
From: PABLO FAJARDO [pafam@ecuanex.net.ec]
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2007 8:34 PM
To: Steven Donziger
Subject: Re: follow up on press releases

You're upset bro.

Calm down, calm down, bro.

PFM

----- Original Message -----

From: [Steven Donziger](#)
To: [Simeon Tegele](#)
Cc: [Mitch Anderson](#) ; [Atossa Soltani](#) ; [Kevin Koenig](#)
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2007 7:48 PM
Subject: Re: follow up on press releases

Simeon --

I think we have to recognize we have structural disagreements with regard to press releases that probably cannot be resolved as we have revisited these same issues repeatedly now, and spent a lot of time doing so. Don't worry about that release I sent you -- we are going to distribute it on our own website out of Quito and via other channels. If you want to run it exactly as we post it, feel free but we are no longer going to rely on the chevtox site (a site which we funded) as our main press distribution channel in English. We already have been delayed five days by AW and no responsible person in my position would or should put up with delays of that nature when the other side is moving 24/7 at a critical moment with such high stakes.

In a nutshell, nobody at AW -- including you, who has never even visited Ecuador with regards to the case -- is in a position to make sophisticated editorial judgments about subtle points in our press releases that have to do with rapidly moving events on the ground that we live with everyday and that you are far removed from. For too long, our materials get stuck in the chokehold of the AW pipeline as people head off to retreats or disappear on vacations or take sick days, to the point where significant opportunities are missed. Further, we are never going to outsource our editing responsibility to anybody else or any NGO, which seems to be an expectation of yours. We can be collaborators, but we are not equal partners. This is an important distinction.

The issue about Cabrera's qualifications is a good example. He doesn't have a doctorate. I don't want to highlight that. So I don't mention what degree he has in the press release. Obviously if he had a doctorate it would be in there, don't u think?

More broadly, I really don't believe AW cares to move at the pace and urgency that a litigation-centered campaign that has a short window of opportunity requires. I also don't believe AW from an institutional standpoint wants to be in a supportive role for a campaign that is centered around a litigation where lawyers are the final authority. This is not the model you are comfortable with as an institution. I think you guys would probably agree with this assessment. It doesn't mean we cannot collaborate, and I hope we can continue collaborating. But with regard to information flow from us to journalists, we need to control that in-house from this point forward.

Thanks,

SRD

On 8/24/07, **Simeon Tegel** <simeon@amazonwatch.org> wrote:
Steven,

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Secondly, thanks for clarifying some of my questions. Unfortunately, the clarifications are not full enough for AW to run this press release as is. The fact that it is attributed to the Frente loosens the requirements on the release but not to the extent that AW would run a release that fails to address certain basic questions. I have therefore sent Pablo and Luis an e-mail asking both of them the same questions, re: 1. The prison threat to the judge; 2. Cabrera's qualifications (AW still does not know, for example, if his "advanced degree" is a MSc or PhD); 3. More detail on Chevron's fraudulent sampling (it is still not entirely clear to us whether you are now accusing Chevron for the first time of actually falsifying samples rather than simply taking them from less contaminated areas on-site).

Depending on the answers that Luis and Pablo are able to come up with, AW will send out our own press release on Monday morning. I may send it to you ahead of time for your observations, particularly regarding factual accuracy, but I want to make it clear that, as with all AW press releases, the final arbiters of the text will be AW rather than you; to prevent you wasting your time, you should send me any comments on the release in the main body of an e-mail rather than attempt to rewrite the release itself.

More broadly, I have found your approach this week highly problematic and not in the collegial spirit that I believe is necessary to promote our shared mission. I understand that you are under a lot of pressure at the moment. However, venting that pressure at me (or any other member of the AW staff) is unacceptable. You will find you have a more effective professional relationship with me and AW more generally if you find other ways to engage with us than doing the e-mail equivalent of barking orders.

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To be clear, I am still willing to work closely with you in order to keep this incredibly important case in the public eye here in the US. However, for our relationship to continue functioning in the best interests of our common cause you are going to have significantly change your tone and approach.

Best,

Simeon

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Por el presente certifico que la traducción adjunta es, según mi leal saber y entender, traducción fiel y completa del idioma español al idioma inglés del documento adjunto.

Dated: January 30, 2011
Fecha: 30 de enero de 2011

Weikwang Ng (Jason)
Project Manager – Legal Translations
Merrill Brink International/Merrill Corporation

[firmado]

Weikwang Ng (Jason)
Gerente de Proyecto – Traducciones Legales
Merrill Brink International/Merrill Corporation

Sworn to and signed before
Jurado y firmado ante
Me, this 30th day of
mí, a los 30 días del
January 2011
mes de enero de 2011

Notary Public
Notario Público

GINA ST LAURENT [firmado]
Notary Public, State of New York [sello]
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires May 15, 2014
OFFICES IN MAJOR CITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

From: PABLO FAJARDO [pafam@ecuanex.net.ec]
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