

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



July 5th, 2019

Mario Abdo Benítez
Presidente de la República
Presidencia de la República del Paraguay
Palacio de Gobierno
El Paraguayo Independiente entre O'Leary y Ayolas
Asunción, Paraguay

Indigenous Community Facing Forced Eviction

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to ensure that the **Tekoha Sauce Indigenous community** is protected from forced eviction.

We are deeply concerned about reports from Amnesty International regarding the **displacement** of these peoples due to the construction of the Itaipú Binational Hydroelectric Plant in the 1970s. Since then, the **Tekoha Sauce Indigenous community** has been seeking comprehensive reparations. It is with great precedence that you take action to ensure that reparations are made unto these peoples.

In accordance with the Paraguayan Constitution as well as other international human rights standards, it is within your duty to provide adequate protection from forced eviction and to **uphold Indigenous communities' human rights**; it is within the rights of **Tekoha Sauce people** to reside within their ancestral territory as stated in Article 64 of the Paraguayan Constitution and Article 16 of the International Labour Organization and Indigenous and Tribal People Convention No. 169.

We ask that you address not only the matter of this forced eviction in a timely fashion but also the pending lawsuit by the "Itaipú Binacional" hydroelectric company against the community's leaders, **Cristóbal Martínez and Amada Martínez**. Finally, we ask that the President ensure that **the Tekoha Sauce Indigenous Community** is protected from future evictions and that their ancestral territory and civil liberties are respected.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sierra Rae".

Sierra Rae
President
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Hayashi".

Brandon Hayashi
Vice President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc. Her Excellency C. Ines Martínez Valinotti, Ambassador for Paraguay