**Chevron – US rules re Ecuadorian pollution litigation**

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It is clear that the government of Ecuador and calculating lawyers are using the indigenous people of the Amazon to mislead the public and extort money from Chevron Corporation. Rather than give in to these tactics, Chevron has fought back, exposing the Ecuadorian judgment against the company as a fraud and holding the perpetrators of that fraud accountable.

Texaco Petroleum (TexPet), which became a subsidiary of Chevron in 2001, was a minority partner in an oil-production consortium in Ecuador along with the state-owned oil company, Petroecuador, from 1964 to 1992. After TexPet turned its remaining share of the oil operations over to Petroecuador in 1992, pursuant to an agreement with Ecuador, TexPet agreed to conduct a remediation of selected production sites while Petroecuador remained responsible to perform any remaining cleanup. The government of Ecuador oversaw and certified the successful completion of TexPet’s remediation and fully released TexPet from further environmental liability. Petroecuador, however, failed to conduct the cleanup it promised and has continued to operate and expand oil operations in the former concession over the past 20 years.

In an amicus brief filed in support of Chevron, a group of international human rights and anti-corruption experts, including former presidents of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, a former president of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and other prominent jurists, stated, “Advocates for human rights do not advance human rights by violating them, and the corrupt pattern of fraud, extortion, and bribery described by the District Court, if accurate, denies the fundamental human rights to due process of law and a fair trial.”

In 2014, a U.S. federal court found the Ecuadorian judgment against Chevron to be the product of “egregious fraud”. The nearly 500-page ruling, found that Steven Donziger, the lead American lawyer behind the Ecuadorian lawsuit against the company, violated the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), committing extortion, money laundering, wire fraud, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations, witness tampering and obstruction of justice in obtaining the Ecuadorian judgment and in trying to cover up his and his associates’ crimes. The court also found that Amazon Watch was a “central player in Donziger’s publicity campaign” to pressure Chevron into settling the lawsuit. On August 8, 2016, a U.S. federal appeals court unanimously affirmed the findings of the district court. The appeals court noted that a “parade of corrupt actions…including coercion, fraud and bribery” had been committed by Steven Donziger and his team.

 Additional information can be found at chevron.com/Ecuador.