To whom it may concern:

AWEE-OWAHH! A Waoroni tribe member sings an ancient tribal song as he sharpens his spear.  Across the village, a Waoroni woman is cooking dinner.  WAAAA! Around her back is a crying child held in a sling.  Down by a river, a few male Waoroni people are hunting in the luscious Ecuador Amazon Rainforest.  The Waoroni tribe has been living and currently is living in the Ecuador Amazon Rainforest. They have existed since the Incans and the Spanish conquistadors.  That’s over a thousand years!  To this day, they still practice the same traditions that were created in beginning.  Although these native people have survived for longer than anyone can understand, it is the present that counts now.  The Waoroni people are the last native people to live freely in the wild.  However, their freedom may end soon. 

Unfortunately, Chevron, the ninth largest oil company in the world, and the Ecuadorian government have decided to utilize 8 million acres of the beautiful Ecuador Amazon Rainforest for oil production.  Try to imagine 8 million acres of the flourishing, beautiful, and unique Ecuador Amazon Rainforest wasted for the production of black, slimly oil that will pollute our Earth.  This horrible choice made by Chevron and the Ecuadorian government will drastically cause the amount of plants and animals to decrease.  However, the main problem is that this inhumane choice will greatly affect the Waoroni tribe.  Because of this decision, all of the Waoroni people will lose their home, their land, and their way of life.  Rightfully so, these people are very unhappy.  In fact, these native peoples are planning to fight, with small blowguns and spears, against the Ecuadorian government who may use military force against them.  I agree with the Waoroni tribe- Chevron and the Ecuadorian government have made an awful decision.  I believe that the Amazon bullies- Chevron and the Ecuadorian governemnt need to be stopped immediately for several reasons.

First of all, the Waoroni tribe has suffered enough in the past without us invading them today.  Christian missionaries and various oil companies have invaded their villages on multiple occasions.  Because of these invasions, the Waoroni people have experienced diseases that they have no immunity to.  One tribe member caught polio from a “white man” and because of that, he has laid in the exact same spot for five whole years!  Also, multiple people were injured by these attacks.  For example, one woman was stabbed in the stomach.  It took her a year to recover.  On top of all that, oil companies have been pestering these indigenous people for years by bribing them to trade their home for motors, rice, and even fuel.  I bet that one Waoroni tribe member has faced more adversity in one single day than you have experienced in your whole lifetime.  The Waoroni people have suffered plenty.  Do we really need to cause them any more problems?  Shouldn’t we just leave them alone?

Next, the Ecuador Amazon Rainforest is everything to the Waoroni tribe.  According to one tribe member, they will “fight to the death” to protect their precious rainforest.  In addition, women are planning to break tradition to fight Chevron and the Ecuadorian government with spears, alongside their men. That fact is very astounding because the Waoroni Tribe rarely ever breaks tradition.  If that fact doesn’t convince you how much the Waoroni people love and need the Ecuador Amazon Rainforest, I don’t know what will.  Just think about it for a minute.  Let’s say that you and your family have lived on the same piece of land for many thousands of years.  You know everything about the rainforest because that’s all you’ve ever known.  You are the rainforest and the rainforest is you.  Wouldn’t you get upset if someone was planning to steal your home, your beautiful rainforest home, and create it into an oil polluted dump and kick you out in the process?

Finally, an event almost identical to this one happened in the past.  About five hundred years ago, the Spanish conquistadors came over to “The New World” (North America) and nearly killed all the Native American off by enslaving them, transmitting diseases, and even punishing them for not converting to Catholicism.  Today, Chevron, Christian missionaries, and other outside forces have intruded on the Waoroni tribe’s land and killed many by giving them deadly diseases that the native peoples have no immunity to.  If more and more people keep coming to attack the Waoroni, they may become nearly extinct too. We have already lost most of the world’s native peoples.  Do we really need to lose some more?

You know what they say, history repeats itself.  Well, look they were right.  Do know what else they say?  Learn from your mistakes.  News flash, if humanity as a whole doesn’t let these Waoroni people be free and live just like they did thousands of years ago, then we wouldn’t be learning from our mistakes.  As [George Bernard Shaw](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/g/george_bernard_shaw.html) **once said, “**[Success does not consist in never making mistakes but in never making the same one a second time.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/g/georgebern121841.html)”  Shouldn’t we learn from our mistakes instead of repeating the same mistake over and over again?

In conclusion, I strongly believe that we need to leave the Waoroni tribe alone.  They have already suffered enough and they need the Ecuador Amazon Rainforest to survive.  We need to learn from our mistakes and let the native peoples live free.  Truly, without our help, Chevron and the Ecuadorian government will ruthlessly steal the Waoroni tribe’s land.  It’s our job, as humans who make up a global community, to save the Waoroni, our neighbors in the globe, from extinction.  It is up to us.

If you would like some more information about this horrible issue taking place, please visit [www.walkingdeadoverabarrel1.weebly.com](http://www.walkingdeadoverabarrel1.weebly.com/).

Thank you very for your time,

Natalie Boutwell