

You are Invited to a Special Briefing for Funders:

The Amazon at the Crossroads: 'Extreme' Energy Projects in Sacred Headwaters

Special Guests: Patricia Gualinga (Ecuador), Mayalú Txucarramãe (Brazil), and Atossa Soltani (US)

Hosted by **The Overbrook Foundation**, 122 East 42nd Street, Suite 2500, New York, NY 10168

Thursday, September 19, 2013, 2 – 3:30 pm, Please RSVP to branden@amazonwatch.org

The future of the Amazon rainforest is at crossroads as regional governments – led by powerful financial and corporate interests – opt for a new wave of “extreme” energy mega-projects in pristine Amazon headwaters to fuel economic growth of the region. If built, massive dams, heavy crude discoveries and associated pipelines in the planet’s center of biological diversity would bring irreversible consequences for rainforests, rivers, indigenous cultures, and our global climate.

How are indigenous communities, their allies, the public and the courts pushing back? What are lessons for other regions facing similar trends? Hear about critical battlegrounds that are setting global precedents for corporate accountability, human rights and a more sustainable energy path.

❖ **Challenging Brazil’s Hydroelectric Expansion Plan:** The Belo Monte Dam campaign is the cornerstone of a larger effort to challenge Brazil’s plans for 60 large dams on tributaries of the Amazon over the next 20 years. Hear how the coordinated international and local campaigns are challenging this dam (and many others) and what efforts are underway to shift Brazil’s electricity matrix toward energy efficiency and clean renewables.

❖ **Oil Boom and Human Rights in Ecuador’s Amazon:** Ecuadorian government’s 11th Round auction is opening up 8 million acres of primary rainforest to oil drilling. Hear how indigenous organizing, media and investor campaigns have delayed the auction so far. Also Ecuador recently abandoned the innovative Yasuní-ITT initiative -- Ecuador’s promise to forgo drilling in Yasuni National Park in exchange for funds from the international community. Hear about President Correa’s imminent drilling plans for Yasuni and his crack down on social movements in opposition.

❖ **Lessons Learned in International Advocacy and Legal Campaigns:** We will look at lessons learned from these media, advocacy and legal campaigns and hear an update on the pending decision by Brazil’s Supreme Court on Belo Monte dam’s legality.

Patricia Gualinga is a Kichwa leader from Sarayaku, Ecuador, and one of the key protagonists in the recent historic indigenous rights victory at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In 2012, the Court found the Ecuadorian government guilty of rights violations when it authorized oil exploration and militarization of Sarayaku’s lands without consulting the community. The decision included the most detailed and binding language to date on indigenous peoples’ right to prior consultation.

Mayalú Txucarramãe is an indigenous leader of Brazil’s Mebêngôkre and Kamirã Waura ethnicities and the grandniece of the legendary Kayapó Chief Raoni Metuktire. Mayalú is an emerging force in organizing indigenous youth along Brazil’s Xingu River in the face of threats from destructive mega-dams, including the controversial Belo Monte Dam.

Atossa Soltani is the founder and Executive Director of Amazon Watch. Since 1991, Atossa has been working in partnership with indigenous peoples on the front lines of critical battles for indigenous rights and forest protection. The New Zealand-based Sir Edmund Hillary Institute recently selected Soltani as the 2013 Hillary Laureate for Leadership in Climate Equity. She also serves as the chair of the board of trustees of the Christensen Fund, is on the board of directors of Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs, the advisory board of Peru-based Arkana Alliance and the advisory board of the Inter-American Clean Energy Institute.