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Palawan  
Philippines

**We help tribal peoples  
defend their lives, protect  
their lands and determine  
their own futures.**

July 21, 2010

Dear Mr Dorado,

Thank you for your letter dated March 29. Survival is extremely concerned about the mining applications of Macro Asia and Ipilan Nickel Mining Corporation (INC) to mine for nickel on the land of the Palawan tribe at Brooke's Point. As you know, this area is both within the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and under maximum protection from the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan.

The Palawan, many of whom are isolated, rely on their land for their survival, and fear that mining would destroy the mountains and forests they depend on for their livelihood. They have not given their free, prior and informed consent for these mining projects and consistently rejected mining in this area during three consultations with the companies. Last month, 600 indigenous people, and farmers, took to the streets to protest against these mining applications.

As you will be aware, indigenous people in the Philippines have the right to reject such developments on their land, under the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act. These rights are also enshrined in International Law, in the form of International Labour Organisation Convention 169.

Survival urges the PCSD to reject the Macro Asia and Ipilan Nickel Mining Corporations' mining applications, in accordance with your mission to promote development and conservation of the natural resources of the Palawan for present and future generations. We call on you to refuse the applications during your July 30 meeting and allow the Palawan tribe to continue to live their sustainable way of life on their own land.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry  
Director General

Founded 1969  
Right Livelihood Award 1989

**Survival International  
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