

# *Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa Says Chevron Deliberately Caused Amazon Oil Disaster*

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Quito, May 22 (teleSUR-RHC)-- Chevron deliberately caused an oil catastrophe in the Ecuadorean jungle, the Latin American country's president, Rafael Correa, affirmed on Thursday. Speaking on the International Anti-Chevron Day, Correa accused the oil giant of intentionally destroying the famous biodiversity and homes of thousands of people.

"The disaster caused in the Ecuadorean forest is worse than that of Exxon Valdez in Alaska or BP in the Gulf of Mexico," the president posted on his official Twitter account. "The worst difference is that those were accidents; what Chevron did was deliberate."

Correa continued to encourage those who doubted that it was a crime to "put their hand in the pools left by Chevron. 25 years (after the disaster) that hand will come out black from oil." "Chevron: corrupt and corrupting company. We will win!" he concluded.

The oil exploration and exploitation operations of Texaco, a sister company to Chevron, which were carried out between 1964 and 1995 in the north of the Ecuadorean Amazon, had lethal effects on two million hectares of soil, vegetation, rivers and estuaries.

Organizers of the actions targeting the oil giant on the Anti-Chevron day seek to bring attention to the plight of tens of thousands of indigenous people in the Ecuadorean Amazon, who as a result of Chevron's contamination have been forced to take legal action to force the company to be accountable for its actions. "We demand that Chevron stop attacking Ecuador, that Chevron cleans up its mess, and pays what it owes," read a statement released by organizers.

The affected communities have been facing off with Chevron in court for decades, seeking to collect \$9.5 billion in compensation for environmental damage caused by the company.

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