

**MEDIUM: RADIO CARAVANA**  
**PROGRAM: PRESIDENT'S RADIO PROGRAM**  
**DATE: April 28, 2007**

**(Rafael Correa speaks about several topics in his radio program. The part where he mentions Texaco appears below.)**

**President Rafael Correa:**

“On Thursday, we traveled to Amazonia, one of the most fascinating trips we have taken. We went to verify *in situ* the damages left behind by the multinational Texaco in its 30 years of operation, and, of course, because we are in the third world, just dump the trash, right? Let those people die. In the first world, these gentlemen would have been behind bars a long time ago for doing this. Believe me, I was outraged to see how they have treated us; the pits were sitting there exposed. They were supposed to have undertaken environmental remediation in some pits; what they did was cover them with dirt; you dig a hole of less than a meter and you get tar. Our farmers plant [crops] there; you can image how toxic the harvest is. The water smells of gasoline because of all the pollution there is.

In this administration, we are going to plan everything, an overall plan to relocate those people, just as is being done with the emergency situation in Tungurahua. They are absolutely analogous cases. We will give them new lands and housing so that they no longer have to live in those polluted areas. In any event, we would not want to think that only because third world lives and nature are involved, it's not important. If a multinational company had done this in the first world...What Texaco has done in Amazonia is 30 times bigger than the EXXON VALDEZ spill a few years ago in Alaska, in the United States, and it was a worldwide scandal, wasn't it? We wouldn't like to think that something 30 times worse is not a scandal just because we are only poisoning and killing people in the third world, people in poor countries.

Anyway, unfortunately Ecuadorians are also involved in this. Chevron-Texaco has lawyers defending it, lawyers who sell out their country and are willing to sell their souls, their country and their family for a fistful of dollars. And we also have people from Petroecuador; in '98 an official document was signed stating that the remediation was complete when many of the pits had not even been covered. I cordially call on the State Prosecutor to issue a comptroller's report establishing the criminal liability of the Petroecuador executives who signed that rotten document. They said the remediation was complete when nothing had been cleaned up. And so that these proceedings can proceed and the criminal trials can begin against these corrupt individuals who have sold their country by saying that the remediation was complete when the contamination was visible.

In any event, a big hug in solidarity to our comrades in Amazonia, especially to Luis Yanza and to so many people who for so many years have fought to see justice done. My dear Lucho [Tr. Note: familiar for Luis], my dear friend Pablo, etc., you are an example for us.

We were also able to verify that Petroecuador continues to use poor practices which pollute; but it is not only that - it's that with that so called neoliberalism, privatization came in and Petroecuador stopped doing the environmental remediation some years ago and many private environmental remediation companies were created, and, do you know what is happening now? The pipeline is being purposely cut to create spills and contracts for those companies; there is corruption inside and outside Petroecuador. People inside Petroecuador who are willing to shamelessly award contracts to those same companies and people outside Petroecuador, I say this with shame, often people from the very Amazonia communities, who are willing to cut the pipe for environmental remediation and so that they can be indemnified. This has to stop.”