Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,
     You may be aware of what's going on in your town or state, even your country every day. But do you know or even think about other countries or people that may be in life-threatening situations? Well that's why I'm writing this letter. I want to make people more aware of the events going on in their world right now. Have you ever heard of Chevron, you know, the multi-billion dollar gasoline company? Well, they've found a huge oil reserve in Ecuador. The problem- it's right under the land of the Wauroni tribe. The Wauroni people are some of the last "pure" people on this earth. What I mean by that is they grow or hunt all of their food, keep traditions from long ago, and they are not exposed to the outside world.  That is, until now. Since oil drilling and clearing of the Amazon rain forest has begun, they were forced into one-third of the land they had originally.  Not only is this effecting the Wauroni tribe, cutting down trees hurts the environment too! Around 137 plant and animal species are lost every day that totals to 50,000 a year. Many of these plants and animals can be used to make medicines, vaccines, and cures. For example, periwinkle is native to the Amazon. It is one of the most powerful anti-cancer drugs in the world. If Chevron keeps clearing out the trees and plants, we could lose something that can be essential to saving lives.  See what I mean?
        Now you know the problem, but you don't really know what or who the Wauroni people really are. Like I said earlier, they are the native people of Ecuador.  They use many traditions, such as hunting with blow darts and spears. They do not welcome many visitors. In fact, in 1955 a few Christian missionaries visited their tribe and were speared to death. However, some tribes welcome visitors to learn about their diverse knowledge and culture. In one interview, a man said, "the rivers and trees are our lives.” Nature is where they get their food, resources, shelters, and everything they need to live. How could people rip that away from them?
        Its seems that now history is repeating itself, as it often does. Native people being forced out of the land they've lived in for centuries. Sound familiar? It's just like what happened to the native people here in Georgia. They lived here for thousands of years, and they developed skills such as hunting, horticulture, and they even set up societies called chiefdoms. All was well until the European explorer, Hernando de Soto, came and claimed the land for Spain. All of that led to present day. Do you see many native Georgians down the street in their wattle and daub homes? I didn't think so. That's because they were forced out of their land by modern explorers.
         So, in this situation, we can say that Chevron is Hernando do Soto, and the Wauroni tribe is equal to the native people of Georgia. Being forced out of the land as if they did something wrong. This is cruel and inhumane. I mean, how would you like it if you were attacked by another country's army, forced to move into one-third of the land you occupied before, forced to leave your house, grocery store, tools, anything and everything you had before? Well that’s how the Wauroni people feel right now. But together we can do something. We can help the Wauroni tribe keep its rightfully owned land. All we have to do is let the word out! Tell your family, friends, anyone and everyone! Let's all help the Wauroni tribe keep their land.