



## Peaceful March Follows Advocacy Panel on La Oroya, Peru

November 6, 2007

After 10 years of smelting in La Oroya, United States-owned Doe Run Peru has not been able to clean up its act. Last month a group La Oroya residents, youth from Lima and a few government officials made it clear that they would not accommodate for economic expansion that resorts to environmental degradation.

Congresswoman Gloria Ramos said, "If Doe Run does not comply with [Peruvian Environmental Standards] it should be shut down until it is able to do so."

Washington Mori of the Region Roundtable on the Environment also added, "The Peruvian government is not accepting its responsibility to regulate the company, so that is why La Oroya ends up on lists with cities like Chernobyl."

La Oroya has been named one of the 10 most contaminated places on earth by the Blacksmith Institute of New York.

Ramos and Mori were two of the panelists at a roundtable discussion in the Peruvian Congress in Lima, Peru, an event organized by Joining Hands.

After the roundtable discussion, young activists took to the streets to speak out for the people of La Oroya. Julio Início, a participant in the PC (USA) triennium, organized several young people from his church and community to pass out balloons that said, "Clean Air for La Oroya."

Início said, "We walked the streets of Lima from the Congressional building to the Plaza de Armas to sing a special song about La Oroya. The police interrupted our peaceful demonstration and told us to leave the plaza. That didn't ... get us down. Thanks to those who helped us in this noble cause. I hope it is not the last time.

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**Fair Trade Web Site in English and Spanish:**

<http://fairtradeperu.com/>

**Current Articles on La Oroya in English**

<http://manosperu.org/leer.php/139>



Students take a stroll for clean air for La Oroya. Photo: Raúl Chacón

We continue to encourage people to support these actions."

The Peruvian government's Environmental Health Organization published a study conducted in May indicating that sulfur dioxide and lead levels far exceed World Health Organization standards. Lead and sulfur dioxide also largely exceeded the air quality standards set by the Peruvian Government.

The Joining Hands Network-Peru, Green Network and Labor Organization focused on the government's responsibility to enforce governmental regulations for Doe Run operations in La Oroya and to make environmental standards more stringent. These activities were part of the October campaign to highlight Doe Run Peru's ten year presence of contamination in La Oroya. - Jacob Goad

## 8.0 earthquake rocks the coast of Peru

ACT/PDA to assist with recovery

Give Online: <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/latinamerica/peru-index.htm>



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for Fair trade News





## Peruvians at PC (USA) Triennium:

Ruth Laurente Vargas

When I got to St. Louis I discovered that things worked differently from what I am used to back home. The people, the houses, and the food were all different.

I left Peru for the [United States] scared because I knew that I was going to meet many people, but I didn't know if I'd be able to distinguish the kind-hearted people from the bad.

I remembered something important when I got to the United States: God was with me.

The PC (USA) Triennium was a marvelous event. The messages touched me and reminded me that our God is a God of hope. God keeps us going and God's hand is always willing to help us.

The speakers' messages reminded me of some things that happened to me when I decided to follow Jesus. I was just a child then and I reached out for Christ in genuine love, a love without condition or hypocrisy.

I learned that to love God there should be no limiting factors. We can truly love God and be adequate in service to God.

During our down-time from speaking to churches and the Triennium, the Peruvian teens and I lived it up playing golf, baseball, visiting the zoo, and, strangely enough, sitting in the world's tallest man's seat in Alton, Missouri, about 200 miles south of St. Louis.

I know that Peru is a developing country, but that doesn't mean we Peruvians are obsolete. There are many riches in our country that only we can bring to the light of day. Step by step. We are the present and future of Peru.

While I miss the people I met in Missouri, I came back to Peru inspired and ready to work hard to achieve some personal goals and goals for the institution where I volunteer (CEDEPAS). Learn more about the work of CEDEPAS at the Joining Hands-Peru website: [manosperu.org](http://manosperu.org)

## Partners to Launch Fair Trade Website

Carrie Hawthorne

Partners for Just Trade, the non-profit organization in the United States that carries Bridge of Hope products, is launching their new website next week:

[www.partnersforjusttrade.org](http://www.partnersforjusttrade.org)



Customers will not only be able to shop and purchase Fair Trade products, but will also be able to download free resources on Fair Trade.

Visit [www.partnersforjusttrade.org](http://www.partnersforjusttrade.org) today to learn more about the organization and to do all of your holiday shopping.

## Artisans to Meet in Huancayo, Peru

Peruvian artisans from the Bridge of Hope fair trade project will be meeting in Huancayo, Peru for their annual meeting from November 26 - November 28.

This year the artisans will celebrate their successes, share their experiences and discuss the goals they want to achieve in 2008.

Yody Moran will also share about her experience of traveling to the United States with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

## Questions, comments or corrections?

Please write Jacob Goad with questions at [jacoballengoad@gmail.com](mailto:jacoballengoad@gmail.com)

## Why the Retama Mama?

La Retama has made its way into the ethnobotany of the indigenous Aymara and Quechua cultures. Those cultures have adopted the belief that the Retama can be used to ward off evil. Sprigs of flowering Retama are often kept in the home and street vendors will often lay a flowering branch of Retama on top of their booths when they close up shop for the night. - Wikipedia

