

PRELATURE OF SICUANI

STATEMENT

**The Prelature of Sicuani promotes
“a model of sustainable development that guarantees the welfare of all, respecting
the ecological balance¹”**

In view of recent events related to the ongoing protests in Espinar province (Cusco), the Prelature of Sicuani makes the following public statement:

1. We are saddened at the news of the death and the injuries produced as a result of the confrontation between the National Police and the civilian population. At the same time, we are worried about the situation of those people who have been detained, their security and physical safety, given the beatings they have suffered during their detention.
2. We are outraged at the arrest of human rights defenders working for the Vicariate of Solidarity of the Prelature of Sicuani, Jamie César Borda Pari and Romualdo Teófilo Tito Pinto, on Monday 28 May at approximately 9.00 pm, whilst they were accompanying, at the request of the public prosecutor Dr Hector Herrera, an inspection visit to those detained inside the mine site in Tintaya Marquiri. We are surprised by the accusations of the police that they found munitions inside the vehicle of the Prelature of Sicuani, accusations which we sharply reject.
3. In view of the legitimate concerns about life quality and environmental pollution in Espinar, we are convinced that these events are consequences of demands not being channelled or heard directly.
4. The current conflict highlights the confrontation of interests between the mining company and the Espinar people. We note that the basis for sincere dialogue between the two parties has not been achieved. It is necessary that both groups sit down and assess, with the active participation of the State, the impact of mining on the local and national economy, without pushing aside people's legitimate hopes for sustainable development based on a respect for human rights, so that a solution that satisfies everyone is reached.
5. Faithful to our mission of service to life and the defence of human rights, the Prelature of Siquanti has, in different social conflicts, ALWAYS been present in the highland provinces of Cusco, with the aim of discerning paths of understanding between the people and the State. We have worked amidst risks and without State backing, with the sole aim of seeking a just solution to the people's demands.

¹ Message of His Holiness Benedict XVI, 41 World Day of Peace, 7.

6. We reiterate to the State, in accordance with our recommendations circulated publicly on the 25 May, “... *Listening to the concerns of the Espinar people about their present and future living conditions, in relation to the protection of the environment and in particular their water resources, we demand the creation of a speedy, accessible and sincere space for dialogue and the achievement of real commitments, so as to ensure the quality of dignified life for everyone and the definitive and immediate resolution of the conflict in Espinar province...*²”

7. Given the emergency situation in Espinar province, we call for the guarantee of the fundamental rights of all of the population, especially those people who are detained. At the same time we ask for guarantees of professional conduct by the security forces. We call on all actors to show mutual respect, so as to make possible a constructive dialogue based on good faith.

8. We suggest that the Central Government assesses the possibility of lifting the state of emergency so as to generate an environment that is more propitious for dialogue.

Sicuani, 29 May 2012

Signed

Monsignor Miguel La Fay Bardi, O.Carm
Bishop of the Prelature of Sicuani

Father Dr. Eduard Adelman, O.Carm
General Vicariate

Father Pablo Prendergast
Parish Priest of Tanaoca-Canas

Father Luciano Ibba
Parish Priest of Sicuani-Canchis

Economist Henry Mar Tapia
Director, Work and Youth Programme

Lic. Edward Severo Looelle Caparó
Director, Sicuani Radio

Lawyer Ruth Luque Ibarra
Director, Vicariate of Solidarity

Engineer Jorge Ruelas
Director, Centre of Farming Training

² Recommendation no. 7 of the Report on the Conflict in Espinar