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Cambio Magazine Article Correct FACTS

Introduction: This document aims to present to the stakeholders a response to the publication made by Cambio Magazine in October 2009. For further explanation we suggested to consult documents: Las Pavas Summary of the case and ENLAZA Social-Economic-Institutional Analysis published on www.daabon.com/pavas. An official letter clarifying the facts was sent to the Editor of the magazine but they reserved their rights to make a follow up publication on the case. Copy of this letter is available on request. The English version of the article source is http://www.cambio.com.co/portadacambio/849/ARTICULO-WEB-NOTA_INTERIOR_CAMBIO-6300189.html

More than 120 families in southern Bolivar are in litigation with the family Samaria Abondano Davila

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In a field school in the village of Buenos Aires in the south of Bolivar, 123 families live in huts that on July 14, were evicted by the police in Las Pavas, an estate of 3,000 hectares. The petition to vacate the two companies made posts San Isidro and C. I. Tequendama Daabon Group, Davila family Abondano Samaria.

Fact/ It is important to clarify that the Consortium El Labrador is formed by CI San Isidro (non member of DAABON) and CI Tequendama (subsidiary of Daabon). With regards the comment of eviction, we would like to clarify that the families were not based on the area. The land was acquired by Consortium EL Labrador in 2007. In January 2009 a group of families, decided to invade the land, residing in the region around Las Pavas claimed the right to the land acquired by the consortium in 2007, which they say they had inhabited and used previously. The Consortium followed legal procedures and made several attempts to talk to the community, and on the 14th of July obtained the status quo on the property (Please refer to document Las Pavas facts for more detailed information)

According to campesino leader Misael Payares, is the third time they are removed from these lands, first by the paramilitaries, then by an uncle of Pablo Escobar, the Davila family now Abondano. They did so willingly, without resistance. "We did not want no dead or wounded," he says. But we did it with dignity and remain here as necessary until we return the land that is ours. "

Fact/Mr. Misael Payares is one of the spoken persons of the community. It is true that the South of Bolivar area has been victim of paramilitaries and guerillas and there is also a high level of poverty. However it is not true that the Davila Abondano family has removed the people. The Consortium exercises their due diligence before acquiring the land. There is sufficient evidence that the area was not populated at all.

Ephraim Alvear, another peasant leader, insists that the land belongs to the 123 families. "The work for over 13 years," he says, and note that its original owner was Jesus Emilio Escobar, who left after the death of his nephew, Pablo Escobar in 1993, which was when they occupied the farm to plant cocoa, maize and cotton . The worked until 2003 when they were evicted by the Central Bolívar Bloc of the AUC. They took refuge in Buenos Aires and in 2006, following the demobilization of paramilitaries, returned to Las Pavas.

Fact/The case has been in three different courts: local, County and National; and the Consortium has won the legal right on the property. Furthermore the court found many irregularities and inconsistencies on the information presented by community representatives.

That year, Incoder initiated a forfeiture process to distribute the property among its occupants. "We were so confident," says Alvear, who in mid-2006 we did a lot of effort to the Agrarian Bank loan of 234 million dollars to plant cocoa. But at the end of the original owner came and forcibly removed them. Returning to Buenos Aires. Escobar sold the land in 2007 to Daabon group. But in November 2008 Incoder finally began the process of extinction. "We recovered the faith and returned in January 2009," says the peasant leader.

Fact/ The title of the land did not have any indication of the process of extinction of dominion. The purchase was closed in 2007, the company started operating in the area and only in January 2009 a local group claimed ownership on the land. In February 2010 the INCODER has declared officially that the consortium is the legal owner of the land and the case is legally close.

Demand and guardianship

The ordeal did not end. Daabon group companies, posts San Isidro and C. I. Tequendama, sued in 2008 to farmers by occupation in fact and these, in response to what they considered an injustice, brought before the court guardianship promiscuous San Martin de Loba, Cesar, which was ruled in his favor on April 30 last . In vain. Ignoring the court decision, the inspector ordered the eviction The Rock.

Fact/ For clarity on this fact, please refer to status quo process in the Las Pavas Case to get the correct facts and dates.

Daabon group companies maintain that they bought the property in good faith, for the Office of Public and Private Instruments The Pavas not included with reservation, because Incoder sure thing never notified the process. But the Cocoa Association of Buenos Aires, they belong to the homeless, argues that since 2006 the Incoder verified that the working families that site and began the process of extinction.

Fact/ The argument homeless is not right the community claiming ownership on the Las Pavas, have their own house in a town called Buenos Aires, some of them have in addition small lands dedicated to cattle or cultivate products.

The case, which also has been denounced by the sociologist and columnist Alfredo Molano, lawyers take him for free because farmers can not afford to pay them, and international agencies are monitoring him. "When we win the lawsuit means that justice exists," says Payares. Remember that in the story David beat Goliath. "

Farmers are again without land to work and guans held family businesses Abondano Davila, the same research as CHANGE benefits received in 2008 more than 2,200 million pesos for irrigation and drainage Agro Ingreso Seguro Program Ministry of Agriculture in the department of La Guajira. Besides other document known by the magazine reveals that posts San Isidro, owner of The Pavas, received 372 million dollars credit line for Rural Capitalization Incentive, ICR, Finagro for a project in El Regidor, 35 minutes of the mentioned property. The 123 displaced families do not understand why the State is reaching them, while it does, and generously, with a powerful family, leads a group that moves \$ 120 million a year.

[Fact/ This part refers to subsidy scheme the Colombian government has. It is true that DAABON received the grant.](#)

International Scrutiny

More than 15 international NGOs, including English Christian Aid Initiated an outreach campaign around the world to report the case of The Pavas and recommended "to refrain from buying products" of enterprises posts San Isidro and C. I. Tequendama as violating fundamental rights of the peasants evicted on 14 July. "Daabon being sold at The Body Shop UK agency and as we have a special duty to ensure that the welfare of the British did not come from the suffering of 123 families displaced and poor, and so we made the complaint, told Cambio Jonathan Glennie, Christian Aid representative. The two companies have 20 years devoted to extraction and refining of oil and in the last 10 years has specialized in the production of organic palm oil and its derivatives.

[Fact/ It is true that Christian Aid has raised concern on the case. The article was published in October 2009, since then we have had a meeting and teleconferences with Jonathan Glennie and they have now become mediators to solve the process.](#)

Ecological damage

CHANGE accompanied a group of farmers and representatives of the Peace Program of Magdalena Medio, PPM, during a visit to The Pavas and found that there are several acres of land burned and others devastated by the planting of oil palm, and wetlands, key to wildlife, fisheries and water supply are affected. "They're cutting down forests over 30 years will be very difficult to recover," said Ephraim Alvear. Meanwhile, delegates from PPM palm argue that the company is doing drying wetland channels and make more land for planting palm. "Cartagena Environmental authorities have been informed of the case.

[Fact/ The La Pavas area was previously used for intensive cattle-grazing, therefore as part of the initial preparation to begin farming this land, it was carefully accessed and any clearance would have been part of this land-preparation – to be clear, no protected areas would have been affected. The company has in fact designed an Environmental Management Plan \(EMP\) for the area which is strictly adhered to, and as a result this will include 15% of the land being protected – this is based on our own voluntary policies. This voluntary practice protects a high proportion of the](#)

conservation area, assessed during the exploratory phase, allowing for a strategically positioned area being maintained helping to protect the local wildlife. For additional information please check document Las Pavas Outlook.