

# STREET ART AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN PERU

## GETTING FAMILIAR WITH THE MINING ACTORS AND THE TYPICAL CASES

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We are located in Madre de Dios, an Amazon region where situations occur that have similarities with other regions of Peru. The advantage is that we know well what happens there.

### **A. How do we enter the Social-Environmental reality of Madre de Dios (Mining area for example)?**

- Manipulation of the media to deceive the people (the voters) in the cities. 4th Poder (Peruvian TV journalistic program) interview with Tía Goya (One of the heads of the illegal mining mafia in Madre de Dios), photos of illegal mining to say that ALL mining in Madre de Dios is illegal.
- Miners in Peru are judged by different standards. Transnational miners are considered legal, and often treated like semi-gods, with little attention paid to the destruction or pollution they cause. Politicians support them because they provide jobs and schools.
- Due to the history of informality in Peru, the informal miner was invited to settle Madre de Dios and until now pays mining rights and fines for not reaching the extraction goal, plus environmental impact studies that never proceeded. Not to mention the costs of passing all the obstacles in the offices of the ministries.
- The maximum paradox: A police officer (supposed law, person of maximum respect, who helps the citizen and looks after national interests) negotiating the Illegal Miner's QUOTA, bribing ALL the actors of illegal mining in the field: the agency of transporters, to the forestry concessionaire, to the illegal miner, to each engine and input. Also stealing the gold from the same illegals.
- The big lies that circulates in the media: like a "super risky" interdiction where the police are presented as heroes of the country (reality shows that manipulate the Ministries to sell to the Peruvian "that they are working hard").
- Pulgar Vidal (Former Minister of the Environment) speaking "like a cool guy" at the COP-20 about the wonderful thing about the REDD project (payment for environmental services), while in the jungle all possible social and environmental injustices occur: territories of Indigenous Peoples invaded, spills, pollution, loss of quality of life, strikes, Baguazo (mining project that created a social conflict in the Bagua area due to the fight in between its inhabitants and the army), mining mafias in Madre de Dios, Tía María (mining project that was also contested by the inhabitants of the Tía María region), among others.
- The Pituco environmentalist from Lima is dismayed (and filling his FB with activist posts) by the news about illegal mining in Madre de Dios. Destroying the Miner as if they were all the same and obvious environmental murderers.
- Urresti talking about mining formalization, pretending to know how shit it is, knowing that there is a mining mafia that moves millions to stay alive, and acts in media such as Czar of Interdiction, taking the right to pretend to be president of the country, without having achieved a single thing, because not even after having thrown away more than

250 million PEN he managed to reduce illegal mining: a symbolic figure in this flawed system.

- How Lobbyists work in Peru. How the wealth we have as a country is redistributed. For example, a Lobbyist negotiating with the president his mining/oil concession and the benefits that the president and leadership will receive if they make it easy for him: like those of Odebrech, like those of Antamina or Shell (there are so many examples).
- The regional President with double speech, with the president and the central ministries (based in Lima), and with his people and the Miners who elected him, in Madre de Dios.
- The resident who knows what is happening in his region and sees how the city dweller is being deceived, denies, but does nothing.
- La Tía Gregoria Baca ("Goya", representing a miner who moves silver) negotiating with the Swiss Bank, how she is going to "launder" the gold so that it arrives with papers.
- Like all the "environmentalist discourse" it remains as pure bluff when it DOES NOT BENEFIT the local population, nor improve their quality of life. When a kilo of potatoes and corn continue to pay the same price to the farmer, and he has to sweat it out to feed his people; when there is no decent hospital for an entire region like Madre de Dios. That discourse is not only becoming ridiculous, but it is turning out to be a backfire.

## **B. What are the actors that we have identified?**

- **The Chief Oilman or Miner of the Trans-National corporation** (This transcends the Presidents themselves. The Presidents work for them. They appoint congressmen who make laws tailored to their interests, like "political tailors", they finance campaigns, they are untouchable, because Peru has been trained by the media to THANK THEM for all the work they generate, the hospitals, roads and schools they finance – to wash their faces and be unquestionable).
- **President of Peru** (he is the president on duty, in the end everyone works for the corporations. This is the one who sings the speech given to him by the corporations that have supported him to be elected. He has to behave well and move his ministerial players in the way that suits them).
- **The Prime Minister** (Executing arm of the President, his "personal tailor". This actor creates all the courts and appoints the referees he pays so that the corporation always wins. He knows that more than the president, his functions obey transnational interests).
- **The "Environment" Minister** (False drama queen of environment, queer discourse, overbearing, eager to be important: if he had really wanted to solve the mining issue, he would have differentiated the informal miner from the illegal miner, and would have formalized at least ONE. This plays the role of the dismayed by environmental issues, of which "they do not let it be", but NEVER confronts and even less questions. It is a pain when it comes to confronting the Minister of Energy and Mines). Note: I have absolutely nothing against homosexuals or many other genders, but in the context of our still sexist country, and with comedian friends who know how to take advantage of this issue, then I put it this way, a very cool "environment" minister.

- **Regional Governor of Madre de Dios** (Regional President, actor who lives a particular condition: The current regional president is called Luis Otzuka , former mining leader for a decade, knows all the miners and owes his candidacy to them, to the legal ones and also to the illegals. To them he sells an eternal rant against the government and the NGOs. In the other field, in Lima, they have already squared him off and attracted attention. They have told him that his "vulgar tone" can be carried in local media and that he can throw his "political tantrum" at regional rallies, but that he should not even think of hindering the central mandates. In this sense, he has never stopped any interdiction, which brings so much social conflict in Madre de Dios, but has even supported them with his Police officers).
- **The Regional Chief of the Police** (He is the Boss of the mafia at the level of Illegal Mining, he knows everything, he charges quotas, establishes rates for illegal mining supplies, he drinks in the same bars and even assaults them in his areas, Matos case. It is the Rambo Commando himself, the Badass when he “serves his Country” and interdicts/bombs the Informals and destroys expensive heavy machinery in front of cameras, he speaks like a hero on a dangerous field, but he knows that too much It is arranged so that it continues to charge quotas).
- **The Highway Police** (He is just like the one above but at the scene of the action, he responds to the boss and charges money for him). To avoid confusion, it could be the same individual, who represents “the Police.”
- **The Informal Miner** (who wants to formalize, who is recognized by the State with his mining concession or “mining petition”, who pays the State annually his “mining exploitation right” + “fine for not complying with extraction goals”, who also has paid his EIA or Environmental Impact Study to an engineer about 15000 PEN, and WHO FEELS THAT HAS ALL THE RIGHTS TO WORK, FOR HIS FAMILY AND WELL-BEING).
- **The Illegal miner RQ** (who has no land or concession, who is not interested in formalizing, but rather continuing to devour forests for gold. Who has his job secured by the QUOTAS that he pays to the police according to the rate for each input. Who knows that he is hated by the Informal miner, but he doesn't give a damn, because at the national level, the Minister of the Environment has made sure that they both look alike to the eyes of the confused citizen of Lima. He is rude, a thug, he moves in a mass of braves, and he pays his right to work directly to the Police - He does not leave a mark like the Informal Miner on his payment slips to the State. When there is an interdiction he already knows what to do, he even appears crying and complaining in front of cameras as if he had been screwed).
- **The pituco environmentalist** (he studies at an English-speaking school, plays tennis, rides waves, talks about world trends, does not necessarily know about plants or animals like biologists nor does he has that commitment to nature, but he lives off its problems and has important positions. He writes books in quantities and participates in the most

high-profile environmental congresses and events. He is proud to be a star in Dédalo (upper-class art gallery, boutique in Lima) and that his snobbish aunts “Lima Charity” desire and idolize him. He is irritated by the news of the former Minister of the Environment, Pulgar Vidal, and fills his Facebook with anti-mining posts, photos of his travels and quotes from the Dalai Lama. He visits many places in the world, he can be vegan and if possible, he prefers organic food, he knows about Yoga, he has hippie friends in all regions, and he has been with girls of multiple nationalities, vacations from Bali to Gocta. He believes that all miners are equal, and that the government should blow them up for destroying the environment. He speaks like a hipster, buys at the bio-fair and is always correct).

- **The Gold Buyer** (Intermediary, the Frontman of powerful elders, is invisible, He launders the illegal gold and turns it into Legal. The State has created mechanisms for that, even in Puerto Maldonado it had “Oro Fino” and now 'Activos Mineros SAC", which buy gold without asking its origin, both from miner in the process of formalization and from illegal miner).
- **El Grifero (person that sells diesel)** (The laws supposedly prohibited him to SELL, however, and even when in front of the police, they do not stop selling. Madre de Dios is the 4th biggest region in Peru, with only 150 thousand people, in selling fuel and diesel.
- **The local resident, an old man from the jungle** (He is aware that we are in a complex situation. He knows the old miners very well because, like his family, they came to this jungle as pioneers. He has done multiple jobs. He has been a miner, He has been a logger, he has worked in the chestnut, in the farm, he knows what hard work is, he has family in all the towns. He knows that the media is bought and that what is told in the capital IS NOT what happens in reality.

#### C. What CASES and/or situations occur in the context of mining in the Jungle, and how does each of the actors react?

##### CASE 1: The Formalization Process

ACTOR	ACTIONS
President	Give the order, it appears in the media. An action in favour of the environment.
Media/press	Take photos of the most shocking aspects of illegal mining. You have no idea that other types of mining exist; The information is provided by the Ministry of the Environment.
Minister of Environment	He appears in the media declaring the need for the formalization process, accusing all the mistakes that the miners have made and how heroic their decision is to put an end to all this informality once and for all. Warning the miner to get on track, to get his act together because THEIR government is giving him the opportunity to BE FORMAL and therefore LEGAL.

Minister of Energy and Mines	He doesn't know. He doesn't think. It is a Non-existent. Nobody holds him accountable. It is known from the Government that its function responds to transnational mining companies, all the others do not matter. Plus, with the motto "Peru, a mining country," it's easy. He knows that not only does there NOT exist local capacity in the Regional Directorate of Energy and Mines to formalize mining, but that this directorate does not have a budget or capacity, and that "behind the scenes" it is not the intention to formalize anyone. Let things happen without doing anything.
Regional Governor	He complains to the government and the ministries that put him between a rock and a hard place with this formalization law that promotes interdiction. He appeals to the law, he intends to repeal it. With that story he attracts local followers and shows the screen of anti-centralist policies.
Police chief	He knows what he's doing: he controls the illegal mining mafia locally, he controls the illegal fuel business locally. When the press comes, it controls what the press puts out to the media, taking it along its path where it is a guide and hero. He charges one sole for each gallon of fuel that supplies illegal mining (NOTE: it is important to draw numbers to calculate the business), 1000 soles per engine (there were at one time more than 5000 engines in La Pampa). The set of laws gave him the power to referee the game in his favour, and in favour of his godfathers. Who are they? This is known, but no one talks about it.
Highway police	He is the executor of the charges for every mining input that passes through his eyes, for fuel, and the right to have prostibars (bars where prostitution takes place).
Casual miner	Finally! he said, The time has come to formalize! They hired an engineer to help them formalize, to prepare their environmental impact studies, a lawyer to help them secure their requests and prepare their files to present to the government. He travelled to Lima more than 5 times to present his new plans to the MINAM, the MEM, the MEF and it bounced back in all cases. He felt cheated, deceived, and he confirmed it by not being able to formalize himself after continuous attempts. He stopped believing and had to find a way out of mining.
Illegal miner	Look for ways to position yourself in the land where there is gold. It invades everything, by force of mass and threat. It invaded agricultural lands, forestry concessions and protected natural areas. It advances like a machine, destroying everything in its path. He takes out a lot of gold because he has also invaded a very rich area in it. Pay CUPO to the police to continue working. Pay everything and pay well. Everyone in illegal mining is happy with their pay. At one point there were more than 20 thousand people working in the same direction. They have mass strength and produce a large amount of gold. This gold pays QUOTE and reaches high up among the leaders

	of Peru. More than 10 years have passed and not a single moment has stopped. The police seem to feel no responsibility to the local, national and international population that IN THEIR FACE this illegal mining continues to grow.
The environmentalist from Lima Pituco	Believe in your environment minister! Trust that he knows and also makes the best decisions for his environment. He would kill all the miners if he could, and they are all illegal for him, because the State (in whom he also believes) has told him so through the media. Follow the formalization process with posts on your Facebook with news from 4to Poder and El Comercio.
The gold buyer	
The faucet	
The local resident	He is upset to see how information is played with at the regional and national level.

### CASE 2: The government “controlling illegal mining”

ACTOR	ACTIONS
President (Ollanta)	He has declared war on illegal mining, but he has lumped everyone together (informal and illegal) and has made Peruvians believe that. He does this even though he was elected by the miners, who paid for his candidacy. The miners feel betrayed by him, that is why he has not returned to Madre de Dios. They lynch him. For the miners he is a traitor.
Minister of the Environment - Pulgar Vidal	Put all of Dio's mother miners in the same bag. Doing this justifies that they then interdict at their discretion and generate panic among the informal miners, who are the ones who have lost the most, since their heavy machinery has been blown up, economic progress that they gained with the same help from the State in previous governments.
Minister of Energy and Mines	He doesn't say, he doesn't give an opinion. It is an almost ethereal entity. Even though they should be the first to respond, give explanations to the media, to the Peruvians, about what is happening, how the big problem is going to be solved, they do not give their opinion, they do not comment.
Regional Governor	He has also been elected by the mining in Madre de Dios, the informal ones, but above all the illegal ones, who have changed their domicile for more than a year before the elections, when he has ordered it, being president of FEDEMIN (the mining federation) promising that he would repeal laws and benefit the miners first and foremost in the region.
Police chief	When Antonio Brack (minister of the environment with Alan Garcia) bombed La Pampa, leaving a police contingent at kilometre 105 of the interoceanic highway, in the middle of La Pampa (from km 85 to km 120), he became the boss of the circus. Then the laws and supreme decrees have turned him into the Monarch of the Pampa. He is in

	charge of controlling illegal mining and that opens up big businesses for him: controlling illegal gold, controlling illegal fuel, controlling all inputs, cooperatives, associations, brothels , and other illegal businesses that develop under his sight and patience, as if they, as police officers, SHOULD NOT give reason to the Peruvians as to why they allow all of this to happen to their faces. They have a tariff to charge for each of all these inputs. However, they have another side and play the show! If you drive by with your wife and children on the road, they stop you and even ask for technical service, they screw you. But after a while a tanker truck passes by with 5,000 gallons of illegal fuel, and they let it pass. They pass hoses, motors, there are stores with everything one can imagine, and they are there. In the middle of all that illegal maelstrom, what happens is that they are ensuring that everything is fine. The majority of the gold raised goes to his godfather and his godfather's godfathers.
highway police	They are in control of the previous one and their arms are extended to achieve everything expressed. They know who pays and who doesn't. If everyone does it, then they program false interdictions so that the 4th power cameras film them as wranglers. They are at all the entrances to illegal mining, controlling everything that passes through there. The illegal miners are not afraid of them, they are their little homes. The formalization process and mining bans have given them millions.
Casual miner	He prays that they do not interdict him again, he has already lost engines and he does not extract even half the amount of gold that an illegal miner does, who works with larger engines and in an area where there is more gold. One day he has money, another day he doesn't. It has organized to hire advisors to help it formalize, but it does not do so, it has to stop hiring its advisors. He loses his requests due to successive refusals from the State, he gets bored and even abandons his work areas. By doing so, those who enter and invade these liberated areas are the illegal miners. He has his family, but due to interdictions and insecurity due to the constant threat of invasion by illegals, his family has had to separate. He is tired, he no longer believes, weakened. He has abandoned his workplace, so the illegal miners have entered the national reserve.
Illegal miner	He has not stopped working a single day since he started in 2006. He has found a way to pay for everything and pay well. Then, it uses mass force and invades. He pays the invader a weekly amount for doing so. You pay for each engine you have working. He pays his workers well, 25% of the gold. You pay for your transportation, for each input at a higher price, including the fuel that is provided at your camp. The whole system works because he pays. Of course, he pays QUOTE to the police officer to let him continue working. This quota can be up to one moose per week, which on average over the years has been between 60 and 100 grams per week, per motor (there were

	more than 5,000 motors there, there still are, but I no longer have the current data).
The environmentalist from Lima Pituco	He is sure that the government has everything well thought out, but that the illegals are so brave that they become unbitable. He believes that Pulgar Vidal is an environmental hero, he posts his articles. It makes him very uncomfortable to think about how the jungle is destroyed by mining. I would take them all out. They are all illegal for him. Hold events in Dedalo (art gallery café in Lima), talk about how bad things are. He believes that the poor police officer needs more officers to be able to control the illegals.
The gold buyer	He has his creditors, his routes, he buys gold legally, informally, it doesn't matter. He collects gold and sells gold to buyers who move it abroad.
The faucet	
The local resident	