

## OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT RAFAEL CORREA OF ECUADOR

HE Rafael Correa  
President  
Republic of Ecuador

17 September 2013

Dear Mr. President:

As concerned academics and authors from many countries, we are writing in support of Ecuador's initiative to refrain from exploitation of the heavy crude oil of Yasuní-ITT.

Along with thousands of other world citizens, we look to the Yasuní-ITT initiative as a pioneering step in the international struggle for a post-fossil-fuel civilization. We have been inspired by the determination of the Ecuadorian public to rejuvenate the initiative following your government's recent decision to abandon it.

Accordingly, we are extremely concerned at reports that your government is attempting to repress the voices of the majority of Ecuadorians who continue to support the Yasuni proposal. We understand that efforts are under way to block a public referendum on the question, that press freedom is being curtailed, and that students exercising their right of dissent are being threatened with expulsion from their schools.

We will continue to follow the debate in Ecuador in hopes that a democratic solution to the question can be found, and that the proposal to leave petroleum in the ground in ITT, and to continue to respect the rights of the indigenous peoples who live there, does not die.

Yours sincerely,

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