

This week marks the tenth anniversary of the U.S.-Peru trade deal being signed. That agreement provides a stark warning about the Trans-Pacific Partnership's (TPP) environmental threats.

[Urge your member of Congress to oppose the TPP.](#)

The Peru pact was the first trade agreement to have an enforceable environment chapter.

Its backers promised that these terms would preserve Amazonian rainforests and curb wildlife trafficking. It was supposed to prohibit rollbacks on environmental standards and human rights. The TPP's environment chapter is based on these very terms.

But in 2014, the Peruvian government enacted a package of laws aimed at attracting foreign investment by weakening environmental and labor safeguards.(1) The trade agreement made no difference, even with a Democratic president responsible for enforcing it.

**The laundry list of illegal timber violations in Peru is well-documented.**

Even the government of Peru revealed in 2014 that out of all the wood slated for export, 78 percent had been harvested illegally. In 2015, that number jumped to 94 percent.

Were illegal timber operations stopped? Were timber industry rule-breakers jailed? No, these findings led only to the firing of the head of Peru's forestry oversight agency.(2) And despite outcry from citizens and civil society organizations here and in Peru, the U.S. has largely turned a blind eye.

**Sadly, in Peru, those who stand up for the forests and their indigenous communities are often met with intimidation and even death.**

There have been dozens of assassinations of environmental activists in the Peru deal's 10 years. In 2014, Peru was ranked the fourth most dangerous country in the world to be an environmentalist.(3)

The most heinous example in this tragic saga occurred on June 5, 2009, in what is called the "Bagua Massacre." Several thousand indigenous demonstrators, including many women and children, convened to protest against decrees providing new access to exploit their Amazonian lands for oil, gas and logging that had been enacted to comply with the pact's investor rights requirements. Peruvian security forces attacked the protesters and 32 people were killed.(4)

[Email your representative to reverse this horrifying trend by stopping the TPP.](#)

The Peru deal also provides an outrageous example of how corporations can use the investment provisions of trade deals — like those in the TPP — to challenge domestic policies and demand taxpayer compensation.

For years, a company known as Doe Run Peru repeatedly neglected its contractual obligations to clean up its metallic smelter complex in La Oroya, Peru — one of the most lead-polluted sites on earth.

When the Peruvian government finally refused to grant the company a third extension to meet its environmental obligations, Doe Run's parent company, the U.S.-based Renco Group Inc., then sued the government of Peru in an investor-state arbitration tribunal for \$800 million. Pollution from a reopened plant continued, and the corporate tribunal has yet to rule about compensation.

**As terrible as all these accounts are, the TPP — which includes the U.S., Peru and 10 other countries — is even worse than the Peru deal.**

In fact, while the Peru agreement required signatories to implement and enforce in their domestic laws the environmental standards of seven multilateral environmental agreements, the TPP includes only one of these standards. Yes, the TPP's environmental chapter rolls back the environmental standards for trade deals set during the George W. Bush administration.

And the TPP expands on the sinister investment rules of the Peru deal, newly empowering 9,200 additional foreign companies to challenge U.S. laws and 19,000 additional U.S. companies to attack environmental policies in the other TPP countries.

**First, we need our members of Congress to prevent further harm by stopping the TPP.**

**Then, we need a new model of trade that puts people and the planet first.**

[Email your representative now to stop the TPP.](#)

Thanks for all you do.

In solidarity,

Melanie Foley  
Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch

Sources:

1. ["Peru's story haunts the TPP" in \*The Hill\*](#)
2. [Sierra Club's "The Peru Trade Deal Turns 10"](#)
3. [Global Witness' "Peru's Deadly Environment"](#)
4. ["Fatal Clashes Erupt in Peru at Roadblock" in \*The New York Times\*](#)