



## INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

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June 17, 2011

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Mr. Olivier de Shutter,  
Palais de Nations,  
Geneva, Switzerland,  
Via email, [sfood@ohchr.org](mailto:sfood@ohchr.org); Ulrik Halsteen, [uhalsteen@ohchr.org](mailto:uhalsteen@ohchr.org)

### **RE : International Indian Treaty Council Communication in conjunction with the Special Rapporteur's Mission to Mexico**

Dear Special Rapporteur de Shutter,

Please receive our respectful greetings.

We understand that you will be meeting with NGOs during your visit to Mexico and that representatives of the Yaqui community in Sonora are on the agenda and will be in attendance.

Please find attached several testimonies collected from residents of the Yaqui Nation at Rio Yaqui, Sonora, on the indiscriminate use of pesticides and other agro-chemicals that severely affect the community and their right to food. We also attach translations into English.

Several of these testimonies address the community's own production of their means of subsistence, and the government sponsored programs to use pesticides and other dangerous products in that production, leading to deaths and infirmities of community members.

In previous communications we have addressed the issue of the contamination of water by these same toxic chemicals that run off in the irrigation canals, and the fact that many in the community use this contaminated canal water for their daily household use, for drinking, bathing, washing clothes, etc. As water is an essential component of the right to food, we believe your examination of this issue is well within your mandate.

Of particular concern in these testimonies is the lack of information that should be provided by Mexican governmental authorities over their purpose and proper use and the lack of regulation that is required for their identification and application.

We believe it would be appropriate to ask the Mexican government in your meetings with them:

1. If they are aware of the situation of the indiscriminate use of pesticides and other dangerous agro-chemicals in and near the Yaqui community, as well as Huichole Indigenous lands and territories in the State of Sinaloa?
2. If they are, what steps they have taken to examine the situation of the Huichole Indigenous Peoples and the Yaqui Nation to ensure that the application of agro-chemicals by agri-business, as well as the chemicals they recommend to the community for the production of food for their own use, do not affect the health of the community?
3. What remedies have they applied or intend to apply to the egregious situation of unregulated and indiscriminate use of agro-chemicals, particularly in the aerial spraying of these chemicals and toxic substances?
4. How does the government of Mexico provide, or intend to provide access to safe drinking water and water for sanitation, as well as safe water for the production of Yaqui and Huichole means of subsistence?

These are major concerns of the community and we very much appreciate your inquiries, consistent with your mandate.

Thank you again for your kind consideration,

Sincerely,



Alberto Saldamando, General Counsel,  
International Indian Treaty Council

cc: Yoonie Kim, [YKim@ohchr.org](mailto:YKim@ohchr.org)  
Francisco Villegas, [pacovillegas@hotmail.com](mailto:pacovillegas@hotmail.com)  
Andrea Carmen, [andrea@treatycouncil.org](mailto:andrea@treatycouncil.org)

Ing. Antonio Yocupicio  
Testimony:

My testimony is about my brother Leopoldo Yocupicio as in his different employments were tied to toxics, including on my father's lands where he helped with [their] application, In truth we are responsible but there are different offices that should regulate the product, supervising, training; 75% of the field workers lack knowledge of toxics.

The men and youth only know that toxics kill pests and do not know the primary or secondary effects, the [effect of] drift, the damage to the future, it is because of that that I join the campaign of Ing. Villegas that he is carrying out in favor of our community actions of struggle. I think it is very important to form a committee so that we together strongly block and that what happened to my brother; let us do it for the children.

Sincerely

[signature]  
Ing. Antonio Yocupicio  
Interviewee

[signature]  
Francisco Villegas Paredes  
Inteviewer

Interview and Testimony  
Mr. Germán Yocupicio  
80 years of age

My testimony consists of a young man that lived in my house, he was not my son but I adopted him. He was approximately 18 years old and helped us some field work [and] on certain occasions would apply pesticides [product] from a back pack without any problem apparently would apply [pesticides] whenever he was asked.

I think that from the first time he applied [pesticides] he was poisoned as he began losing weight and vomited[.] When the doctor attended him [he] diagnosed chronic leukemia. The young man died. The same product that he applied during those years was metallic parathion, about 47 years ago and the same product is still being applied.

[Question] What can we do Don Germán, to have a common front against this problem of pesticides in our region?

[Answer] First form a committee that spans the whole community including teachers educators, heads of household, youth, students and senior adults.

Sincerely,

[signature]  
Mr. Germán Yocupicio  
Interviewee

[signature]  
Francisco Villegas Paredes  
Interviewer

Mr. Juan Hurtado

Testimony:

I am a farmer 80 years old and I suffer from the effects that  $\text{NH}_2$ , (anhydrous ammonia) I was irrigating when they installed nodriza (the products) at the taking of water it was my surprise that at the moment of opening it began to emit gas it was not installed properly and the problem that happened to me that I absorbed the product and it burned my insides, I was hospitalized for 25 days, the company owners of the product did not take responsibility, and I thought that they act that way because we are not organized, no unity of support exists and the companies don't care about our community; that is why we need to form a committee to struggle for the benefit of all.

Sincerely

Mr. Juan Hurtado

Interviewee

[signature]

[signature]

Francisco Villegas Paredes

Interviewer

Enrique Bacasegua Espinosa  
Testimony

I live in the neighborhood of La Nopalera beaten during the times of planting on account of the pesticides it has fallen on me to see with sadness that we are poisoned, we are affected in recent studies it was found that 20% of the children in the indigenous community are or are born affected, and I think that the first thing that should be done by the authorities is to take away the landing strip for airplanes, that should be installed away from the perimeter of the pueblo, that the applications be done directly on the plants, that the agencies register the applications and supervise them to have major control.

I join in this project to struggle in favor of the children.

Sincerely

[signature]  
Enrique Bacasegua Espinoza  
Interviewee

[signature]  
Francisco Villegas Paredes  
Inteviewer

Interview and Testimony  
Mr. Amado Madriles Valencia  
Suffering from Colon Cancer

Mr. Amado comments that as a young man he lived in the community named Las Guasimitas, an agricultural area 100% his parents and brothers dedicate to agricultural work He also commented on the lack of studies to understand the kinds of agro-chemicals their effects on the organism, their consequences for the future that left him the tracks of cancer of the colon that is now being treated with chemotherapy. I mention this because in my community (Las Guasimitas) we are used to living with pesticides without the smallest control and lack of supervision by the official agencies (SAGARPA).

[Question:] Do you think that a mobilization could be made in conjunction with the traditional authorities?

[Answer] I think so but well planned, first starting with the basics, know the product [chemical] that they are applying, the manner of application, periods of application and the reasons for the application.

Sincerely,

[signature]  
Amado Madriles Valencia  
Interviewee

[signature]  
Francisco Villegas Paredes  
Interviewer

Testimony and Interview

Mrs. Faustina Buitimea Gotogopicio

I am going to speak on the chemicals that are affecting our community in 1980 this neighborhood (La Nopalera) was not affected by the chemicals, there was more control.

One could go walking along the highway to pueblo Vicam without smelling chemicals today the reality to be able to go past we have to cover our mouths the Testimony that I will say is about a young man that lived at the Loma de Guamúchil he was fumigating with a backpack, his back got wet and as he was accustomed to walk in huaraches the product entered through his skin, this person of the name of Miguel Buitimea died, and I think that we should together form a committee and approach the traditional authorities, the offices of government to protest against the agro-chemicals.

Sincerely

[Signature]  
Faustina Buitimea G.  
Interviewee

[signature]  
Francisco Villegas Paredes  
Interviewer

ING. ANTONIO YOCUPICIO

TESTIMONIO:



Mi testimonio es de mi hermano Leopoldo Yocupicio ya que en sus diferentes trabajos estuvo ligado a los tóxicos incluyendo las tierras de mi padre donde ayudaba en las aplicaciones, efectivamente tenemos responsabilidad pero también existen diferentes oficinas que deberían regular los productos,

supervisarlos orientarlos; el 75 % de los trabajadores de campo carece del conocimiento de los tóxicos.

Los señores y jóvenes nomas saben que los tóxicos matan a las plagas y desconocen los efectos primarios, secundarios, su tras locación, su daño a futuro, es por eso que yo me uno ala campaña del ING. VILLEGAS ya que esta realizando a favor de nuestra comunidad acciones de lucha. Considero que es muy importante hacer un comité para que juntos hagamos un block fuerte y no pase lo que con mi hermano; hagámoslo por los niños.

ATTE

*Antonio Yocupicio*  
ING: ANTONIO YOCUPICIO  
Entrevistado

*Francisco Villegas Paredes*  
FRANCISCO VILLEGAS PAREDES  
Entrevistador

Entrevista y Testimonio

SR. Germán Yocupicio

Edad 80 Años.



Mi testimonio consiste en un muchacho que vivía en mi casa, no era mi hijo pero lo adopte tenía aproximadamente 18 Años nos ayudaba en algunas labores de campo en cierta ocasión tiro producto con mochila sin ningún problema aparentemente seguía aplicando cuando se le requería

Yo pienso que desde la primera vez que aplico se enveneno ya que empezó adelgazar vomitaba cuando se le atendió el medico le diagnostico leucemia crónica, falleció el muchacho dicho producto que aplicaba en esos años fue el parathion metílico., hace 47 años: Y todavía se aplica dicho producto

¿Qué podemos hacer don Germán para hacer un frente común contra este problema de los tóxicos en nuestra región? Primeramente formar un comité que abarque a toda la comunidad incluyendo maestros educadores, padres de familia, jóvenes estudiantes y adultos mayores.

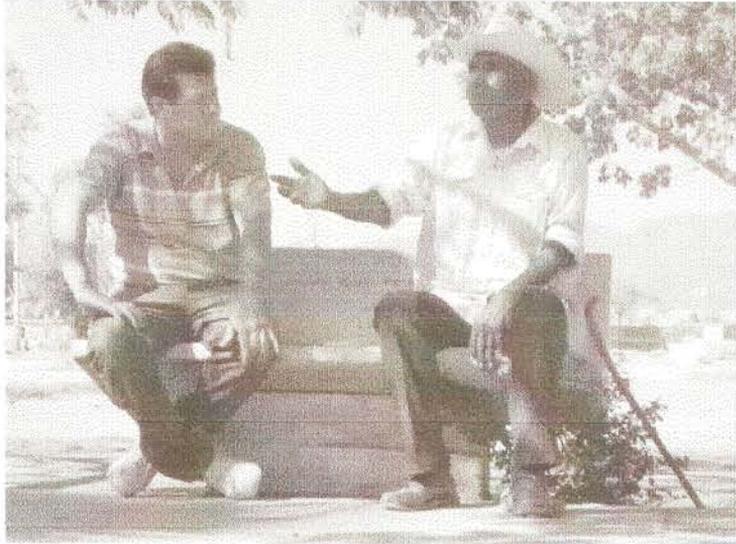
ATTE

GERMÁN YOCUPICIO  
SR. GERMAN YOCUPICIO  
Entrevistado

FRANCISCO VILLEGAS PAREDES  
Entrevistador

Sr. JUAN HURTADO

Testimonio:



Soy agricultor de 80 años, y padezco de los efectos que me dejó el  $\text{NH}_3$  (amoníaco anhidro) me encontraba regando cuando instalaron la nodriza (productos) a la toma de agua de riego, cual fue mi sorpresa que al momento de abrirla empezó a tirar gas no estaba bien instalada y el problema que a mi me ocasiono fue que absorbí el producto y me quemó el

interior del cuerpo, estuve hospitalizado por 25 días, la empresa dueña del producto no se responsabilizó, yo pienso que actúan así por que no estamos organizados, no existe unidad de apoyo y a las compañías no les importa nuestra comunidad; por eso debemos formar un comité para luchar en beneficios de todos.

ATTE

FRANCISCO VILLEGAS PAREDES  
Entrevistador

SR. JUAN HURTADO  
Entrevistado

P.A. ELVIA HURTADO

Testimonio:



Yo vivo en el barrio de la nopalera, azotado en épocas de siembra por los plaguicidas, me a tocado ver con tristeza intoxicados, nosotros estamos afectados; en estudios recientes se detecto que el 20 % de los niños en la comunidad indígena son o nacen afectados, yo pienso que los primero que deben hacer las autoridades, es quitar la pista

de aviones, que la reinstalen fuera del perímetro del pueblo, que las aplicaciones sean directas a las plantas, que las dependencias registren las aplicaciones y las supervisen para tener un mayor control.

Yo me uno a este proyecto para luchar a favor de los niños.

ATTE

*Enrique Bacasegua Espinosa.*  
ENRIQUE BACASEGUA ESPINOSA

Entrevistado

FRANCISCO VILLEGAS PAREDES

Entrevistador

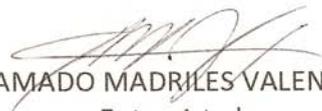
ENTREVISTA Y TESTIMONIO.  
SR. AMADO MADRILES VALENCIA.  
PADECIMIENTO CANCER DE COLON.



Comenta el Sr. AMADO que muy joven el vivía en la comunidad denominada las guasimitas, área agrícola 100 %, sus padres y hermanos dedicados a los trabajos agrícolas comentó también que la falta de estudios para entender las clases de químicos, sus efectos en el organismo, sus consecuencias a futuro, dejaron en un servidor las huellas del cáncer de colon que

actualmente me estoy tratando a través de quimioterapia. Comento esto porque en mi comunidad (las guasimitas) acostumbrábamos a convivir con los plaguicidas sin el menor control y falta de supervisión por las dependencias oficiales (SAGARPA).

¿Consideras que se pueda hacer alguna movilización en conjunto con las autoridades tradicionales? Creo que si pero bien planeado, primeramente empezar por lo básico, conocer que producto están aplicando, formas de aplicación, periodos de aplicación y motivo de aplicación.

  
AMADO MADRILES VALENCIA  
Entrevistado

ATTE.

  
FRANCISCO VILLEGAS PAREDES  
Entrevistador

## Testimonio y Entrevista

Sra. Faustina Buitimea Gotogopicio



Voy a hablar sobre los químicos que están afectando a nuestra comunidad en 1980 este barrio (la nopalera) no estaba afectada por los químicos, había mas control.

Podría uno ir caminando por loa carretera a pueblo Vicam sin que oliéramos químico, hoy en la actualidad para poder pasar tenemos que taparnos la boca, el testimonio

que voy a decir es de un muchacho que vivía en la loma de guamúchil, se puso a fumar con mochila, se le mojó la espalda también como se acostumbra a andar en huaraches le entro el producto por la piel, falleció dicha persona de nombre Miguel Buitimea, yo creo que juntos debemos formar un comité y llegar hasta las autoridades tradicionales, oficinas de gobierno para protestar contra los agroquímicos.

*Faustina Buitimea G.*  
SR. GERMAN YOCUPICIO  
Entrevistado

ATTE

  
FRANCISCO VILLEGAS PAREDES  
Entrevistador