The National Confederation of Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Miners of Peru (Conami) is calling for a march in Lima and national strike on March 17\textsuperscript{1,2}. It is worth noting that President Humala’s father is supporting the miners in this effort\textsuperscript{3}. Some of their key demands are:\textsuperscript{4}

- Reforms to Step 2 of the formalization process that requires permission from mining concession owner
- Repeal Decree 1102 that criminalizes illegal mining with possible prison sentences,
- Removal of High Commissioner for Formalization, Daniel Urresti, Minister of Environment, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, and Minister of Energy & Mines, Jorge Merino
- Suspension of raids to arrest illegal miners and destroy machinery

High Commissioner for Formalization Daniel Urresti announced on Feb 11 the government will present 18 reforms to the formalization process within 30 days\textsuperscript{5}. Most notably, the government may backtrack and allow mining in rivers, but under international standards. The President of the Congressional Energy and Mines Commission, Agustín Molina, also made note of an upcoming bill to modify the formalization process\textsuperscript{6}.

Of the 70,000 miners that initiated the formalization process, only 30,000 continue, and only 7,000 are on track to be finalized by April 19\textsuperscript{7}. Experts indicate that there are actually between 150,000 and 500,000 illegal miners in the country.

More details on the January 24 – 29 raid in Madre de Dios: More than 500 police officers participated in the raid, which confiscated 8,415 gallons of fuel and destroyed lots of motors and equipment\textsuperscript{8}.

Indigenous communities in the northern department of Amazonas issued a public statement that illegal miners are taking over the lower Santiago River\textsuperscript{9}. In the statement, they indicate that miners are arriving from Madre de Dios\textsuperscript{10}.

The Governments of Peru and Colombia signed an MOU to cooperate and take joint action on illegal mining as well as narcotrafficking and poverty, especially in border areas\textsuperscript{11}.

The first sentences punishing illegal mining with prison time were issues in January by the Supreme Court of Madre de Dios when three men mining illegally in the Tambopata National Reserve were sentenced to over 5 years and fined\textsuperscript{12}.

Peruvian customs officials have seized nearly 1 ton of gold being illegally exported from Peru within the past two months (since Dec 2013). El Comercio – a prominent Peruvian newspaper – launched an investigation of Peru’s 120 gold exporters that included data from Peruvian prosecutors and tax and customs authorities. On Feb 12, the newspaper identified 60 companies with a “high risk profile” based on ties to illegal gold mining operations in Peru, links to shell companies and other questionable financial practices and connections to money laundering and other crime, including narcotrafficking\textsuperscript{13}.

ACA contact for Comments/Questions:
Rachel Tennant <rtennant@amazonconservation.org>
Source Articles:

1 http://www.actualidadambiental.pe/?p=21557

2 http://www.larepublica.pe/12-02-2014/alto-comisionado-no-cree-que-paro-de-mineros-vaya-a-ser-representativo

3 http://www.larepublica.pe/10-02-2014/el-proximo-17-de-febrero-se-efectuara-marcha-de-mineros-en-lima-informó-isaac-humala

4 http://www.actualidadambiental.pe/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Paro-minero-Fedemin.jpg


7 http://semanaeconomica.com/article/extractivos/131857-mineria-ilegal-en-abril-no-sera-el-fin-de-la-formalizacion/


9 http://servindi.org/actualidad/100581


12 http://www.actualidadambiental.pe/?p=21377

13 http://elcomercio.pe/peru/madre-de-dios/mitad-exportadoras-oro-mira-mineria-ilegal-noticia-1708977