



ADHMA Bolivia Statement

UPR Info's pre-session

19 de noviembre 2024

Issues addressed in the statement:

- Indigenous people
- Environment
- Environmental human rights defenders

Mercury pollution affecting Bolivian indigenous people

High levels of mercury in the bodies of our Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon #Bolivia

Recommendations: impacts of MERCURY CONTAMINATION on INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

1. Develop and implement a National Action Plan on mercury use and management by December 2025.
2. Reduce mercury emissions in cooperative mining by 50% in the next three years and train 2,000 cooperative miners in mercury-free mining techniques.
3. Guarantee Free, Prior and Informed Consultation, according to international standards, respecting the norms and procedures of our indigenous peoples, and our right to non-consent, starting in 2025.
4. (Review and) Abrogate Mining and Metallurgy Law 535, which allows unconstitutional privileges to the so-called “cooperativist” mining sector.

Recommendations: impacts of MERCURY CONTAMINATION on INDIGENOUS WOMEN.

1. Abrogate Mining and Metallurgy Law 535, which promotes mining activities in protected areas and indigenous territories with irreversible impacts on our lives and health as women, girls, youth and adolescents.
2. Determine at the beginning of 2026 with greater precision the number of people affected by gold mining through an exhaustive study, with a view to compensating the damages.
3. Establish a comprehensive reparation mechanism for women victims of mercury contamination before the next UPR.

Fires and deforestation in the Bolivian Amazon

In 2019, fires were reported to have affected 57,000 km². 130% the size of Switzerland!

In 2024 alone, approximately 110,000 km² were lost due to the fires.

Recommendations: FIRES AND DEFORESTATION

1. Repeal laws 337, 502, 739, 740, 741, 952, 1098, 3874, 1171, and the supreme decrees 3874 and 4334 that encourage fires and deforestation through uncontrolled burning.
2. Reduce the number of fires by 30% for the next year, compared to the average of the last five years.
3. Eradicate forest fires, especially in protected areas and indigenous territories.

Attacks against ENVIRONMENTAL and LAND DEFENDERS

We have recorded and documented between 2017 and 2024 a total of **259 incidents or attacks against environmental and territorial defenders**, collecting complaints from more than 90 victims.

The vast majority are related to extractive activities.

Recommendations on VIOLENCE AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL AND TERRITORIAL DEFENDERS

1. Abrogate Law 351 and its Regulatory Decree No. 1597 and all norms that threaten the right to defend human rights, particularly the right to free association.
2. Investigate all attacks and allegations of reprisals, intimidation, threats and disproportionate use of criminal proceedings against human rights defenders, particularly against leaders and members of indigenous and aboriginal peasant nations and peoples, and particularly against women defenders of territory and the environment, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in its latest report.
3. Review and amend article 232 bis of the Penal Code on intrusion in mining areas that leads to the prosecution of environmental defenders.
4. Create norms and policies for the protection of human rights defenders in accordance with the Escazú Agreement.

Gracias!
Thank you!

