



IGLESIA LUTERANA EVANGELICA PERUANA

ILEP

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CONSTITUIDA EL 31 DE MAYO DE 1993, REGISTRO DE ASOCIACIONES FICHA 15168. AS. 1

Pronouncement of the Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, heir of a rich tradition and committed to human dignity, is part of the Lutheran community that comprises diverse peoples and cultures, represented in the Lutheran World Federation.

- 1) We recognize that creation is a gift from God, and the Amazon an expression of that gift, because it is a source of life and hope for humankind. Therefore, we hold ourselves responsible for protecting the ecosystem that ensures the diversity of life (Genesis 2).
- 2) We recognize God's image in the people of the Amazon, and in their culture we discern God's presence, the source of their human dignity, which cannot be debased by claims of cultural superiority.
- 3) We recognize that human society is impossible without laws and institutions, and that these must foster cultural diversity and sustainable development to guarantee its survival, beginning with those in society who are most vulnerable. These laws and institutions should not be threatening for communities due to the voracity of economic interests.
- 4) We are witnesses to innumerable postponements of Amazon peoples, who are not considered to be officially part of Peru, as evidenced by decrees 994, 995, 1060, 1064, 1020, 1081, 1083, 1089, and 1090, which -- aside from being unconstitutional -- prove that interest in the Amazon is based on the exploitation of its biological diversity, and not on the human value of its population, who are the principal heirs of its wealth.
- 5) We are witnesses that in Peru violence does not resolve problems, but rather aggravates them and creates others of a different sort. Therefore, we are against every form of violence as a solution, wherever it may come from, and we grieve with the families of the police officers and civilians killed as a result of the intolerance and intransigence of the parties involved in the dispute.
- 6) We undertake to contribute to an open, just and sincere dialogue in our communities, together with the Attorney General, the Peruvian Bishops' Conference, and other national institutions.
- 7) We call on the President of Peru and on Congress to heed the cry of the country and to proceed to revoke the aforementioned decrees, so as to facilitate a rapprochement with the Amazon communities who saw their land rights threatened.

Lima, 12 June 2009.

Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church