**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

**EMBARGO: Wednesday 13 September 2017 at 11:00 Lima (16:00 GMT)**

**Peru: Toxic State in numbers**

**Indigenous Population**

**31 million** – Peru’s population (UN Data, 2016).

**4 million** – number of Indigenous People living in Peru (3,176,227 in the Andean region and 332,975 in the Amazon region) (Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática de Peru, 2007).

**The community of Cuninico**

**26** – months since the authorities found that the water in Cuninico is contaminated with heavy metals and other toxic substances, but the community still does not have access to safe and clean water.

**129** - number of people from the communities of Cuninico and San Pedro tested for lead, cadmium, arsenic and mercury in 2016 by the government. All those tested were confirmed to be exposed to at least one of these toxic substances, according to a 2016 Ministry of Health study.

**7** – months since the local court in Nauta ordered the Ministry of Health to implement an Emergency Public Health Plan to address the urgent needs in Cuninico.

**0** – Number of operational health centres in Cuninico (the closest health centre is an hour and a half away by speedboat).

**The communities in Espinar**

**41 out of 58** – water sources contaminated by heavy metals or other chemical substances beyond the limits for safe human consumption, according to a 2013 Ministry of Environment report.

**7** - types of heavy metals or other chemicals toxic to human health identified in the communities’ water sources, according to a 2013 Ministry of Environment report.

**Nearly 100%** - percentage of people from the Huisa and Huisa Collana communities who had either lead, cadmium, mercury and/or arsenic in their blood, according to a 2010 Ministry of Health study.

**According to the World Health Organizacion (WHO), Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and health experts Amnesty International consulted, the health effects of exposure to lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium can include*:***

**Health problems in adults**: Migraines, muscle cramps, vomiting and diarrhea, skin lesions and rashes, hypertension, anaemia, infertility, miscarriages, premature birth, memory loss, insomnia, motor impairment, vision loss, diabetes, liver disease, kidney failure, cancer. *Sources: WHO and CDC.*

**Health problems with a particularly serious effect on children**: vomiting and diarrhea, anaemia, cognitive impairment, reduced IQ, learning difficulties, behavioral disorders (such as reduced attention span and increased antisocial behavior), impairment of fine motor and visual-spatial skills (difficulties with speech and coordinating movements), memory loss, kidney and lung damage, convulsions and comas. Many of the neurological and behavioural effects of heavy metal exposure in children are believed to be irreversible. *Sources: WHO and CDC.*

Any level of exposure to lead, no matter how small, is dangerous for human health, according to the WHO.

**Read more:**

A Toxic State: Violations of the right to health of Indigenous Peoples in Cuninico and Espinar, Peru (Report, 13 September 2017)

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr46/7048/2017/en/>