

## SPANISH TRANSCRIPT

**[ PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A ‘RUSH TRANSCRIPT’ WITH SOME DIALOGUE , PARTICULARLY PLACE & PROPER NAMES, YET TO BE CONFIRMED ]**

Former Texaco oil contractor Jhinsop Martinez Erraez interviewed by Mitchell Anderson of Amazon Watch in Lago Agrio, Ecuador, July 23, 2010

[Few seconds of side talk]

[0:07] Ya. Mi nombre es Jhinsop Manuel Martínez Erraez.

[0:11] [Confirms spelling.]

[0:18] Yo nací en la provincia de Loja. Si, pero estamos nosotros aquí residiendo en el Oriente desde 1981 que mi papá, él se migró de una provincia a otra. [0:30] Venimos al Oriente en busca de, de mejores, mejores de, mejores días para vivir porque siempre la provincia para allá es muy seca.

[0:42] [side talk.]

[0:52] Y yo de ahí me dediqué a estudiar. Mi papá me dio de estudio. Estudié en el colegio la mala calidad. Y gracias a unos amigos me....

[1:00] [side talk]

[1:06] De ahí este, estudié, me gradué y gracias a unos amigos me ayudaron a una, a un trabajito ahí en tiempo del Texaco. Yo entré a trabajar como ayudante de operación de producción de petróleo.

[1:20] (Question: at which station?)

[1:24] Ah, si, yo trabajé en el pozo Dureno Uno. Si eso se llama el pozo donde yo trabajé. Y, trabajé en el tiempo de Texaco. Y para Petro Producción trabajé en Bermejo. Campo Bermejo que queda...

[1:42] (Question: as you saw and know how Texaco operated, can you explain a bit...?)

[2:02] Si principalmente la contaminación en el tiempo que yo trabajé era bastante grande porque la estación que trabajé era un sólo pozo de petróleo y el

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

[0:07] Okay. My name is Jhinsop Manuel Martínez Erraez.

[0:18] I was born in Loja province. But we've been living here in Oriente since 1981 when my father, he migrated from one province to another. [0:30] We came to Oriente looking for better, better, better days for living, the province over there is always very dry.

[0:52] I studied then; my father supported my studies. I studied in a poor quality school. And thanks to a few friends...

[1:06] So from then I studied, graduated and thanks to some friends who helped me get a little work back then in Texaco's time. I started out working as an assistant to oil production operation.

[1:24] Ah, okay, I worked at the Dureno One well. That is the name of the well where I worked. I worked during Texaco's time. And then for Petro Producción I worked in Bermejo. Camp Bermejo that is...

[2:02] Yes, well the contamination during the time I was working was quite a lot because the station where I worked was just one oil well and the crude from

crudo de ahí lo transportaban ya a, acá a los tanques de reposo de aquí de la Lago Agrio y ya neto, sin agua sin sedimentos. Puro no más, y ahí se lo refinaba con químicos. El agua se le botaba a una quebrada, un estero sin tratamiento ninguno. [2:31] Y así el agua iba contaminada con químicos porque el crudo cuando salía de la tierra pues se le inyectaba unos químicos para separar al sedimento del crudo.

[2:45] (Question: what was your position and who did you work for?)

[2:49] Yo trabajaba para una compañía, se llamaba (¿BDB?) si es la compañía contratista que trabajaba para Texaco. Con esa compañía trabajaba yo, más o menos un año trabajé.

[3:02] (Question: what year?)

[3:04] En el 89.

[3:06] (Question: what was an average day like?)

[3:17] Ah, el trabajo, del trabajo. Si, yo cualquier turno, era el turno veinticuatro horas ahí en, nos turnábamos, nos turnaban ahí. Llegaba en la mañana, se, se veía la presión de la salida del crudo de la tierra. Se tomaba muestras, a ver que cantidad de agua había. [3:35] Y se veía al tanque. Y al rato que el tanque estaba lleno, se drenaba el agua al estero que se daba al superficie. Y luego el crudo que quedaba se (**inaudible**) acá a la Lago Agrio estación. Es el trabajo que nosotros teníamos y de ver que está inyectándose el químico constantemente. [3:54] Para que separe más rápido el agua del crudo. Aquí hay un químico que separar inmediatamente el crudo lo (**inaudible**) y el agua lo deja. (**inaudible**) es más pesado siempre el agua.

[4:05→ 4:24] (Clarification and then Question: explain formation waters?)

[4:25] El agua que se drenaba, era un agua amarilla. Propiamente contaminada porque se inyectaba dos clases de químicos. Uno para separar el agua y otro para separar el sedimento. [4:37] Como aquí dicen la arena, le llaman vulgarmente. Entonces se llama sedimento nos explicaban los ingenieros ahí. Dos clases de químicos, esos totalmente eran contaminante el agua que se botaba.

[4:50] (Question: who gave orders?)

[4:53] No me acuerdo.

there they transported here to the storage tanks in Lago Agrio already done, without water, without sediment. Just pure, and there they refined it with chemicals. The water spilled out into a ridge and a marsh without any treatment at all. [2:31] And so the water was released contaminated with chemicals because the crude when it comes out of the ground well they injected it with those chemicals to separate the sediment from the crude.

[2:49] I worked for a company called (**BDB?**), yes that contractor company worked for Texaco. With that company I worked for more or less a year.

[3:04] In 89.

[3:17] Well, the work, the work. On any shift, the shifts were twenty-four hours long, and we took shifts, they rotated us. We took samples to see how much water was there. [3:35] We looked at the tank. And in a bit when the tank was full, we drained the water over the ground. And later the crude that was left was (**inaudible**) here in Lago Agrio station. That was the job we had, and to make sure that the chemicals were constantly being injected in. [3:54] To separate more quickly the crude and the water. Here they use a chemical that immediately separates the crude, it (**inaudible**) and the water it releases. (**inaudible**) the water is always heavier.

[4:25] The water that was drained was yellow. Truly contaminated because it was injected with two classes of chemicals. One to separate the water and another to separate the sediment. [4:37] As they say here, the sand, that's the common word. But its called sediment the engineers explained to us. Two classes of chemicals, they were totally contaminating, the water was spilled out.

[4:53] I don't remember.

[4:58] (Question: which company?)

[5:00] Texaco, pues era la, la compañía que... Texaco le daba el contrato a una contratista y pues el nos contrataba a nosotros cuándo entra directamente a Texaco. Si éramos contratados no más. [5:13] Nos hacían firmar contratos de un año a dos años. Y cada vez que se cumplía el contrato nos hacían firmar nuevos contratos. Prácticamente era la explotación también laborales. [5:27] No era legal. No, que las políticas de la empresa Texaco eran esas.

[side talk.]

[5:53] Y eso era la rutina teníamos los 24 horas del día, de estar pendiente de ese pozo. Un solo pozo de petróleo existía. Que en la actualidad hasta donde yo tengo entendido, está cerrado ese pozo ya, pero por los últimos problemas que existían de las denuncias de la contaminación. Porque esa agua se drenaba en la montaña, no se drenaba en un esterito así, eso se iba a una montaña. Aquel pozo se quedaba en una loma, se drenaba a una montaña, se iba abajo y salió en un río. [6:24 Mitch: Eso a lo mejor contaminaba... ] Ah si, pues eso contaminaba rotundamente toda el sector. Y eran pues en ese tiempo tierras montañosos, pura selva existía, rica en flora y fauna, y eso destruyó todo. Afectó bastante. [6:41] Y nosotros como éramos simples trabajadores no podíamos opinar nada, encima siempre teníamos que trabajar, cumplir con las ordenes que ellos nos daban. Porque eso era lo, esa era la obligación de nosotros, no tenía nada que ver con la contaminación.

[6:58] (Mitch: Can you tell us the name of the company that gave you your orders?)

[7:04] Ah, Texaco. Texaco era la, ellos hablaban en sus vehículos, andaban chequeando que todo esté en orden, si. Ellos, ellos estaban constantemente, casi todos los días llegaban a, a vigilar. Los jefes de producción de petróleo, llegaban los mecánicos que daban mantenimiento a las bombas, a las bombas para bombear el crudo y las bombas que inyectaban el químico. Llegaban ingenieros ellos mismos a chequear el químico que esté todo en orden. Eso era constantemente casi todos los días. Pues si no, mínimo tres veces la semana llegaban. Ellos daban las ordenes, si.

[7:43] (Mitch: Do you think Texaco know they were contaminating?)

[7:47] Ah si, por supuesto si ellos daban la orden de que drenemos el agua a la naturaleza, pues era contaminación. No iba a ninguna parte a ser tratada ni nada

[5:00] Texaco was the company that... Texaco contracted the contractors and they contracted us when Texaco came directly in. We were just contracted. [5:13] They made us sign contracts for one or two years. Every time the contract expired they made us sign new contracts. Basically it was also labor exploitation. [5:27] It wasn't legal. No, Texaco's company policies were these.

[5:53] And that was the routine we had twenty-four hours a day, taking care of that well. Only one oil well existed. Today, as far as I know, that well is closed now, due to the problems of late of the denunciations of the contamination. Because that water was drained into the mountainside, they didn't drain it into a little clearing like this, it went to the mountainside. That well was on a hill and drained to the mountain, it went down and came out in a river. [6:24 Mitch: that perhaps contaminated... ] Well yes, that completely contaminated the entire region. And at that time these were mountainous lands, pure rain forest existed, rich in flora and fauna; and this destroyed everything. It impacted a lot. [6:41] And since we were just simple workers we couldn't say anything, and moreover we always had to work, to comply with the orders they gave us. That was the, that was our obligation, nothing to do with the contamination.

[7:04] Ah, Texaco. Texaco was the, they spoke in their vehicles, they would go around checking that everything is in order. They, they were constantly, almost everyday they arrived to, to watch over. The oil production managers, the mechanic would arrive to maintenance the pumps, the pumps used to pump the crude and the pumps used to inject the chemicals. Engineers themselves would arrive to check the chemicals, make sure everything was in order. [1:44] This was constantly, almost every day. And when not, at a minimum three times a week they would arrive. They gave the orders.

[7:47] Oh yes, of course they gave the orders for us to drain the water out into nature, that was the contamination. It didn't go anywhere to get treated or

de eso. Iba directamente por una..., por un tubo y drenaba a la montaña. No más a otro lado. Eso y, pues, no se podía hacer nada. Ah, y además de eso, el gas que también era quemada al medio ambiente. El mechero se prendía ahí. El gas era quemada también. Pero lo más drástico fue del agua. Del agua.

[8:24] (Mitch: Did you see any oil spills?)

[8:29] Derrames. Derrames así en ese sector, no. Pero en otros sectores si me enterré de derrames.

[side talk]

[9:16] Ah, si. Yo derrames personalmente no. Pero si me enterré de otros derrames en otros lugares. Si se derramaron bastantes barriles de crudo. Y en ese tiempo pues no le cogían y **(inaudible)** simplemente le cogían y le tapaban con arena y el crudo quedaba adentro. Eso era la, lo que hacían ellos. Y la sanción, pues, [9:41 → 9:46?] Esa era la sanción que se tenía. Si de ahí más o menos yo trabajé unos diez kilómetros, se derramó así un tanque. Se descuidó el operador [9:57] y se quedó dormido, eso era en la noche, se derramó bastante crudo, botó bastante...

[10:04 → 11:17 crying and side talk]

[11:17] Solo le cubría para aparentar no más que limpiaban no más. Solo le cubría con arena o con aserrín pero no descontaminaban ellos. No dejaban limpio, no se llevaban el crudo que quedaba botado. Solamente tapaban no más. Porque no, había un importismo de descontaminación, no les importaban nada. Lo que a ellos interesaba era, impresionaban a todos los operadores que trabajábamos ahí, impresionaban de que lo que ellos querían era petróleo. Que si un pozo producía unos mil barriles diarios, ellos estaban muy feliz, pero si dejaba de producir, se ponían, se ponían molestos, decían que no, que el pozo tenía que producir, lo que interesaba era la producción, que salga petróleo. Nada más. No les importaba la vida de otra, de otras personas.

[12:02] (Mitch, why?)

[12:04] Como una opinión personal, sería yo que estaba muy mal. Es, únicamente, debían primero ver, haber visto el lado humano y no, no la ambición del petróleo. [6:28] Eso era lo que a mi, mi concepto general, eso era la... Y estudiando, analizando, hablando con los compañeros de otros campos, esa era la única opción que ellos querían, el petróleo y nada más. No les importaba inyectarle el químico que sea al petróleo para que salga más limpio.

anything like that. It went directly through a, through a tube and drained into the mountainside. [2:11] Nowhere else. That and, well, there was nothing you could do. Oh, and in addition to that, they also burned the gas into the environment. [2:24] They lit the flame there. The gas was burned too. But the most drastic was the water. The water.

[8:29] Spills. Spills in that sector, no. But I heard of spills in other sectors.

[9:16] Oh, yes. Spills, personally, no. But I did hear about other spills in other places. They did spill many a barrel of crude. And at that time, they didn't gather it and **(inaudible)** simply they gathered it and covered it up with sand and the crude stayed beneath. That was the, what they did. And the penalty, well [9:41 → 9:46 can't make out what he says]. That was the penalty. I worked more or less about six miles away, where a tank spilled like that. An operator was careless [9:57] he fell asleep, this was at night, and a lot of crude spilled, a lot gushed out.

[11:17] They just covered it to make it look like they were cleaning up. They just covered it with sand or with sawdust, but they didn't decontaminate. They didn't leave it clean, they didn't remove the crude that had gushed out. They just covered it up. Because they was no value of decontamination, they didn't care. What they cared about, what they impressed upon all of us who worked there, they insisted that what they wanted was oil. If a well produced about a thousand barrels a day they were very happy. But if it stopped producing, they got, they got upset, they said no, that the well had to produce. What they were interested in was production, that oil keep coming out. Nothing else. They didn't care about the life of another, of other people's lives.

[12:04] A personal opinion, I'd say it was very bad. It is, only, they should have looked at the human side first, not, not the desire for oil. That is what I, my general idea, that was the... and studying, analyzing, speaking with colleagues from other regions, that was the only thing they wanted, oil and nothing else. They didn't care about injecting any chemical they needed into the oil so that it would come out cleaner. They didn't care. Because there were, there are some

No les importaba, porque había, hay unos químicos que decían que eran cancerígenos, no les importaban nada. Por ejemplo, ese químico, (**¿el sileno?**), dice que es muy malo para la... que había que hacerle con... con unos trajes adecuados para no contaminarse, pero no, igual ellos presionaban que, que se saque el petróleo y punto. [12:59]

## PART II – (YouTube)

[13:01] (Mitch: You were working at the Dureno well? Yes. And that well is in a Cofan community? Correct. What have you seen of impacts on the indigenous peoples?)

[13:17] Ah si. Hubieran bastantes quejas, sino que en ese tiempo... si se quejaron en ese tiempo en las comunidades, no me acuerdo las comunas, que se quejaron como tres comunas, qué existen para la parte de atrás. Se quejaron, lo que pasa que más en ese tiempo en las autoridades también había un que me importismo y un conversante muy grande la corrupción. Se vendían las autoridades y, y no hacían nada. Texaco como era muy poderoso pues compraba las autoridades y se quedaba en nada. Que sigan reclamando, no les paraba asunto aquí, no. No les tomaba importancia. Si reclamaron algunas veces. Reclamaron algunas veces, iban allá al pozo y veían donde se botaba la contaminación. Ahora que, los nativos... la mayoría de los nativos viven de la pesca, de la casería, de, de la agricultura y la tierra contaminada no produce. [14:13] (**inaudible**) en las tierras donde ha sido afectadas por un derrame de crudo contaminación de petróleo, no producen. Ahí están, así como este patio. No producen y no producen y están como, como haberles quemado. Y así como hay unos campos ahí, unos fincas por adentro que están así. No producen nada, nada, nada. Todos los ríos son sumamente contaminados. A la fecha pues no se, ya son bastantes años que no he ido por ahí, pero en ese tiempo era así.

[14:47] (Mitch: Can you describe a bit what the rivers were like?)

[14:55] Ah, en contaminación, no, pues pesca cero. Son ríos, eran ríos, propiamente productivos en pesca. Pero ya después no. De eso salían a reclamar las comunidades de acá. De la pesca, que las peces se morían. [15:10] Y ellos reclamaban que de eso vivían. Eso era la alimentación de ellos. Pero, vuelvo a repetir, no, no les tomaron asunto. Seguía la contaminación. Y yo ya me retiré de ahí, de ese campo y ahí quedó funcionando como yo le explico, botando al intemperie el agua contaminada y, y yo no se después que pasaría.

[15:35→ 15:44] (Mitch: then you worked for petro eduardo? Jhinsop: yes, petro

chemicals that they say are carcinogens; they didn't care at all. For example, this chemical (???) they say it is very bad for... that it should be done with.... With some special suits necessary to not get contaminated, but no, all the same they pressured us for the oil to keep flowing out and that is it. [12:59]

## PART II – (YouTube)

[13:17] Oh yes. There were many complaints, but at that time... yes in the communities at that time they complained, I don't remember which villages, but about three villages that are in the part behind us complained. They complained, but what happened was, and more so at that time, they authorities didn't care either and a (???) very serious with corruption. The authorities sold themselves, and didn't do anything. Since Texaco was very powerful they bought the authorities and nothing ever happened. They could complain all they like, but no one ever came to look into things. They didn't care. Sure they scolded a couple of times. They scolded, went out to the well and saw where all the contamination was spilling out. So, the indigenous... the majority of the indigenous peoples live off of fishing, hunting, and, and agriculture. And contaminated land does not produce. [14:13] (**inaudible**) in the lands that have been affected by oil spills, by oil contamination, they don't produce. There are just like this yard. They don't produce, they don't produce and there they are, as if they had been burned. Just like there are some fields out there, some farms further in the interior that are like that. They don't produce anything, nothing at all. All the rivers are completely contaminated. Today, well I don't know, it has been quiet a few years that I haven't been back there, but in that time it was like that.

[14:55] Oh, in terms of the contamination? Well: zero fish. These rivers are, these rivers were highly productive with fish. But after, no. That is what the communities here came out to complain about. About the fish, that all the fish were dying. [15:10] They complained that they depended on these fish to survive. That was their nutrition. But, I repeat again, no one took them seriously. The contamination continued. And I left that region and it kept operating as I described spilling contaminated water out into the environment. And I don't know what happened after.

producción, later changed its name.)

[15:45] Ellos siguieron con la misma práctica Si, si siguieron con la misma... no, no hubo solución. Siguieron botando, por muchos años siguieron contaminando.

[15:55] (Mitch: now they are reinjecting the water?)

[15:59] Ah si, al momento dicen que si. Bueno, sería para el año de mil novecientos noventa y... noventa y siete creo que fue que comenzaron a reinyectar el agua. Si, vinieron, instalaron las maquinarias para inyectar el agua. Pro ejemplo lo que hacen en el campo Guanta ahí comenzaron a reinyectar el agua. El agua que salía es reinyectado. Ahora para aquí en Lago Agrio también, en la estación norte que está acá tienen reinyección de agua. Se reinyecta.

[16:28] (Mitch: do you recall at the time Texaco left and committed to remediate certain pools, how was the remediation?)

[16:41] Si la remediación, como la remediación hasta el momento sigue. Pero yo, yo ya salí de ahí de ese trabajo de lo que era el petróleo, pero yo siempre estaba trabajando en otra compañía en otras actividades, pero siempre veía que si **(inaudible)** lo estaban limpiando. Por ejemplo ahí en Parahuaco había una piscina que yo vi, como lo estaban limpiando el agua.

[17:03] (Mitch: who?)

[17:04] Una compañía extranjera, eso si, **(inaudible)** una compañía contratada. Pero (Mitch: nos han dicho...) en el tiempo de Petro Ecuador pues.

[17:11] (Mitch: explains Texaco remediation controversy, complaint that they have only covered up.)

[17:31] Correcto, si. Eso si es verdad, lo llenaron de aserrín. Ellos compraban aquí aserrín cualquier cantidad, de todos esos **(inaudible)** de aquí de la Lago Agrio llevaban por camionadas y les tapaba. Entonces, **(inaudible)** el petróleo quedó abajo. Un problema grave que sufrió aquí en Lago Agrio. Aquí no más hay un ejemplo claro, que taparon una piscina y el crudo empezó después a salir. Hasta el momento siguen trabajando. [17:58] Tendrá unos tres años en esa piscina trabajando ya. Hicieron mal, llegaron y le taparon. Pero para la mala suerte de ellos salió de vuelta el crudo. Después de que lo taparon empezó a salir el crudo. Entonces ahí le abrieron. Y siguió pues el crudo por un esterito y

[15:45] They continued the same ways. Yes, they continued in the same way... there was no, no solution. They kept gushing the water out, for many years they kept contaminating.

[15:59] Oh well, now they say so. Well, since nineteen ninety... ninety-seven I think it was when they began to re-inject the water. Yes, they came and installed the machinery to re-inject the water. For example, at the Guanta field they started re-injecting the water. The water that came out was re-injected. Now near here in Lago Agrio they also, in the north station here they are re-injecting the water.

[16:41] Well the remediation, the remediation continues now. But I, I left that job with oil. But I was always working with another company in different activities, but I always saw that they yes **(inaudible)** they were cleaning. For example over in Parahuaco **(inaudible)** there was a pool and I saw them cleaning the water.

[17:04] A foreign company, that is for sure, **(inaudible)** a contractor. But (Mitch: they have told us..) en Petro Ecuador's time.

[17:31] Correct, yes. That is the truth; they filled it with sawdust. They bought sawdust in huge quantities from all these **(inaudible)** here in the Lago Agrio taken by the truck load and used to cover it up. So, **(inaudible)** the oil just stayed below. A serious problem that people have suffered with here in Lago Agrio. Right here there is a clear example, they covered a pool and then later the crude started to leak out. They are still working now. [17:58] They've been working on that pool for about three years now. They did a bad job, they arrived and covered it all up. But their luck was bad and the crude started to leak out again. After they covered it up the crude started leaking out. And so they

por algunos pueblitos por ahí que hay, algunas casas les afectó. Pero eso fue en el tiempo de Petro Producción ahora , y hasta el momento, si usted fuera por ahí, hasta el momento están trabajando. Hasta ahora parece que le están haciendo recién la limpieza bien, pero por los errores de ellos mismos que no descontaminaron bien.

[18:36] (Mitch: Message for Texaco/Chevron?)

[18:58] Mi mensaje sería que por favor primero está la humanidad y después está la ambición. Que tengan un poquito de conciencia de que, de que dejaron afectando a muchas comunidades, no sola a una, sino a miles y cientos de miles de comunidades enteras dejaron contaminando, el agua, las tierras. Y hasta el momento no pueden, no pueden todavía trabajar en sus tierras. Y sería que por favor se acerquen y hablen y les den una, algo, una indemnización o asesoramiento o una nueva tecnología para que vuelven a producir las tierras.

[19:38] Y, y que acepten que ellos fueron los culpables. Porque estas eran unas tierras muy sanas, muy productivas. Y que no se merecen como están ahorita, muy descontaminadas, botadas, la gente sufriendo bastante por este problema no más. [20:00] Sin haber recibido un beneficio alguno. Ese es mensaje que, para toda la empresa que por favor haga conciencia. Que hay gente muy pobre, no es gente que tiene dinero; gente muy pobre que vive del campo, que vive de la pesca de la agricultura, la ganadería, y por la culpa de ellos dejaron destruyendo. No, no es posible de que se mantenga como están en el momento. Sería bueno de que, de que algo servía por ellos, se haga, haga conciencia. Ese es mi mensaje.

[20:31] (Mitch: response to Chevron statements saying the company is not responsible?)

[21:11] Ah no, eso es falso, la compañía en el tiempo que estuvo aquí, ella vino a destruir. Usted sabe muy bien, que usted a visitado algunos lugares donde, no haya, donde si ha afectado para contaminación. Son tierras, es un lugar muy paradisíaco para vivir, todo sano. El agua que existe en la montaña no es contaminada es muy pura, pura y sana. Los problemas originaron cuando entró la compañía Texaco a trabajar. Hubo contaminación demasiada exagerada. Y es falso, [21:44] una barbarie que al momento, si usted va a recordar algunos campos, es una destrucción masiva. Que no, que la culpa de ellos, únicamente la Texaco cuando vino lo que le interesaba era sacar petróleo a como de lugar. No le interesaba la naturaleza ni os habitantes que existían alrededor de ella. Que quería era producción de petróleo y punto y nada más. Eso era el éxito a costo de nada. No existía medio ambiente para ellos. Si, en ese tiempo.

opened it up. And the crude followed a little marsh and arrived in some small villages and affected several homes. But that was in the time of Petro Producción, and even today, if you were to go out there, even today they are still working. Only now it seems as if they are finally doing a good cleaning, but due to their own mistakes for not decontaminating well.

[18:58] My message would you be, please humanity should be first and then ambition. Have a little conscience that they have left many communities affected, not only one, but thousands and hundreds of thousands of entire communities, they left their water and land polluted. And even into the present they cannot, still cannot work their land. And it would be please that they come and talk and give these people one, a, a compensation or advice or a new technology to help their land produce again. [19:38] And, that they accept that they were the culprits. Because these lands were very healthy, very productive. And they do not deserve to be as they are now very decontaminated **[NOTE: I think he meant to say ‘contaminated’ but he clearly said the opposite]**, thrown away, people suffering a great deal due to this problem alone. [20:00] Without having received any benefit. That is the message that, for the entire company please have some conscience. There are very poor people, not people who have money, very poor people living in the countryside, living off fishing, agriculture, livestock, and they are guilty of destroying everything. No, it is not possible to remain as things are at the moment. It would be good, if something useful for these people... have a, then, have a conscience. That is my message.

[21:11] Oh no, that is false. The company, in the time it was here, it came to destroy. You know this well. You have visited some of the places where, there's no, where the contamination has affected a lot. These are lands, a paradise of a place in which to live, everything healthy. The water in the mountains is not contaminated, it is very pure, pure and healthy. The problems originated when the Texaco company came to work. There was so much excessive contamination. And it is false [21:44] an insult that even today, if you go to look at different oil fields, it is a place of massive destruction. And no, their guilt, only Texaco when it came what it wanted was to extract oil at any cost. They didn't care about nature or the people who lived in the surrounding areas. It wanted oil production, period, and that's all. Success at any cost. The environment did not exist for them. In that time.

[22:22] (Mitch: can you say what you saw with your own eyes?)

[22:23] Ah si, correcto, si yo vi, yo trabajé ahí en ese pozo te digo donde el agua salía contaminada con dos clases de químicos. Salía contaminada hacia la naturaleza. Se la botaba a un estero y ahí... por muchísimos años. Y todos los días, no una vez a la semana, todos los días se drenaba el agua contaminada. Porque el petróleo de ahí que salía de adentro era muy pesado, muy sucio venía y necesitaban químicos para inyectarle para que se disuelva, [22:54] se separe rápido el crudo del agua y la arena del crudo. Entonces todo eso se botaba. Eso es, en carne propia no, no hay otra más. No, no hay ni **(¿me han comentado?)** ni nada, yo lo viví en carne propia. Esta historia es real. Eso es.

[23:12] (Sidetalk; Mitch: anything else you'd like to say?)

[Thanks for the interview, for asking about contamination.]

[23:45] Doy fe y testimonio de que existió mucha contaminación en el tiempo de Texaco. Y no puede negarse ahí. [Again thanks.]

[23:59] (Mitch: your job title?)

[24:10] ¿Mi posición en el puesto de trabajo? Fui operador de producción.

[Side talk: confirms spelling of his name: Jhinsop Manuel Martínez Erraez]

**-END-**

[22:23] Oh, yes, yes I saw. I worked there in that well as I said the water came out contaminated with two kinds of chemicals. It came out contaminated and went into environment. They gushed it out into a marsh and there... for many, many years. [16:49] And everyday, not once a week, everyday they drained the contaminated water. Because the oil that came out there was very heavy and came out very dirty and they needed chemicals to inject into it to dissolve [22:54] and quickly separate the crude from the water and the sand from the crude. And so all that was thrown out. That's how it was, personally, there's no other... No, no it's not like **(they told me so?)** or anything like that. I personally lived it. This is a real history. That's how it is.

[23:45] I stand by this and give my testimony that there was so much contamination in Texaco's time. And no one can deny that.

[24:10] My job title? I was a production operator.

**-END-**





