

## STATEMENT OF THE BUREAU OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE BASIN OF GUAYATAYOC AND SALINAS GRANDES



below signatories live since ancient times the basin of the Lake of Guayatayoc and Salinas Grandes all were legally recognized by the State.



We are descendants of the peoples that originally inhabited these lands, and we have learned from our grandparents to care for and protect our territory, since the 19th century as part of the Argentine State. As indigenous communities we have made permanent claims so that they titularicen we land we inhabit. With joy and hope we have received the notice of the recognition of our rights. We imagine that we would finally be able to realize the full possession of our lands.

However, to date we have not succeeded, the Provincial Government does not comply with ordained by the Constitution or by the Court ruling which orders as well. However, we will continue to fight, using all the legal tools existing to achieve the full return and regularisation of the same. During the past year, with concern, we began to be mute



witnesses of a new activity in the region, no one told us nothing despite rights requiring that we consult (national Constitution, article 6 of ILO Convention 169). We learned by rumors and media press, which had been discovered lithium in the basement of salares them Puna of Salta and Jujuy. All announcements of the Government, realise the importance of this new venture for the national and international economy. However, no one said anything about how this new exploitation we can

affect the communities and to our territory: las salinas to the springs of water, pasture, to our cattle, the Pacha, our customs and beliefs, etc. In short: our lifetime. First we use the authorities to inform us, but we were told that not passing anything. Seeing that movements continued and silence, we met all the sisters communities and checking that the Salta Government had same behavior, in the month of November, 2010 decided to bring an action for amparo before the Supreme Court of Justice against the provincial Government of Jujuy, Salta and the national State, by: "for the manifestly arbitrary and

illegal authorization and/or any administrative act issued by the authorities of each province"that they granted permissions of exploration and/or search warrants or exploitation of minerals, in the territory inhabited by the indigenous communities, without having complied with the rules of due process and the necessary guarantees to enable access to the process and the full exercise of their rights under the national Constitution and international instruments to free, prior and informed consultation. "Requesting the Court providing for the immediate cessation of work or activities that make mining companies, in the area reported, until both are established the necessary mechanisms to ensure that the rules of due process". At the moment we are waiting for the response of the Court. We also reject subpoenas that some communities are compulsively receiving from the hands of the mining companies to a meeting in mining environmental management unit, to deal with assessments of environmental impact of mining companies. We reiterate, NO SE HA completed the consultation on A LAS communities to any project of exploration or prospecting. We also learn from news media of the Declaration of lithium as a strategic resource, without previous consultation to the communities that inhabit the area of the basin Salinas Grandes.

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