru](https://twitter.com/SunafilPeru), on improper granting vacations and without consulting workers. [Status Publishing] Twitter <https://twitter.com/FedMinShougang/status/1255216889141346307/photo/1>

⁵ Minera Shougang continues to operate and unleashes a spill in Marcona. (March 17, 2020). Retrieved from <https://wayka.pe/minera-shougang-continua-operando-y-desata-derrame-en-marcona/>

Las Bambas Mining Project, Peru

Operator: MMG Las Bambas LLC

- On April 30, an MMG truck caused the spill of toxic material near the Huinquiri community. The dwellers claimed that the company should take more precautions, especially in times of quarantine due to the pandemic. After making their claims, the dwellers were repressed by the national police.⁶
- On April 4, the farming communities of Pumamarca and Quehuira, located in the mining corridor, closed their borders to stop the passing of the trucks of the mining company MMG Las Bambas and thereby reduce the chances of contagion by SARS-CoV-2.⁷
- On April 3, the Single Defense Front of the Velille District, manifested itself rejecting "vigorously and categorically the action of the mining company MMG Las Bambas LLC which continues to operate with the transport of fuel irresponsibly and unseeded by the road that crosses the District of Velille, putting the health of the population at serious risk."⁸
- On March 18, the Cotabambas - Apurimac Province Defense Coalition, in coordination with the competent authorities of the province, stated, "...we urge the mining company Las Bambas [MMG Las Bambas LLC] to assume its responsibility to abide by the national emergency in order to stop the coronavirus."⁹
- On March 16, the mayors of the town center and the Challhuahuacho Peasant Federation of Cotabambas province reported that MMG Las Bambas LLC was not taking the corresponding actions according to the opinions of the Peruvian State as the company's staff were transiting normally through the streets of Challhuahuacho.¹⁰
- On March 16, the Peasant Federation of Challhuahuacho district stated: "The district of Challhuahuacho is a highly pandemic town, due to the presence and large influx of people from the different cities of Peru and abroad, who permanently come to work due to the development of the exploitation of the Las Bambas mine by MMG, in addition to workers from the subcontractors of Las Bambas stay overnight and dine in the establishments of the Challhuachocho district, exposing our inhabitants (...) We require the mining company MMG Las Bambas to comply with emergency decree No. 26-2020, which declares a national emergency due to the serious circumstances affecting the life of the nation as a result of the coronavirus, also provides for the suspension of activities of public and private workers in the country (....) In the morning hours 60 MMG las Bambas workers entered the health center to rule out symptoms linked to coronavirus which affects and exposes the general population of the District of Challhuahuacho (....)"¹¹

⁶Cusco: spill of toxic material of Las Bambas mine during the quarantine. (May 1, 2020). Retrieved from <http://conflictosmineros.org.pe/2020/05/01/cusco-derrame-toxico-minera-lasbambas-cuarentena/>

⁷News Outside Bamba Apurimac. (April 4, 2020). The farming communities of Pumamarca and Quehuira, which are located in the mining road corridor, have closed their borders to prevent contagion by COVID-19. [Published Status] Facebook.

⁸Cusco: peasant communities warn about Las Bambas mine's operations. Observatory of Mining Conflicts in Peru. (April 4, 2020). Retrieved from <http://conflictosmineros.org.pe/2020/04/04/cusco-comunidades-campesinas-alertan-sobre-operaciones-de-mina-las-bambas/>

⁹Pronunciation of the Cotabambas - Apurimac Province Defense Coalition. (March 18, 2020).

¹⁰Pronouncement of the mayors of the different municipalities of the province of Cotabambas. (March 18, 2020).

¹¹Pronouncement of the Leaders of the Challhuahuacho District. (March 16, 2020).

Mirador Mining Project, Ecuador

Operator: Ecuacorrientes LLC (consortium formed by China Railway Construction Company and Tongling Nonferrous Metals Group Holding Company)

- The Emergency Operations Committee (COE, by its acronym in Spanish) of the Pangui Canton, where the Mirador project is located, demanded a halt to the operations and temporarily suspended the transfer of copper concentrate to the ports to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in the project from March 20.¹² However, it is surprising that according to official information, the Mirador copper mine, operated by Ecuacorriente LLC, on March 27, 2020, exported more than 36 thousand tons of copper concentrate for a reference sale value of US \$56.3 million. The shipment departed from the Maritime Port of Puerto Bolivar (El Oro) to China.¹³

Rupturing of three pipelines: Heavy Crudes Pipeline - (OCP, by its acronym in Spanish), the Trans-Ecuadorian Pipeline System - (SOTE, by its acronym in Spanish), and the Shushufindi polyduct, Ecuador

Operators: The Heavy Crude Oil Pipeline System is owned by China Andes Petroleum, Spain's Repsol, United States' Occidental Independiente, Argentina's Pampa Energy, and the UK's and France's Perenco independent.

- On April 7, rupturing of three pipelines: the Heavy Crudes Pipeline - (OCP, by its acronym in Spanish), the Trans-Ecuadorian Pipeline System - (SOTE, by its acronym in Spanish), and the Shushufindi polyduct – Quito, in the sector of San Rafael, canton el Chaco of the Amazon province of Napo, Ecuador. With this incident, at least 15,800 barrels of oil were poured into the tributaries of the Coca and Napo rivers, making it the most significant crude oil spill of the last 15 years in Ecuador. In the context of the pandemic, the oil spill has meant that affected communities are more prone to the risks of the emergency, on the one hand, because crude oil clearing actions have meant that the OCP company deploys external equipment, which does not comply with safety protocols and protection supplies, and that workers hired in the area do not have social security.¹⁴
- April 29, indigenous, religious and human rights organizations brought protective action with interim measures for 120,000 people affected by the spill and 150 indigenous communities of Kichwa and Shuar nationalities. The lawsuit alleges negligence of state and operating companies, because the incident could have been prevented.
- May 11, a month after the incident, in 60 Kichwa communities skin conditions, dizziness, severe headaches and dengue in girls, boys and adolescents were found - all diseases associated with river pollution and hunger. In addition, symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 have been presented in four of these communities, which have not been attended by

¹² Emergency Operations Committee of El Pangui restricts access to the largest copper mine in the country. (March 20, 2020). Retrieved from <https://www.primicias.ec/noticias/economia/coe-pangui-restringe-movilidad-obreros-mirador/>

¹³ Emergency Operations Committee of El Pangui restricts access to the largest copper mine in the country. (March 20, 2020). Retrieved from <https://www.primicias.ec/noticias/economia/coe-pangui-restringe-movilidad-obreros-mirador/>

¹⁴ Nadia P. (April 30, 2020). Ecuador: Indigenous people fear famine due to oil spills in the Amazon during the pandemic. Retrieved from: <https://www.dw.com/es/ecuador-ind%C3%ADgenas-temen-hambruna-por-derrames-de-petr%C3%ADo-en-la-amazon%C3%ADa-durante-la-pandemia/a-53297986>

companies, and the communities have also been unable to access to the public health system. Additionally, geographical distance and mobility restrictions due to the pandemic make difficult the proper attention for those affected. As a reparation measure, OCP has provided few communities with water and food kits for four days, which are not enough to deal with the crisis, do not meet their nutritional needs and are not culturally appropriate.

Condor Cliff and La Barrancosa Hydroelectric Complex, Argentina

Contractor: China Gezhouba Corporate Group in partnership with Hidrocuyo LLC and Electroingeniería LLC

- On March 31, the Independent Journalistic Organization of the province of Santa Cruz reported that the company had issued an "evacuation order" on March 19, stating that under the "Preventive and Compulsory Social Isolation" from midnight, from on May 20 to 31 (the time to which the social distance had been established, and extended to May 24 today). However, a countermand demanded quarantine within the complex, while workers asked to be evacuated. Contractors whose workers were also "trapped" explained to staff that those who were leaving could not return and if the companies lost their contract, they would be out of work.¹⁵
- March 21, the Railways Automotive Union (UTA, by its acronym in Spanish) reported that some workers had been mistreated by Chinese personnel after claiming their right to solitary confinement under the presidential decree. The aggressors would have argued that the "quarantine is done at and during work." Whistleblowers said dams were not given health guarantees and the quarantine order was not respected; on the contrary, the company expected employees to continue to work without face masks, gloves, disinfectants or any other forms of protection, while Argentine, Bolivian, Chilean and Chinese workers were transported on buses for whom no information is available. The workers confirmed that in Condor Cliff there were two suspected cases of coronavirus "that were transferred to El Calafate, but everything was done silently and without informing the media about this contingency." With the passage of the days in quarantine, the conditions of overcrowding, lack of epidemiological control, lack of testing and health quality of the dam's workers (La Barrancosa and Condor Cliff) stand out.¹⁶

¹⁵ Dams: a project with isolated workers and no reliable information about what is happening within the project. (March 31, 2020). Retrieved from <https://opisantacruz.com.ar/2020/03/31/represas-una-obra-con-trabajadores-aislados-y-sin-informacion-fehaciente-de-lo-que-ocurre-dentro-del-proyecto/>

¹⁶ At the dams, the UTE told drivers that the quarantine is done "at and during work." The UTA talks about persecution and abandonment of personnel. (March 21, 2020). Retrieved from <https://opisantacruz.com.ar/2020/03/21/en-las-represas-la-ute-les-dijo-a-los-choferes-que-la-cuarentena-se-hace-adentro-y-trabajando-la-uta-habla-de-persecucion-y-abandono-de-personal/>