

## Macas Story

### Background/Overview:

- Case centers around construction of Vía Macuma-Taisha by the provincial government, but, according to Prefect Chumpi, is an issue of political persecution by the national government due to Chumpi's opposition to mining and industrial extractivism in the province, which counter's Correa's development plan.
- In the current struggle, there are two separate legal processes. First, there is a denuncia penal (criminal lawsuit) against Prefecto Chumpi individually (I think it was brought by MAE and the governor of Morona-Santiago, but need to confirm). Second, there are administrative actions taken by MAE, including the revoking of the environmental license for the road project and I think sanctions against various individuals.

**July 17, 2001** – MAE issued environmental licenses for the construction and operation of the Vía Macuma Taisha project, via resolution 015.

- Construction of the road project begins this year (2001)
- From what I understand, construction of road began by Ministerio de Transporte y Obras Publicas to build a road to enable oil exploitation in and around Taisha

**2009** – Prefecto Chumpi is elected – becomes the first Shuar prefect in the province, and is from the community Taisha, which is one of the most isolated communities in Morona-Santiago and has been wanting a road to the community for 50 years.

**2010** – Communities hold assemblies saying they do not want any oil exploitation or other large-scale extractive industries in the province. Prefecto Chumpi supports this policy position. [see maps from provincial government showing that Taisha is in the middle of planned oil exploitation]

**July 31, 2010** – Correa, in his sabatina (Enlace Ciudadana #181), allegedly says that if there will be no oil exploitation in Taisha, there will be no road to Taisha – see video of sabatina and confirm by finding the time stamp on the video and quote.

**November 30, 2010** – Provincial government of Morona Santiago approves in first debate an ordinance declaring Morona Santiago a “Provincia Ecológica, Turística y Libre de Contaminación Ambiental” – the ordinance sites rights of nature to justify this prohibit large-scale extractive industries. **The ordinance was approved in second debate on October 24, 2011.**

### 2011 – Adding of Electrification Project

At some point, the provincial government decided to add a project to the road-construction project – they decided to string power lines along the road as they were building the road – building posts and stringing wire – to bring electricity to Taisha and other communities living along the road.

Provincial government lawyer argues they have licenses for limited cutting of trees to build posts along the road (see youtube video), but this seems to be in dispute. MAE article says the 2001

environmental license was only for the road construction, and using it to justify electrification project is illegal – can't use a license issued for one project to justify another project.

The cutting of trees to build electrical posts seems to be one of the complaints by MAE when it alleges “indiscriminate” cutting of trees. This includes some old-growth trees, since the road partly goes through a protected forest (Bosque Protector Cordiller Kutkukú y Shaimi).

**November 1, 2014 – MAE inspection of road project**

- Discovered “tala indiscriminada de la vegetación nativa y construcción de viviendas en ambos lados de la vía”

November 17?– MAE – through Dirección Provincial de Morona Santiago – initiated both administrative and criminal processes