

FINAL DECLARATION

THIRD NATIONAL ENCOUNTER OF DAM-AFFECTED PEOPLE AND IN DEFENSE OF RIVERS (MAPDER)

MEXICO CITY DECLARATION

In Mexico City, on the 18th of March, 2006, we have held the **III Encounter of the Mexican Movement of Dam-Affected People and in Defense of Rivers (MAPDER)**. The 385 delegates from communities affected by dams and by hydroelectricity projects in the country, as well as from communities affected by river pollution, come from 11 states: Jalisco, Guerrero, Michoacán, Chiapas, Coahuila, Morelos, Nayarit, Distrito Federal, State of México, Hidalgo and Oaxaca, together with guest organizations from Bolivia, Columbia, Spain, the United States and Canada.

In the context of the 4th World Water Forum and of the **International Forum in the Defense of Water**, the organizations participating in the Third MAPDER Encounter ratify our position against the neoliberal model. The only thing this model has left us, after 20 years of implementation, is poverty, lies and marginalization. The government strategy seeks to privilege maximum profits employing a development scheme which facilitates the appropriation of strategic resources by a powerful few and by multinational corporations thus affecting indigenous peoples.

We offer our congratulations for the fact that in Mexico the **Latin American Water Tribunal**, an ethical and independent tribunal, is holding session. We believe that it represents an important effort seeking to combat the absence of environmental justice which prevails in Mexico and Latin America. The Latin American Water Tribunal is an alternative environmental justice initiative which can contribute to the resolution of water-related problems, and to the management of rivers, lakes and lagoons.

We celebrate the fact that at this same time a series of national and international alternative events in the defense of water, rivers, land and biodiversity are being held, organized by indigenous peoples, and social and civil organizations; it is clear that we are not alone. It is also evident that these movements are growing and becoming stronger, and creating and strengthening bonds between organizations in cities and rural areas in our country, in Latin America and internationally.

In the year that has elapsed between the second and third National MAPDER Encounter, we have successfully resisted the constant aggressions of the Mexican government against our communities, affected by diverse hydraulic megaprojects, especially against our sisters and brothers who oppose **the La Parota Dam in the state of Guerrero**.

We celebrate the definitive cancellation of the **San Nicolás Dam in the state of Jalisco** as a result of the struggle of the affected communities and the support of MAPDER. Likewise, we celebrate the cancellation of the **Itzantún Dam** project and the definitive suspension of the **Uixtán I and II, Usumacinta and Saconeja dams in the state of Chiapas**.

We also celebrate the certain definitive cancellation of the La Parota Dam in the state of Guerrero.

We denounce the company Electricidad del Istmo as the party responsible for constructing the hydroelectric plant which will affect 10,000 people from the community Nueva Santa María Jalapa del Márquez, in the state of Oaxaca, in conspiracy with the state government.

IN THE III MAPDER ENCOUNTER WE DEMAND:

1. The definitive cancellation of the following dams: La Parota in Guerrero, Arcediano and El Zapotillo in Jalisco and La Yesca in Nayarit and Jalisco.

2. The suspension of the construction work and the flooding of the communities affected by the El Cajón Dam in the state of Nayarit.
3. That the water level of the reservoir not be raised and more turbines not be installed at the hydroelectric plant of the Benito Juárez Dam, as this would result in the further displacement of 10,000 people from the community Nueva Santa María Jalapa del Márquez, in the state of Oaxaca.
4. The definitive destruction of the La Venta Dam, installed in the Ejido la Palma, municipality of Juan R. Escudero, Tierra Colorada, in the state of Guerrero, as it has completed its useful life.
5. The dismantling of all of the country's dams that have completed their useful life, thus guaranteeing the freeing of the affected rivers and the reparation of the environmental damage and the damage done to the affected communities.
6. That the repression and threats to the leaders of the Resistance Movement cease, especially against our companion Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz of the La Parota Dam, María Guadalupe Lara of the Arcediano Dam, and Francisco Villa of the El Cajón Dam. Cessation as well of threats to and repression of the members of the diverse organization that support the Movement.
7. The immediate liberation of our companion Margarito Castillo Manrique from the ejido Dos Arroyos, opponent of the La Parota Dam, prisoner in the prison facility in Acapulco, Guerrero since December 16th, 2005.
8. **We condemn the murder of our companion Tomás Cruz Zamora of Huamuchitos, Guerrero, killed on September 18th, 2005. As well as the murder of our companion Eduardo Maya Manrique of the Ejido Dos Arroyos, Guerrero, killed on January 29th, 2006. Both were opponents to the construction of the La Parota Dam.**

IN THIS ITS THIRD ENCOUNTER, MAPDER:

1. Continues to strengthen and consolidate itself as a Movement, creating connections with diverse national and international networks with which it shares the struggle in defense of water and biodiversity, including the Guatemalan Front Against Dams and the Latin American Network against Dams and for Rivers, their Communities and Water (REDLAR).
2. Offers its thanks for the support of our companion Alfredo Zúñiga, expert hydrologist from Jalisco who passed away after the Second Encounter.

With this declaration MAPDER continues with the struggle of resistance in defense of our rivers, water, land and communities and against the construction of dams in our country.

Signed this 18th day of March, 2006, in Mexico City, by the following ORGANIZATIONS:

Dam-Affected Communities:

La Parota, San Juan Tetelcingo – Guerrero. Arcediano, San Nicolás, El Zapotillo, La Yesca - Jalisco. El Cajón, La Yesca - Nayarit. Benito Juárez - Oaxaca. Cañón de la Cabeza and El Tigre – Coahuila.

Guerrero: Consejo de Ejidos y Comunidades Opositores a la Presa La Parota (CECOP); Afectados por la Expropiación en Punta Diamante; Coalición Ecologista no a la Presa la Parota.

Jalisco: Comité Pro Defensa de Arcediano AC; Dilo AC; Fundación Cuenca-Lerma-Lago Chapala-Santiago, AC; Federación Estatal Agronómica; Afectados de la presa La Yesca municipio de

Hostotipaquillo; Instituto Vida AC; Amigos de la Barranca AC; Instituto de Derecho Ambiental AC (IDEA); Consejo Indígena Campesino; Instituto Mexicano para el Desarrollo Comunitario AC (IMDEC); Pastoral Social de Guadalajara; Consejo Ciudadano del Agua; Poder Ciudadano de Tuxpan Jalisco; Amigos del Lago de Chapala; Madre AC; Estudiantes de la Universidad de Guadalajara.

Nayarit: Afectados de las presas El Cajón; Kupuri, AC.

Chiapas: Educación para la Paz AC (EDUPAZ); Centro de Investigaciones Económicas y Políticas de Acción Comunitaria AC (CIEPAC); Promotora de Sindicatos y Organizaciones de Chiapas.

Oaxaca: Afectados por la Presa Benito Juárez; Colectivo Corta mortaja; Unión de Comunidades Indígenas de la Zona del Istmo AC (UCIZONI); Centro de Derechos Humanos Tepeyac del Istmo de Tehuantepec AC; Colectivo Pos-Huandí.

Coahuila: Afectados por las Presas Cañón de la Cabeza y El Tigre; Biodeser AC; Cañón y Sierra de Simulco AC.

Mexico City: Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Social; Centro Educativo Tenochtitlan; Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia; Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas; Centro de Derecho Ambiental AC (CEMDA); Espacio DESC; Frente de Trabajadores de la Energía; PRT; Estudiantes de la UNAM; Convergencia de Organismos Civiles; UPRESS; Comité Nacional de los 63 Pueblos Indígenas AC; El Barzon; Alianza Mexicana por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos (AMAP) (UCEZVIVE); Estudiantes de la UAM Iztapalapa; Sección 10 SNT; Regional Azcapotzalco Sección XI, X, SNT Y CNTE; Estudiantes del Instituto Politécnico Nacional.

State of Mexico: Movimiento Mazahua; Defensa del Río Temascaltepec.

Morelos: Centro de Derechos Humanos de Morelos; Pueblo Alto Balsas.

Michoacán: Organización Social para el Desarrollo.

Hidalgo: En defensa del Río Tula, Valle del Mezquital del Valle de Hidalgo.

Bolivia: Confederación Nacional de Naciones Indígenas Originarios de Bolivia.

Canada: Cree people from Canada.

United States: International Rivers Network (IRN); Oh-tam native people from Arizona.

Spain: Coordinadora de Afectados por Grandes Embalses y Trasvases (COAGRET).

AGREEMENTS AND IMMEDIATE ACTIONS OF THE MOVEMENT

MAPDER:

1. Is part of and will continue to participate in the Coalition of Mexican Organizations for the Right to Water (COMDA).
2. Launches the campaign **¡AGUAS!** In defense of our rivers, water, land and our communities and against the construction of dams in our country.
3. Forms the Promoter Team of the Movement.
4. As one of the first activities of the Campaign **¡AGUAS!**, from May 3rd till the 9th it will hold the Caravan **¡AGUAS! EN MOVIMIENTO**, which will travel through Guerrero, the State of México, Jalisco and Nayarit, to strengthen the resistance of the people affected by LA PAROTA, THE CUTZAMALA SYSTEM, ARCEDIANO, EL ZAPOTILLO, LA YESCA AND EL CAJON.
5. Will launch a call for the establishment of Permanent International Camps in LA PAROTA, GUERRERO AND EL CAJÓN, NAYARIT.
6. Next Encounter: March 2007, Coahuila, to strengthen the struggle of the people affected by the Cañón de la Cabeza and El Tigre dams. **WE´LL SEE YOU THERE !**

RIVERS WITHOUT DAMS

LIVING COMMUNITIES!