

Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (SERNA)
Edificio Principal de la SERNA,
1389 and 4710
Tegucigalpa,
Honduras

17 February 2012

Dear Dr. Rigoberto Cuellar,

We, 95 civil society organisations from 31 countries, are writing in relation to the CDM Project 3197: *'Aguan biogas recovery from Palm Oil Mill Effluent (POME) ponds and biogas utilisation - Exportadora del Atlántico, Aguan/Honduras'* which was approved by SERNA With the reference SSERNA-164-2008 on November 13 2008.

Minister, the undersigned organisations wish to express their deepest concerns regarding CDM Project 3197 situated in the Bajo Aguan Valley. According to information provided by the courts and district attorneys of Tocoa and Trujillo, the Special Attorney for Human Rights, public statements of other state departments, journalists and media in addition to national and international civil society and human rights organizations¹ it appears that violence against peasant communities and grave human rights violations continue to occur with absolute impunity in the Bajo Aguan region.

On 5 November 2011, the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) expressed its deepest concerns on the case Bajo Aguan in its final report of the 143rd regular session: "The IACHR is particularly concerned about the situation in the Bajo Aguán region of Honduras, where 42 individuals affiliated with campesino organizations, as well as a journalist and his spouse, reportedly were killed between September 2009 and October 2011, in the context of an Agrarian conflict. In a hearing on this situation, the Commission received information regarding the criminalization of the campesino struggle and the militarization of the area, which has reportedly placed the peasant farmers and human rights defenders in the Bajo Aguán in a state of high risk."²

According to public information available at national and international level, the owner of the project 3197 plays a key role in the Agrarian conflict in the Bajo Aguan. Furthermore, the security guards employed by the project owner have been denounced by local, national and international organisations as main agents of the violence undertaken against the farming

¹ See for example the final report of the International Observation Mission "Honduras: Human rights violations in Bajo Aguan", July 2011, <http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/honduras573ang.pdf>

² http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2011/117.asp

communities, as well as direct perpetrators of the assassination of five farmers on November 15th 2010 (El Tumbador case).

We are dismayed by the fact that, according to information provided by the authorities so far, no progress has been made in the investigation of these crimes which increases the risk that these acts of violence will remain unpunished. This is alarming when considering the seriousness of the situation and the potential economic consequences for Honduras and its international reputation.

The signatories urge the SERNA to re-examine in detail whether the project 3197 complies with all criteria set out for granting an approval letter by you. Following this review process we demand timely disclosure of the results including the criteria itself. We furthermore urge you to ensure that the Hondurian authorities fulfil their duty to investigate and punish with expedience, all crimes and human rights violations committed in Bajo Aguán, and pursue penal action against both the material and intellectual authors of these acts.

We trust that you will take this matter seriously,

Sincerely,

95 civil society organisations from 31 countries (in alphabetical order):

1. Accion Ecologica Redlar Ecuador, Ecuador
2. Alianza Ambiental Pro Desarrollo Integral Unidos Por Panamá – AAPRODIUPA, Panama
3. Alianza Mexicana por la Autodeterminacion de los Pueblos (AMAP), Mexico
4. Alianza para la Conservación y el Desarrollo (ACD), Panama
5. Alianza pro Panama, Panama
6. Aniban ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (AMA), Phillipines
7. ANAFAE, Honduras
8. Angikar Bangladesh Foundation, Bangladesh
9. Antèn Ouvriye (A.O), Haiti
10. Asociacion ANDES, Cusco, Peru
11. Asociación Ambientalista de Chiriquí – ASAMCHI, Panama
12. Asociación de Ecología Social de Costa Rica, Costa Rica
13. Australians for Democratic Honduras, Honduras
14. ATTAC Japan, Japan
15. Belgian Climate Justice Platform, Belgium
16. Bend-Condega Friendship Project, US
17. Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha, India
18. Biofuelwatch, UK/US
19. Bolivian Climate Change Platform, Bolivia
20. Both ENDS, Netherlands
21. Community alliance for global justice (CAGJ), US
22. CDM Watch, Belgium

23. CENTRO ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT, Nicaragua
24. Centro Hondureño de Promoción para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CEHPRODEC), Honduras
25. CIEL - Center for International Environmental Law, US
26. CIFCA - Copenhagen Initiative for Central America and Mexico, Belgium
27. CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORK NIGERIA (CCN), Nigeria
28. Colectivo revuelta Verde, Mexico
29. Comité Solidario Graciela Garcia, US
30. Coordinadora Para La Defensa de Tierras y Aguas (CODETIAGUAS), Panamá
31. EcoNexus, UK
32. ENDA Tiers Monde, Senegal
33. El Movimiento Social en Defensa del Rio Sogamoso, Colombia
34. Federasyon Peyizan Patizan Makandal (FEPPAM), Haiti
35. FIAN International, Germany
36. Food Chain Workers Alliance, US
37. Foro Agrícola de Honduras, Honduras
38. Forum of Collective Forms of Cooperation, India
39. Fòs Refleksyon ak Aksyon sou Koze Kay (FRAKKA), Haiti
40. Friends Of the Earth Sydney, Australia
41. Friends of the Earth US, US
42. Fundación Popol Nah Tun, Honduras
43. Global Justice Ecology Project, US
44. Grassroots International, US
45. Himal Prakriti - A Trust for Nature, India
46. Instituto Mexicano Para el Desarrollo Comunitario, A.C. (IMDEC), Mexico
47. International Rivers, US
48. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Instituto de Matematicas, Mexico
49. Instituto Mexicano de Gobernanza Medioambiental AC, Mexico
50. Institute for Justice and Democracy, Haiti
51. International-Lawyers.org, Switzerland
52. Integrated Rural Development of Weaker Sections in India, India
53. Klima ohne Grenzen gemeinnützige GmbH, Germany
54. Lernen – Helfen – Leben e.V., Germany
55. Marea Creciente Mexico, Mexico
56. MEROU DEVELOPPEMENT, Democratic Republic of Congo
57. Mesa Nacional de Cambio Climatico de Guatemala, Guatemala
58. MISEREOR, Germany
59. MITF Task Force on the Americas, US
60. Movimiento Agrario Indigena Zapatista (MAIZ), Mexico
61. Movimiento Ambientalista Prosalud Apaxco-Atotonilco, Mexico
62. Nicaragua Center for Community Action (NICCA), Nicaragua
63. Nord-Sud XXI, Switzerland
64. òganizasyon Popilè pou Edikasyon Popilè (CANDEL), Haiti
65. Oilwatch Mesoamerica, Costa Rica
66. Orissa Development Action Forum, India

67. Orissa Adivasi Adhikar Abhijan, India
68. Organizacion de base Mujeres del Común, Colombia
69. Paryavaran Mitra, India
70. Participatory Research & Action Network-PRAN, Bangladesh
71. Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, US
72. Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (PIDHDD), Ecuador
73. REDS, Karnataka, India
74. Red Regional Agua, Desarrollo y Democracia, Perú
75. Rettet den Regenwald e.V., Germany
76. Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC), India
77. Regional Latinoamericana de la Unión Internacional de Trabajadores de la Alimentación, Agrícolas, Hoteles, Restaurantes, Tabaco y Afines (Rel-UITA), Uruguay
78. Rights Action, US
79. Rights Action, Canada
80. Salva la Selva, Spain
81. Sant Edikasyon Popilè Jacques Steph Alexis, Haiti
82. Sant Edikasyon Popilè Perannò Lendi (SEPPEL), Haiti
83. SHELTER, Bangladesh
84. Smt. Nandini Satpathy Memorial Trust (SNSMT), India
85. Solutions Climat, Ivory Coast
86. South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP), India
87. South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy (SADED), India
88. Sustainable Energy & Economy Network at the Institute for Policy Studies, US
89. SUSWATCH, Honduras
90. Union de Comunidades Indigenas de la Zona Norte del Istmo, Mexico
91. UNES, El Salvador
92. Unión Popular Valle Gómez, Mexico
93. Uttarakhand Save the Rivers Campaign, India
94. WATER INITIATIVES ODISHA (WIO), India
95. World Development Movement, UK

