

CYBORDER

comics as eyewitness
January 2022

Ecuador

Algeria

Democratic Republic
of Congo

front line defenders



cypher

/ˈsaɪfər/

The dictionary definition of cypher is 'a secret or disguised way of writing'. In many ways, this is the essence of comics storytelling – the image, rather than the word, is a disguise for many words, that can convey meaning, emotion, and can re/frame an entire narrative.

Rap and hip hop culture has taken the word and ascribed a new meaning: 'an informal gathering of rappers, beatboxers and/or breakdancers in a circle, in order to jam musically together.' This, too, we find relevant to this project, in that we are bringing together artists and HRDs in freestyle collaboration of activism and art with the aim of informing, elevating and inspiring.

For us, this captures the spirit of why we are working in comics and guides how we facilitate the process of creative production.

Edited and published by:
Beldan Sezen and Adam Shapiro

Cover art by Ce Larrea

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frontlinedefenders.org/cypher





adam shapiro

A new year brings both meaningful reflection on the past and hopeful glances towards the future. For human rights defenders, hope is at the very essence of their spirit, their determination and their work. In the face of violence, abuse, discrimination, dehumanization and more, hope can be a shield and a motivation.

The stories in this edition of cypher, of disparate issues, contexts, cultures and characters, are nonetheless connected by this spirit and by the fundamental stubbornness of people who act with defiance.

These are stories of marginalized peoples, of human rights defenders who are confronting enormous power. By bringing these stories forward, by offering a platform for these voices, perspectives, narratives and truths, we not only offer solidarity and affirmation, we join in that spirit and bring it forward...to you.

Editorial



beldan sezen

How do we count time? It is 2022 where I live. The start of the new year, marked by January 1st, holds an excitement for “the new to come”. The Chinese new year will be on February 1st, entering year 4720, while it is currently 1443 according to the Islamic calendar. The ancient Greeks used five different calendars to keep track of time and while it is 5782 according to the Jewish calendar, where each new year starts with a day of atonement and repentance, the Nisg’a calendar revolves around harvesting of food and goods used. All ways of marking time serve to remind or guide us about something that we find important to remember, to look forward to. A mark “randomly” made in a seemingly endless space we call time.

I woke up this morning remembering [Dr. Mudawi Ibrahim Adam](#) talking about confined spaces, how they can be small or large, empty or full of people. I thought of confinement as a place of restriction through physical walls or societal intolerance. Counting the days by a line carved or drawn into a surface where time is marked by a simple stroke; four lines bundled into a bunch by the fifth stroke across symbolizing five days spent somewhere involuntary. Stroke after stroke marking a form of confinement and longing for freedom. The longing for unrestricted physical movement, for expression of thoughts and creativity, or simply for being who we are.

However we mark the arrival of a new day, my wish for this, any, new year is to celebrate the successes of Human Rights Defenders all around the globe.

January 2022

Democratic Republic of Congo

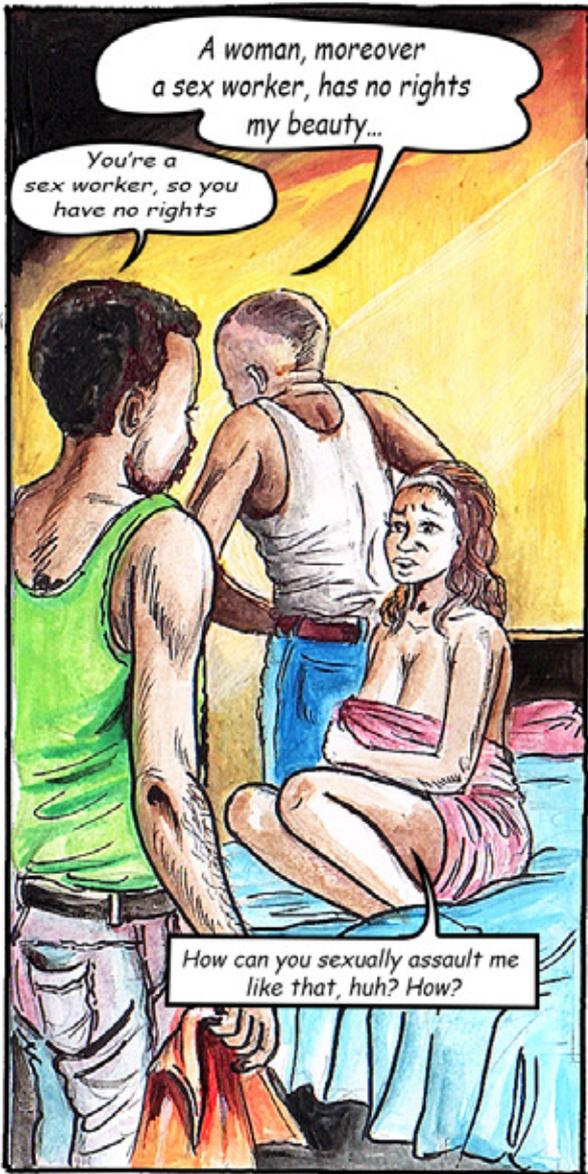
Sex worker rights defenders (SWRDs) protect their communities' rights to live free from violence and discrimination, to access healthcare, housing, justice, and employment, and to organise, assemble, and advocate for rights. UNAIDS, who estimated an approximate 3 million sex workers were living in the DRC as of 2016, has stated "there is strong evidence that the criminalization of sex work increases vulnerability to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections." One of the ways this happens is by criminalizing human rights defenders (HRDs) who do life-saving health and HIV outreach work – as in this comic. When the police in the story learned that the reason the victims of assault thought they could seek justice was because they had learned to do so at a rights training led by HRDs, the defenders themselves became targets for arrest.

SWRDs are often the only local or international actors providing human rights education and health outreach in some of the most dangerous locations where sex is sold. As the only ones willing and able to access sex workers in these places, they ensure health care for workers who would otherwise endure untreated injuries and life-threatening illnesses as a result of health policies and programs which exclude, marginalise, and stigmatise them. When defenders are attacked, detained, criminalized and jailed for their legitimate human rights work in the DRC (as elsewhere) it means even few of the countries estimated 3 million sex workers have access to health trainings, contributing to rates of HIV.

Front Line Defenders recent report, *Sex Worker Rights Defenders at Risk*, was the first ever global investigation into threats and attacks against sex workers who defend the rights of their communities from violence. In addition to violence and harassment at the hands of police, as in the story below, the investigation found that SWRDs have also been physically attacked by members of the public for their human rights work. Incidents included "angry mobs" surrounding their homes and accusing them of promoting homosexuality and prostitution, being followed and pushed off their motorbikes by men in cars who had followed them while responding to a medical emergency, and attacks in cafes while holding human rights trainings. Secure meeting space and an end to police harassment of SWRDs and their organisations' is urgently needed, to perform not only health outreach, but also exactly the kind of human rights trainings that led the victims below to report their attackers to the police.

Artist: Adolphe FUNDA KIZUNGU
phone: +243977203233
Email: adoagambkv@gmail.com

Town of Kamituga / Gold and diamond mining negotiation and extraction centre in eastern DRC.



You're a sex worker, so you have no rights

A woman, moreover a sex worker, has no rights my beauty...

How can you sexually assault me like that, huh? How?



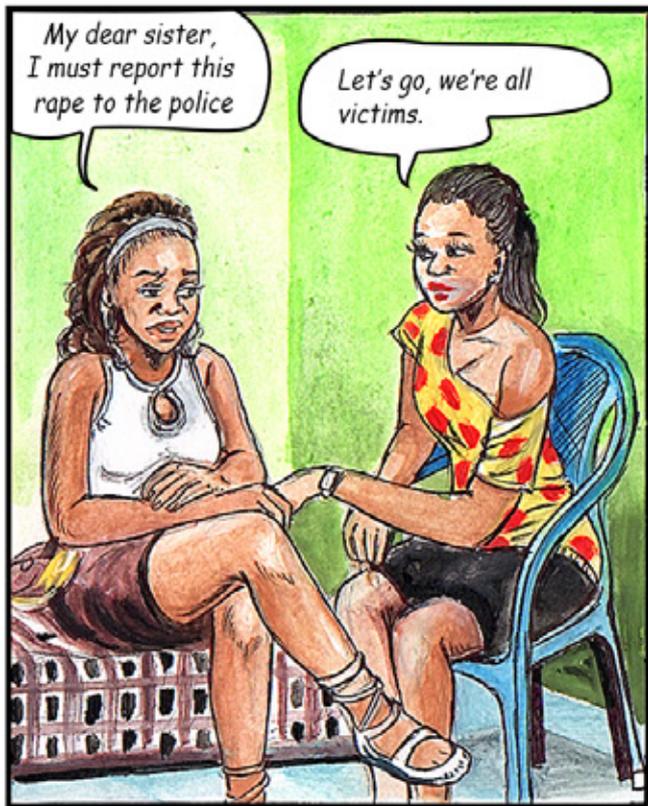
Ouch... Really? How do abuses, sexual assault and sexual violence remain unpunished in our country?

Snif... Snif



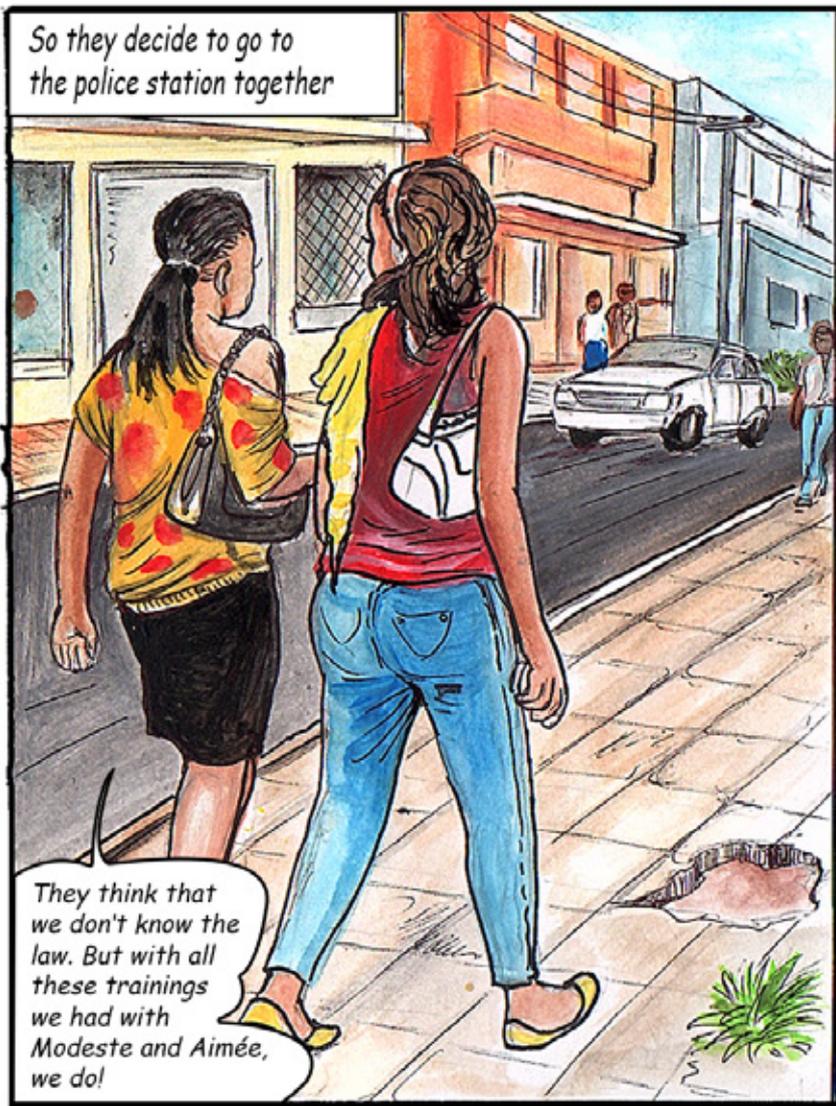
But curiously sex workers are sexually assaulted every day! Huh...

I think it has to stop... but how??



My dear sister, I must report this rape to the police

Let's go, we're all victims.



So they decide to go to the police station together

They think that we don't know the law. But with all these trainings we had with Modeste and Aimée, we do!

Ladies, which rights are you talking about? We will close all these houses and those who were defending your rights, Modeste and Aimée will be arrested.

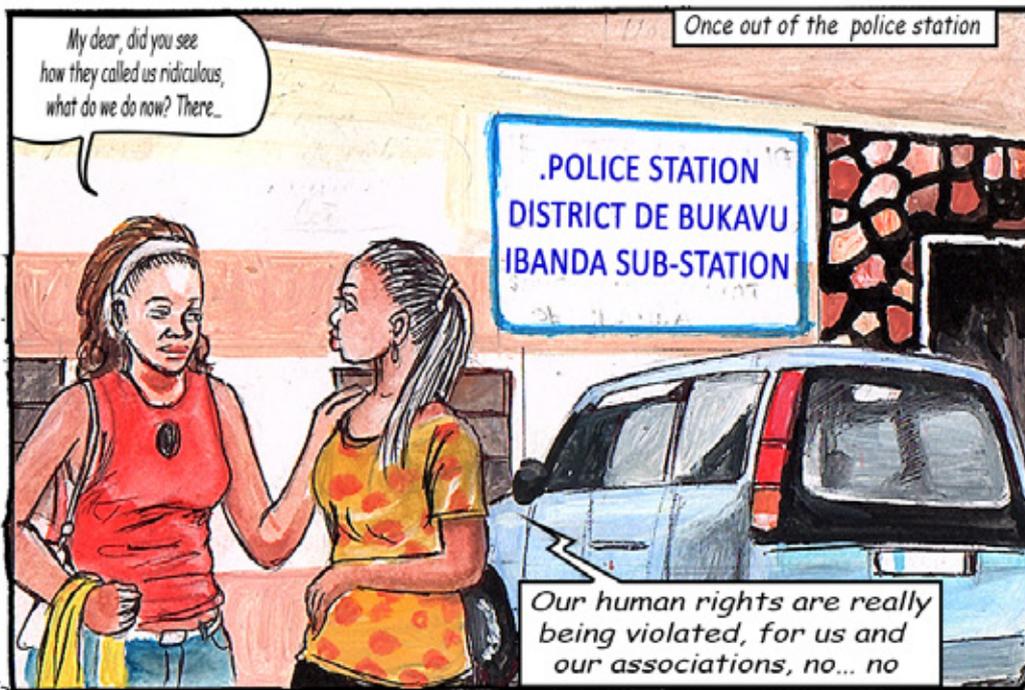
Mr. policeman, we are here to file a complaint against the rape we suffered. We're sex workers, we have rights, don't we?

What are you talking about Ladies, no law in DRC recognizes sex workers. The law doesn't say a word about that.



AHAHA!!

They are ridiculous!



Once out of the police station

My dear, did you see how they called us ridiculous, what do we do now? There...

.POLICE STATION
DISTRICT DE BUKAVU
IBANDA SUB-STATION

Our human rights are really being violated, for us and our associations, no... no



Yes... yes dear, as the rape is less than 72 hours, let's go to the nearest medical center as Modeste and Aimée told us to do.

It's a very good idea my friend. Let's go now.



I really cannot believe it! Our rights are violated

Even our associations?! No, no, but will they really do it? No, no



And inside the hospital...

We're sex workers, my friend just got raped, we need emergency care.

Hum !!!
Ridiculous...

?!

My dear, you are a disgrace to women, we are not entitled to care like others. It is in the exercise of your function—



I am a believer, I do not touch this kind of woman, you are unclean, ... cursed

What?!



Who are we to
deserve all this ??

In the end, we are rejected
everywhere and there's no
one who can speak in our
behalf? Isn't it...No one!



My dear friend, I tell you
that this is a big problem.
That's why we need to know
our rights. So I think we'll
have to discuss it with our
friends.

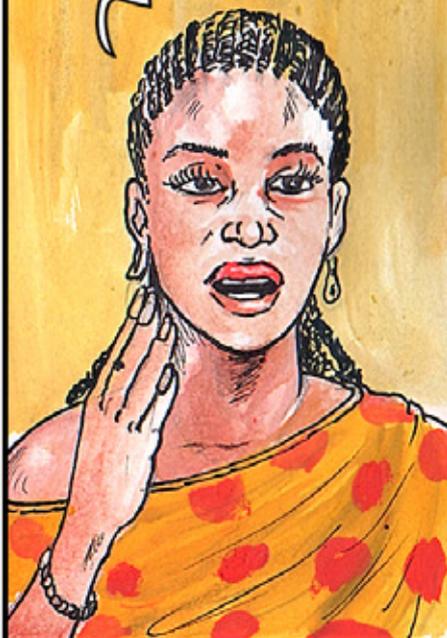
Let's stand
together with Modeste
and Aimée to defend
our rights

I am a team leader,
I know my rights and
I will defend them

I'm a peer educator
trained by Aimée, I know
my rights

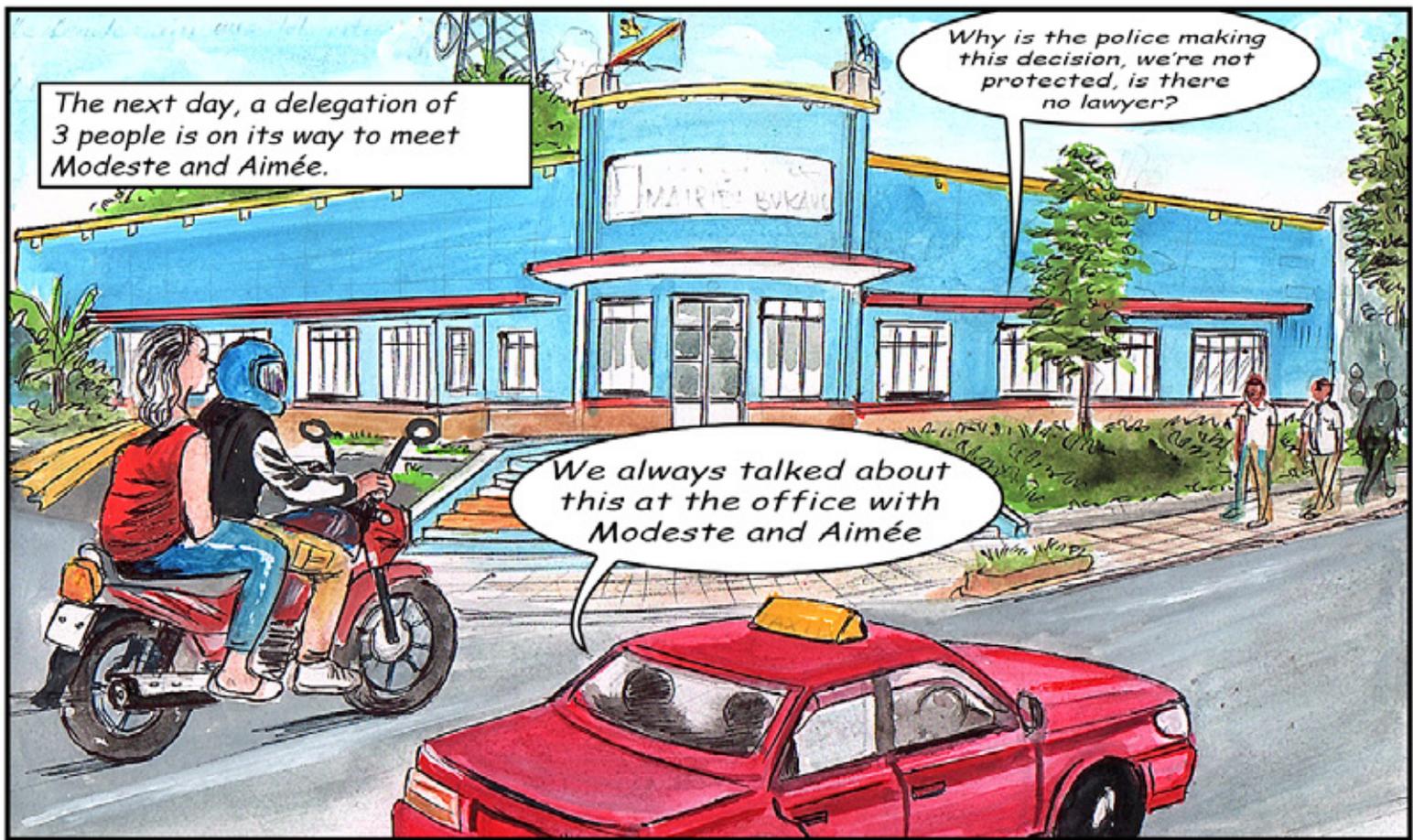
Let's meet
Modeste and Aimée

We must defend
our cause



We're repressed
everywhere! Let's
do something

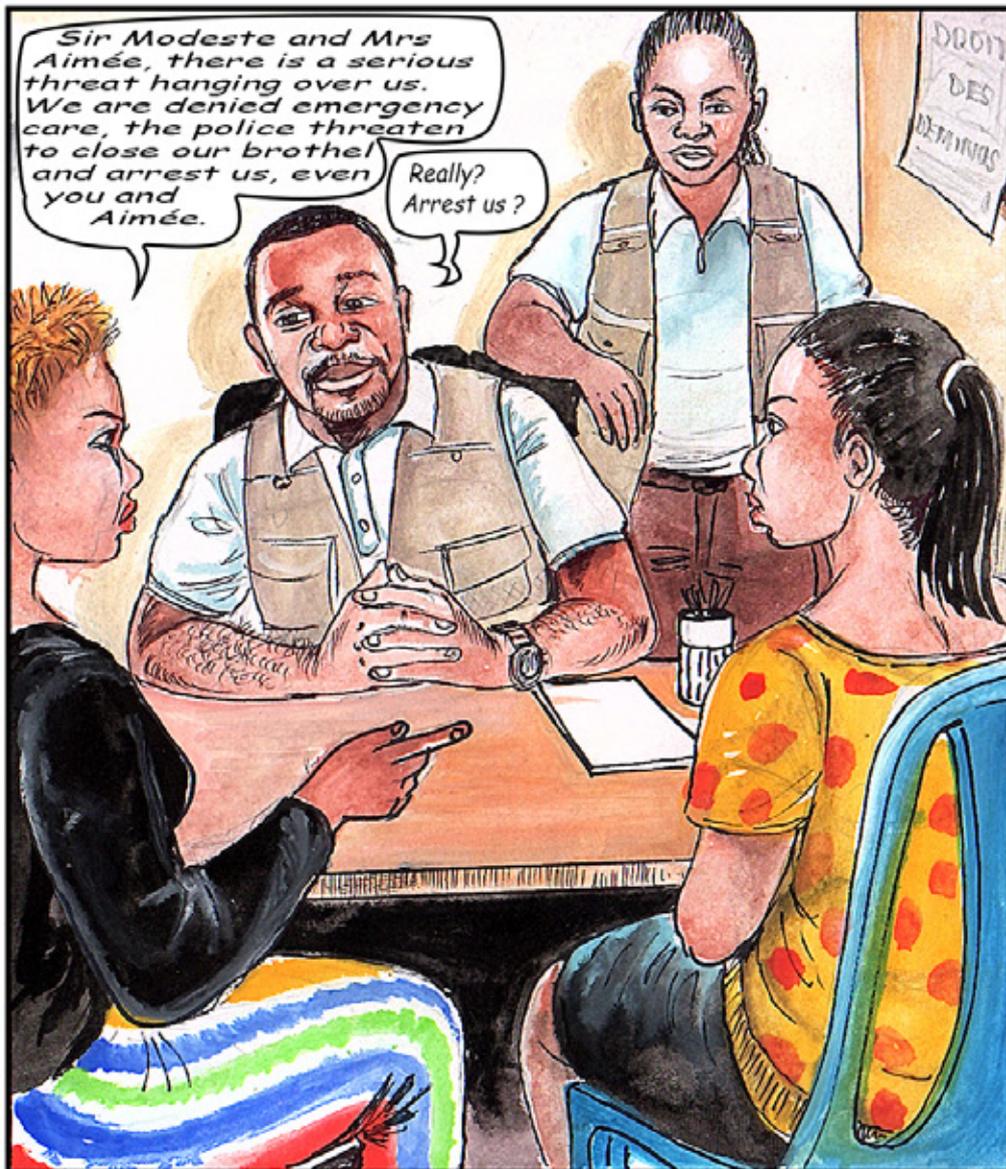
The police told us that they
will close all our brothel and
arrest Modeste and Aimée



The next day, a delegation of 3 people is on its way to meet Modeste and Aimée.

Why is the police making this decision, we're not protected, is there no lawyer?

We always talked about this at the office with Modeste and Aimée



Sir Modeste and Mrs Aimée, there is a serious threat hanging over us. We are denied emergency care, the police threaten to close our brothel and arrest us, even you and Aimée.

Really? Arrest us?



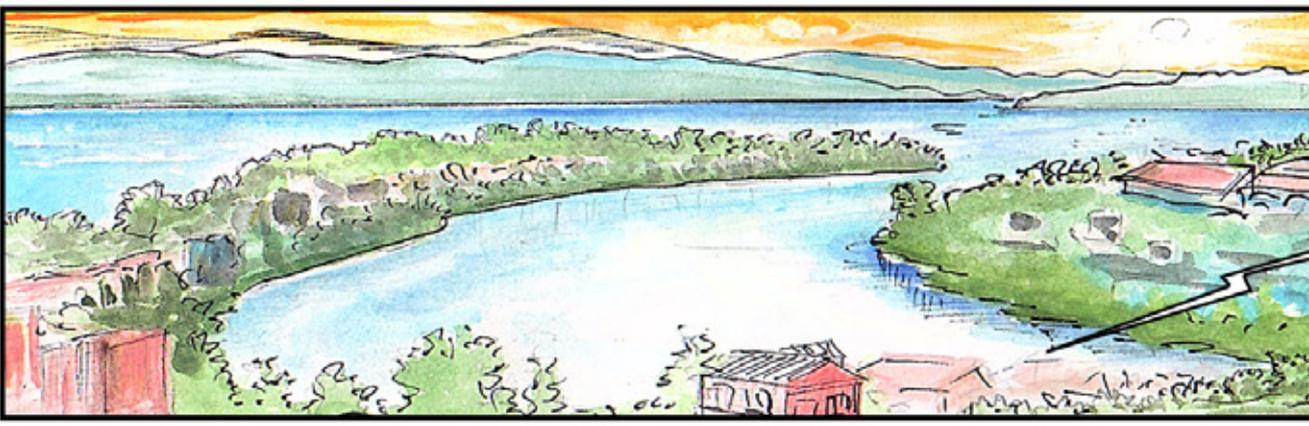
We have no lawyers to defend us, you already know your rights, unite! We are behind you. It is our daily life, defending human rights... that's it



Thank you for defending the rights of sex workers, Aimée and Modeste.

You did well to come to us. We are concerned about your problem.

We stand for the human rights of ALL, including yours.



Operation UJANA has just been denounced in the media and on social networks by collectives of human rights organizations for the promotion of sex workers.

But where are the human rights in this country? We are sex workers' team leaders for the promotion and protection of health rights.

You are violating the protocols of cooperation that Mr. Modeste signed with the police for the protection of sex workers.

COME ON! Quick, we're arresting you!

Sex work is not recognized in this country, you'd better change job if you want to be protected, sir!

Aimée, do you know why they want to close these brothel? Eh...

Operation Ujana has been launched, we will shut down all the houses of tolerance and all activities

These activities must be stopped. The law does not recognize sex work

How is it that the law condemns procuring and that the police arrest sex workers?

We will defend ourselves even if there are no lawyers who support us to put the issue of sex workers' rights on the table

??

Come here! No more sex work in this country. That's the government's decision.

You all will be arrested, women's rights are not the rights of sex workers, understood??!

THIS MORNING, THE POLICE SHUT DOWN HOUSES OF TOLERANCE AND ARRESTED SEX WORKERS



Hello? Listen, the organisations that defend the cause of sex workers have been closed since this morning... what shall we do?



Modeste and Aimée are involved and will be heard for their role in promoting the rights to health and protection of sex workers.

Sex workers decide to take to the streets to claim their rights and to urge for the release of Modeste and Aimée.



LIBÉREZ
MODESTE
ET AIMEE

LE TRAVAIL DU SEXE
N'EST PAS UN
PROBLEME, MAIS
UNE SOLUTION DANS
LA LUTTE CONTRE LE
VIH/SIDA, COVID-19
TUBERCULOSE

NOUS AVONS
AUSSI
DROIT

NOS
DROITS

LIBERER
MODESTE
ET AIMEE

LA LOI EST MUETTE
SUR LE TRAVAIL DU
SEXE. POURQUOI ???

L'ACCÈS À LA SANTÉ
ET À LA PROTECTION EST
UN DROIT QUI EST
GARANTI POUR TOUS
DANS NOTRE CONSTITUTION

Algeria

Hundreds of human rights defenders are languishing in prisons in Algeria following the nationwide Hirak protests, and majority of them remain in pre-trial detention for an uncertain period of time, a procedure that has become a standard rule. Mohad Gasmi is one of them, he was unjustly sentenced to five years in prison. Five years isolated from his family and community merely for having defended the rights of the most vulnerable. From his small city of Adrar, 1500km southern Algiers, he has played a crucial role in 2015 in protests against shale gas extraction and hydraulic fracking in Ain Salah, in the southern Algerian desert. He has become a symbol among these remote communities when after 5 months of continuous demonstrations, fracking operations were suspended and groundwater was saved. Mohad has defended the unemployed within the "Unemployed Movement" which demands social and economic justice for the unemployed and advocates for the youth economic and social rights in the south. Mohad has expressed his solidarity and visited communities affected by environmental damages in neighbouring countries, from Imider which is suffering from extractive industries in southern Morocco to Gabes a southern Tunisian city fighting against pollution.

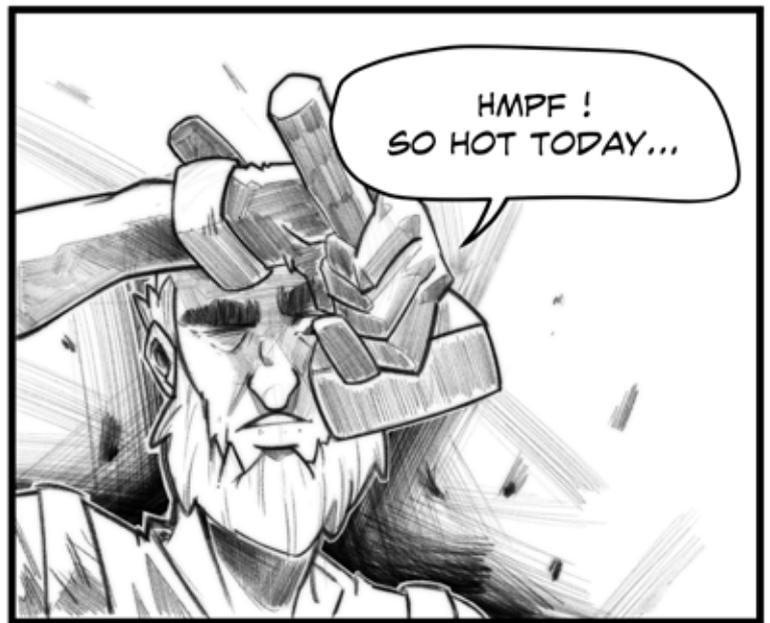
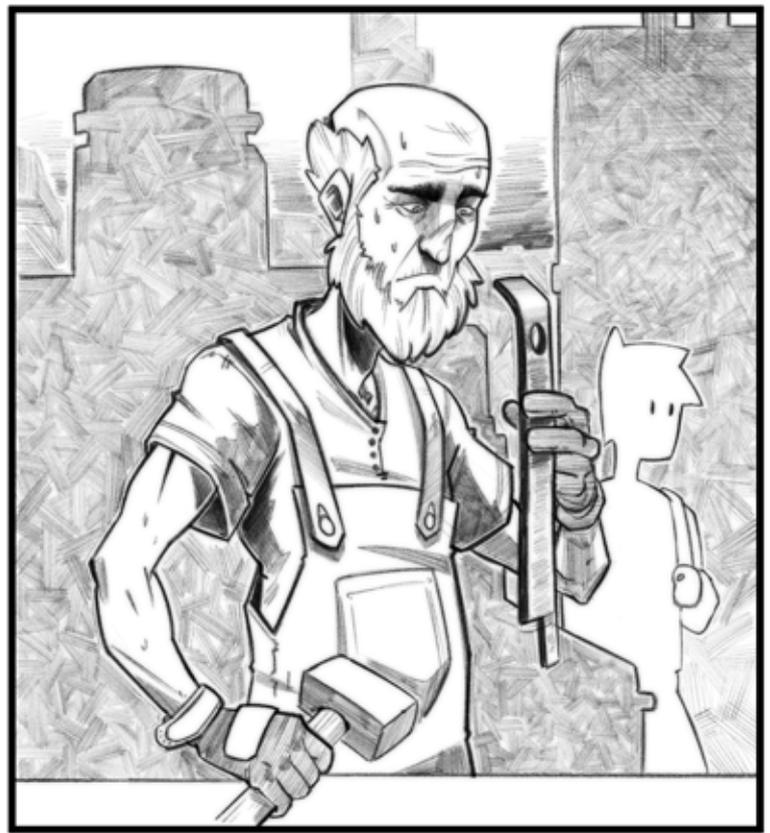
In June 2020, Mohad was placed in preventive detention on ungrounded charges of 'praising terrorism' for his campaigning activities within the Hirak in Adrar which calls for political and social reforms and criticism of the government; and in October 2021, the Criminal Court of Adrar unjustifiably sentenced him to 5 years imprisonment, 17 months following the date of his arrest.

Artist: Mohammed Cherkaoui
www.instagram.com/shergath

Iron will

by M. Cherkaoui





AAAH, MOHAD...

HE'S QUITE KNOWN
ACTUALLY, A HUMBLE
MAN, A LOVING FATHER
AND A CARING HUSBAND
QUITE SKILLED WITH
HIS HANDS TOO!

...HIS FULL NAME IS
MOHAD GASMI

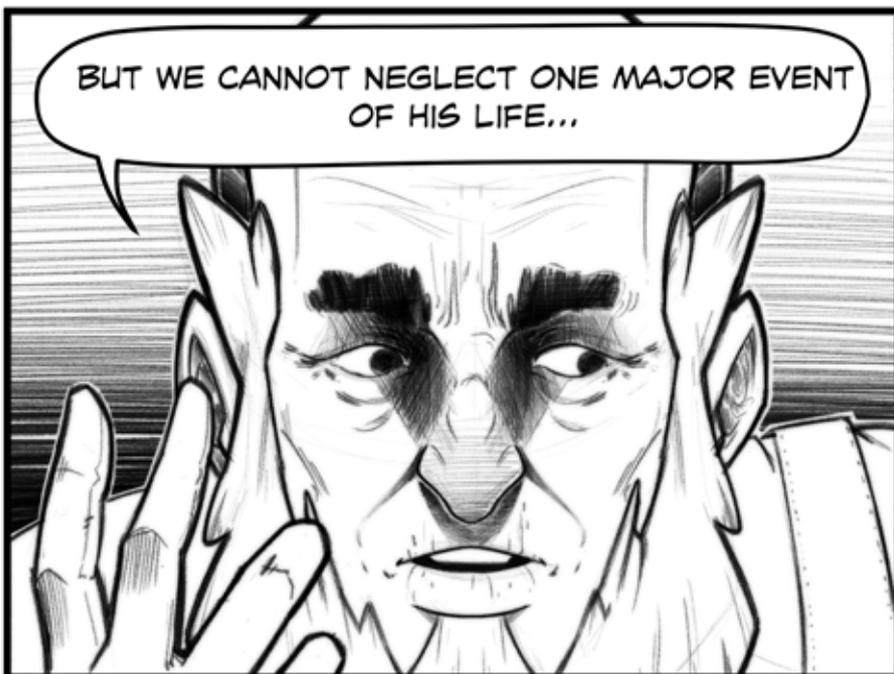
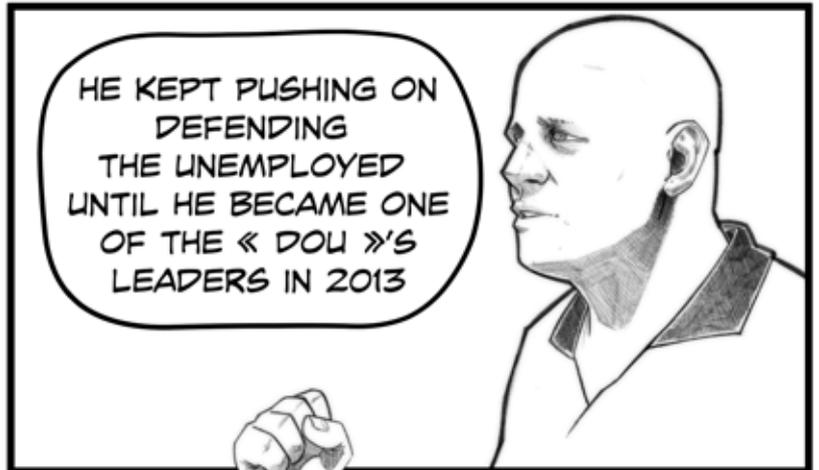
I'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE THE 90'
AS A FELLOW BLACKSMITH,
BUT ALSO AS A
CARING PERSON
WHO PARTICIPATED IN MANY
SOLIDARITY MOVEMENTS IN
THE SOUTHERN
REGION OF 'ADRAR'

ADRAR

HIS ACTIONS SPOKE FOR HIM,
FROM HELPING THE HOMELESS

TO HELPING SMALL
STRUGGLING VILLAGES,
EVERYBODY
LOVED MOHAD,
NO EXEMPTIONS

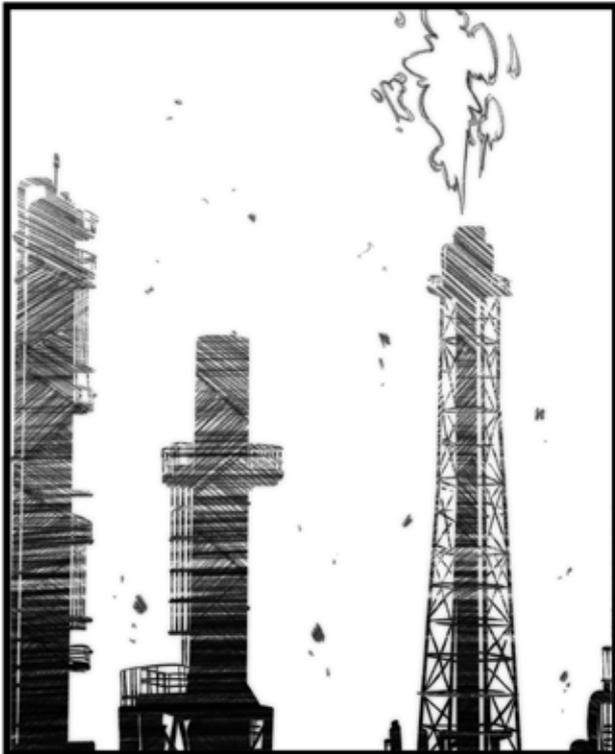




CORPORATIONS MADE PLANS TO HARNESS THE REGION FOR FOSSIL FUEL, AND YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TOXIC WASTE THEY'VE THROWN INTO THAT POOR LAND...

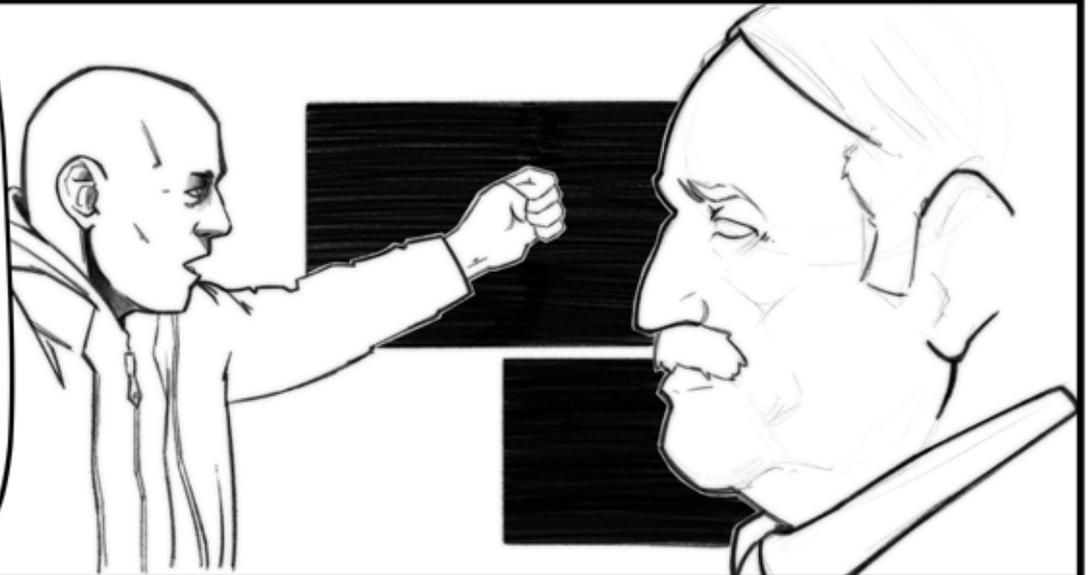
عين صالح
IN SALAH

THESE ACTIONS LED TO THE DEATH OF THE FAUNA AND FLORA IN THE REGION



MOHAD STOOD AGAINST THE CORPORATIONS, AND PARTICIPATED IN MANY PROTESTS, EVEN LED SOME

AS HE CONDEMNED THE POLITICAL DECISIONS THAT LED TO THIS HAVOC, HE WAS ALSO STANDING AGAINST THE POLICY OF THE HEAD OF STATE AT THE TIME, BOUTEFLIKA



IN FEBRUARY 2019, WHEN THE POPULAR MOVEMENT STARTED, HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPOSING PROTESTOR IN THE SOUTHERN REGION



HE WOULD BE STILL ACTIVE UNTIL THIS DAY IF HE WASN'T ABDUCTED BY THE AUTHORITIES



HOW UNFORTUNATE TO KNOW THAT THIS REGION IS UNDER THE MERCY OF INFLUENTIAL PEOPLES WHO ARE ONLY PLUNDERING HER THE RICHES WITHOUT LEAVING ANYTHING TO THE LOCAL RESIDENTS...



MEANWHILE HER GREATEST DEFENDER IS BEHIND BARS, SINCE 14'TH JUNE 2020, WAITING FOR HIS HEARING





THE CHARGE OF PRAISING TERRORISM
PRESSED AGAINST HIM ARE RELATED
TO TWO FACEBOOK POSTS
HE PUBLISHED



WELL,
IN SHORT
THAT'S
WHAT HAS
HAPPENED
TO HIM



HOW UNFORTUNATE
HOW THINGS ENDED
FOR HIM...



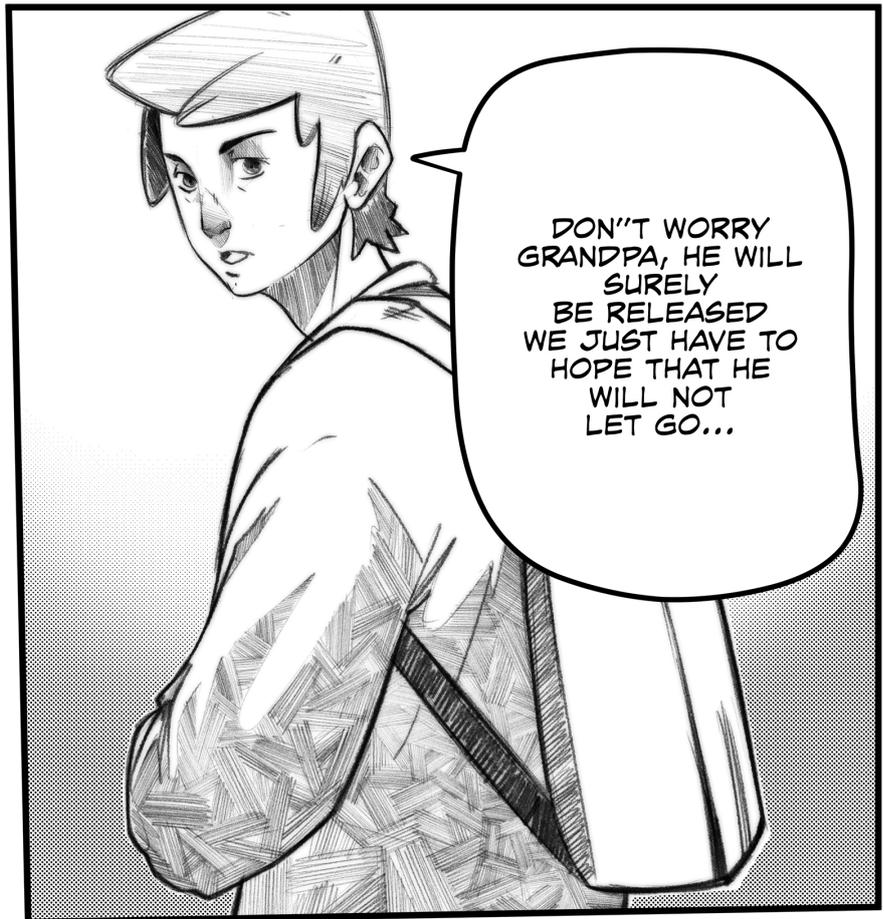
ENDED? I NEVER SAID
THAT HIS STORY ENDED !



ON THE
5 JULY 2021
MOHAD WENT
ON AN
UNLIMITED
HUNGER
STRIKE
TO PROTEST
HIS
ARRESTATION



OH BOY
IT'S FRUSTRATING !



DON'T WORRY
GRANDPA, HE WILL
SURELY
BE RELEASED
WE JUST HAVE TO
HOPE THAT HE
WILL NOT
LET GO...



THE MOHAD I KNOW WILL NEVER
LET GO, KID !



THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT
WE'LL BE STANDING BESIDE HIM
NO MATTER WHAT !

Ecuador

Artist: Ce Larrea
<http://celarrea.com>
[@casi.mira](#)

The Shuar Arutam People are made up of 47 communities (12,000 inhabitants) and cover an Amazonian territory of 230,000 hectares. The Shuar people's Governing Council is made up of 61 leaders, only one of whom is a woman. Her name is Josefina Tunki, president of the Shuar people and the first Shuar woman to hold the position.

Almost 60% of their territory has been given in concession to several companies, including Solaris Resources, EcuSolidus S.A. (Canada), SolGold (Australia), and ExplorCobres S.A. (EXSA) (China). These concessions have failed to respect their right to free, prior, and informed consent and consultation and the right to self-determination. The rights of nature and other group rights have been violated. In addition, Josefina's life has been threatened.

With her election, the cry of Shuar women has grown louder in meetings of the Shuar people. During her term, the first Women's Political School was launched.

Josefina is known for her strong resistance, even by extractive companies. Since she was 16 years old, she has been part of several Shuar leadership bodies. Her efforts have focused on working with women, families, education, and monitoring resource use to prevent environmental crimes in the Cordillera del Condor, a highly biodiverse area.

She strengthened the implementation of the Shuar Life Plan by carrying out the consultation in Shuar territory that achieved the recognition of the Shuar people as a territory of life by the Consortium of Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IICA Consortium) and by starting the international campaign "The Shuar people Have Already Decided, No to Mining."

On January 29, 2021, the Shuar people's Governing Council and several allied organizations filed a complaint with the International Labor Organization against the Ecuadorian State for its breach of Convention 169.

She and other leaders have faced persecution, hacking, discrimination, abuse by the government, and death threats from mining companies, such as the threat by Federico Velásquez, Vice President of operations of Solaris Resources Inc. On a phone call, he told Josefina and a communications supporter that: "If you keep bothering me with national and international reports, we'll have to cut the throat on one of these heads." The incident has been reported to the Public Prosecutor's Office, but there has not yet been a ruling in the case.

Of all the companies, Solaris Resources Inc. has caused the most confrontation among the communities. And this conflict is escalating. Years ago, this company bought several land titles from Shuar families, which constituted a prohibited purchase of communal territory. The company, acting beyond its legal powers, is attempting to build a public road.

In addition, it has encouraged Shuar individuals to participate in its security strategies defending the company's interests. It has also created a "Strategic Alliance," which strives to discredit Shuar land defenders. There has been constant militarization, with the support of government agencies. One example of this was when women held a meeting at the Maikwants community and there was noticeable military presence, requested by the company and accepted by the Governor.

Despite the threats made and the organizational divisions sowed by Solaris, this company was included in the UN Global Compact. So while the company whitewashes its image, Shuar communities continue to resist amidst harassment and pressure from other companies. Natural resource exploration activities are impacting nature, and this is clear to the inhabitants of the Shuar people.

The women of the Shuar people are currently fighting back, which has led to the creation of the Indigenous Guard. Josefina's vital voice and the tenacity of the Shuar people continue to demand justice from the Ecuadorian State and the withdrawal of all mining companies from their territory, because the Shuar people have already decided #NoToMining.

This comic will include text in the Shuaricham language, spoken by the Amazonian Shuar Nation. The translation can be found in the footnotes at the bottom of each page.

* <https://coicamazonia.org/pueblo-shuar-arutam-presentara-reclamacion-a-la-oit-por-incumplimiento-del-convenio-169-en-ecuador/>



¿?





No, not yet. You're just in time. Wunt aishman nekamin* is about to speak.

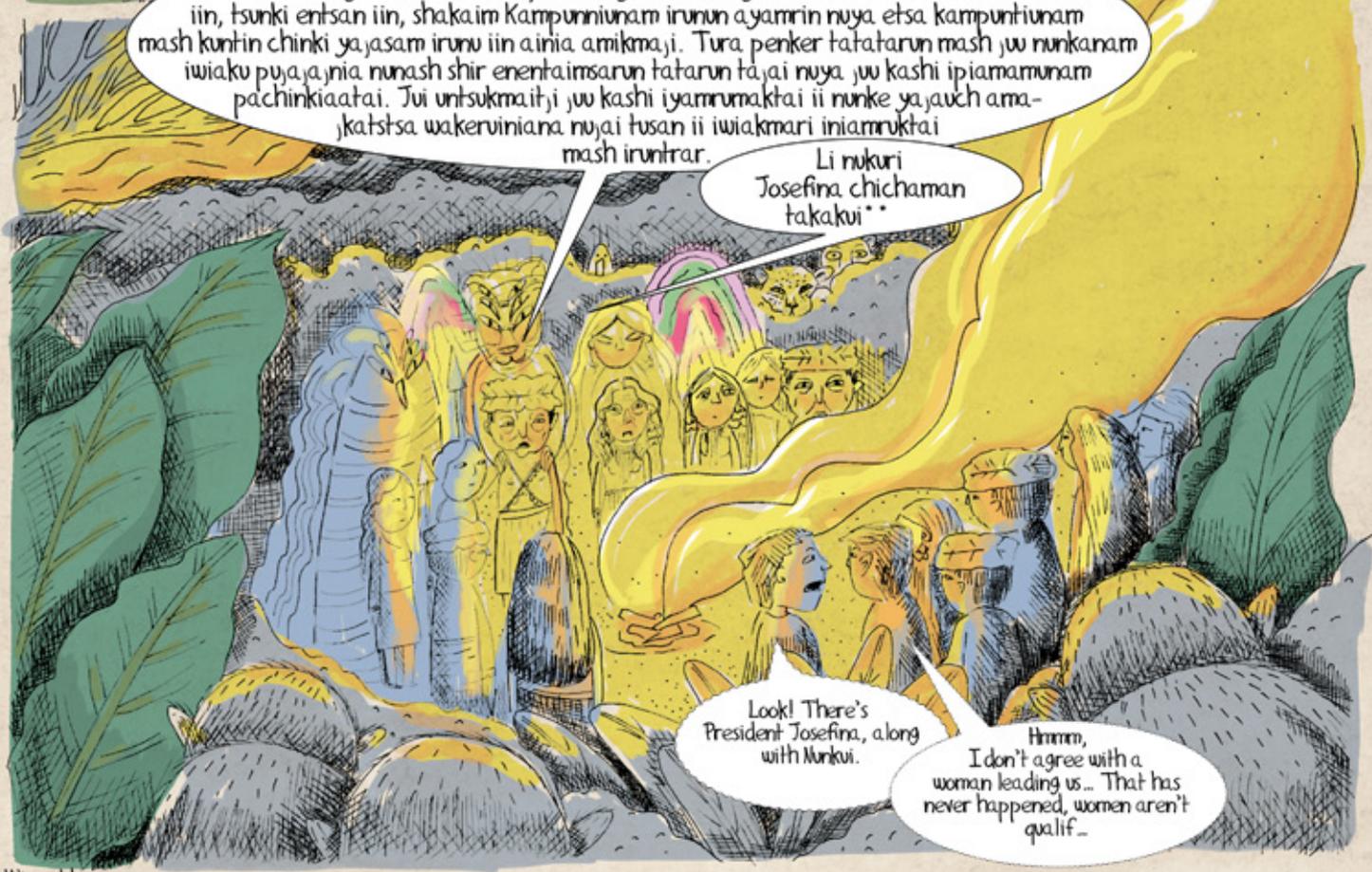
What happened? Have they started yet?



Shhhhhh! They're starting.

Yamai juu tsawanti wunt ii apachri nuya nukuchri nekamin tautirmin yuminsan amikma, rume. ii yusri nunkui yurumkan nuan kakarma suw iin, tsunki entsan iin, shaka im Kampunniunam irunun ayamrin nuya etsa kampuntunam mash kuntin chinki ya jasam irunu iin ainia amikmaji. Tura penker tatatarun mash juu nunkanam iwiaku puja, jania nunash shir enentaimsarun tatarun taja i nuya juu kashi ipiamamunam pachinkaatai. Jui untsukmaiti juu kashi iyammuktai ii nunke ya jawch ama- katsta wakerviniana nujai tusan ii iwiakmari iniamuktai mash iruntrar.

Li nukuri Josefina chichaman takakui**



Look! There's President Josefina, along with Munkui.

Hmm, I don't agree with a woman leading us... That has never happened, women aren't qualif..

* Wise elder
 ** I am grateful for the presence of our wise Shuar men and women, and to our Goddesses and Gods: Munkui, goddess of food and female strength; Tsunki, protector of water; Shaka im, protector of trees; and Elsa, protector of animals. I also welcome all living beings, animals, and plants that are with us tonight. We have been called here to fight against the dark forces that are threatening our lives - Josefina, you have the floor -



Brothers and sisters, I have walked all across our territory ... Many of you have supported me, while others have not ... The women, especially, told me, "Clear the path, and we will follow you, Josefina." I have respected their decisions to show the women that in the future, women can also be presidents of a country. We are qualified, we have the courage to resist!

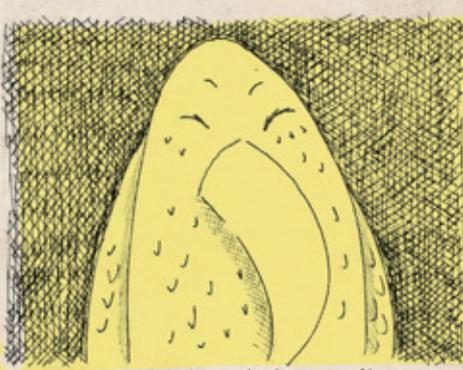
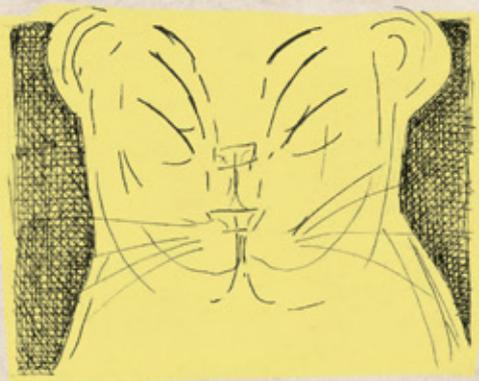
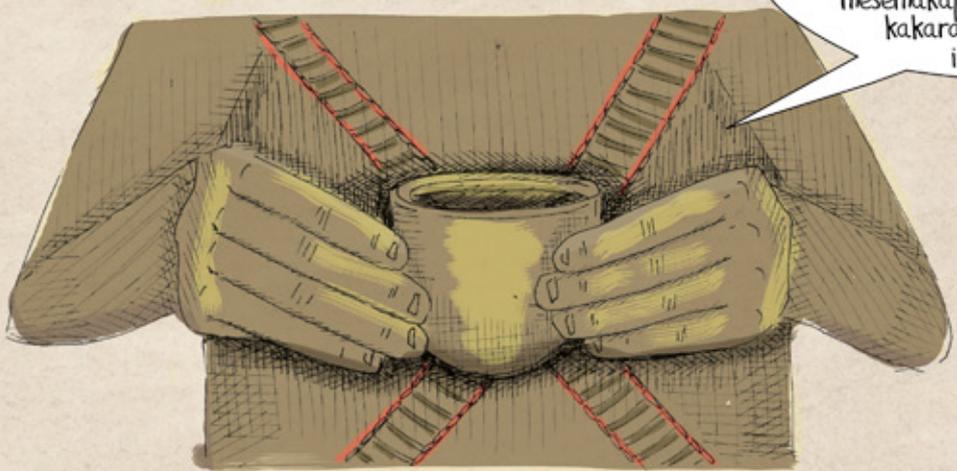
Today, I stand before you as president of the Shuar Arutam People, ready to resist and defend our territory and our life.

I have learned to walk without fear.

Tii
 shiir nukur nateman
 yuminsan, iin kakaram na jatmau
 asantai kakarma amaki weta taji,
 itivchat ii nunken katmainia, nia nuu
 kakaram a, asar manitki weta, taji
 kakaram amasta.*



Uchirua kakarta ma, yamai
 nateman ar, ame arumai pujustin ista
 mesemakap kakarta, kakarta
 kakaram a, asta, mash
 imrata.**



* Thanks to mother Natem (Natem is a sacred plant in many Amazonian communities, also known as Yagé or Ayahuasca), we leave the earthly world. We once again ask for protection for this battle.
 ** Son, daughter, be strong, today you are taking yagé. I wish you visions of the future. Be strong, be strong.



It's coming!

We're ready...



The jungle is destroyed with every step forward by the smoke men. They gobble up everything in their path. Little by little, the jungle is becoming lifeless.

Come here, damn you!
We're going to eeeeeaat you...
We'll have to cut the throat on
your head if you try to
stop us!

You
won't stop us!
Never!

We
have to
move forward,
fast!

* Federico Velásquez, Vice President of Operations of Solaris Resources Inc. threatened Josefina Tunki and a communications supporter by phone, saying "If you keep bothering me with national and international reports, we'll have to cut the throat on one of these heads." This was because of the Shuar Anutam people's constant reports on the company's abuses; these abuses are currently supported by the Global Compact of Ecuador (UN).

Some Shuar, convinced by the smoke men and the money, have taken up and are now part of the mining exploitation.

Mining is good!
What don't you understand? It will give us wealth, lots of wealth!

Give me more money! More, more, more!

... While for others ... Since the State does not guarantee the most fundamental rights, they have allied with the mining companies in search of a form of subsistence to bring food to their homes.

Oh little earth, forgive me...



The earth is like the body, and it is contaminated with cancer. Cancer kills the body and there is no cure. If I don't prevent it, I will die!

... When they make these camps, these destructions, our life is at risk of physical and cultural disappearance. If no one attempts to protect and defend this space, we won't have any hope for the future!

Not just human life, but animals, biodiversity. Everything that exists ...



Shuar power is in nature.

We have arrived ... Here we will be protected and ready to resist.

Shhh ... listen ...

The river has divine power.

Winia nunkachirunaí
Kiniar tepettaiaí
Tuumproma tepettaiaí
Uwia uwia tepetatjai

* I will be sitting waving my hands / I'm curled up / I'm glowing / to my very earth.



Aya ayam prakunad
Penke awak kachuminkiau
Winia
Uchichiruka



Nankichinia juu
Penke awak kachuminktu





The smoke takes
away our air, it surrounds
us ...

... but we
have to resist.



It's time to rise up!
We are Shuar, and so we are also jaguars that
protect the jungle ...



We walked for many days.



I'm used to walking ... I've been all over our territory. Now my body gets tired faster. Even so, I won't stop, because my People need my steps and my words, which are also theirs!



Finally, we arrived in Quito, the capital of Ecuador.

The Shuar Arutam People say "No to mining!"

The Ecuadorian State supports the mining companies, but it does not protect our right to live in a free, unpolluted territory. They did not respect our self-determination and our Life Plan.

All the communities went to the capital to demand the protection of our territory. For them to stop polluting the water, the land, life ... We do not want to be a People that are only recognized for our resistance. We want them to look at us and know that we have managed to protect our territory.



We were never consulted and 16 years ago, we decided to defend the anti-mining path, for our grandfathers, our grandmothers, our boys and girls, for all of us.



We need you to understand what is happening. Mining in our town will affect everyone, in the cities, in the countryside. The water, the trees, the air are running out.





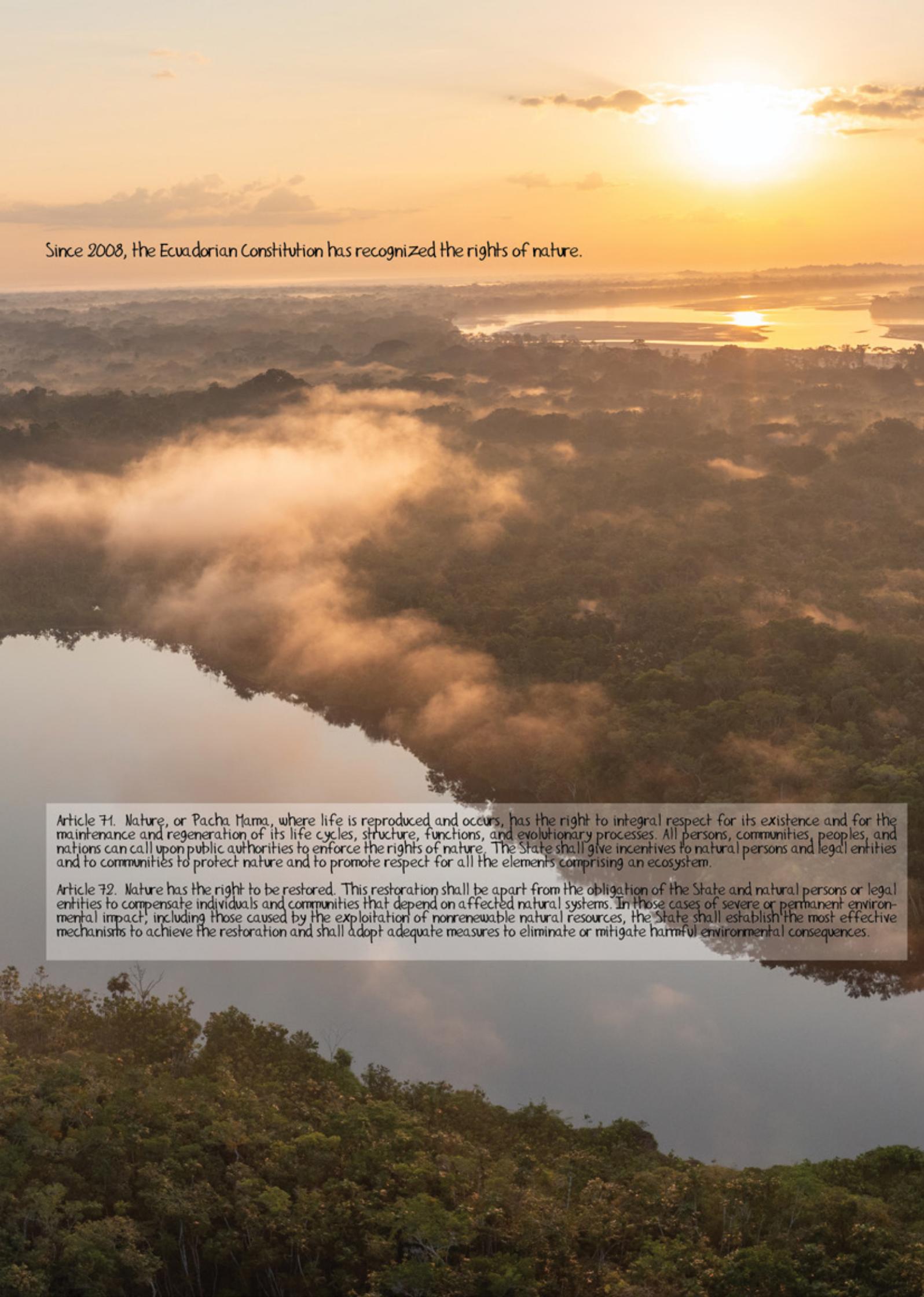
Winia uchichiruka
Nankichinia jiu
tasanku

Penke Awakkachminkiau
Iniakman iniakman winiawai
Policiankaya

Ukuru ekenkiarjai
Putsutu awajkiarjai
Kakarmachu awajkiarjai

Kintia panki nuachitjai
Kintia panki asanku

Let my children take up the spears / no one will defeat them / I have come to show that / to the police / I left them behind / I defeated them / I made them back down / I am the boa Kinkia woman / because I am the boa Kinkia / I am thundering.



Since 2008, the Ecuadorian Constitution has recognized the rights of nature.

Article 71. Nature, or Pacha Mama, where life is reproduced and occurs, has the right to integral respect for its existence and for the maintenance and regeneration of its life cycles, structure, functions, and evolutionary processes. All persons, communities, peoples, and nations can call upon public authorities to enforce the rights of nature. The State shall give incentives to natural persons and legal entities and to communities to protect nature and to promote respect for all the elements comprising an ecosystem.

Article 72. Nature has the right to be restored. This restoration shall be apart from the obligation of the State and natural persons or legal entities to compensate individuals and communities that depend on affected natural systems. In those cases of severe or permanent environmental impact, including those caused by the exploitation of nonrenewable natural resources, the State shall establish the most effective mechanisms to achieve the restoration and shall adopt adequate measures to eliminate or mitigate harmful environmental consequences.

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