



Friday 1 October 2021

By Hand

Aoife Ruane
Director
Highlanes Gallery
36 St Laurence Street
Lagavooren
Drogheda
Co Louth

RE: Texaco Sponsored Children's Art Exhibition at Highlanes Gallery

Dear Ms. Ruane,

Just as tobacco companies knew for years that smoking caused lung cancer, fossil fuel companies like Texaco have known for decades that their practices are causing climate change, biological decline and human rights abuses. Texaco have spent billions of dollars both in denying that fact and greenwashing their actions.

In 1993, U.S. human rights attorney, Steven Donziger, became part of the legal team for 30,000 indigenous peoples and affected *campesinos* in the Ecuadorian Amazon seeking justice from the environmental damage and ongoing health crisis caused by oil company Texaco, for deliberately polluting the Amazon Rainforest.

From 1964 to 1990, Texaco dumped over 16 billion gallons of toxic wastewater, spilled more than 17 million gallons of crude oil and left hundreds of open pits with hazardous waste in the forest floor.

In 2000, Chevron purchased Texaco along with everything that came with it – including liability for the destruction Texaco had caused in Ecuador's Lago Agrio region. In 2011, after nearly two decades of litigation in Ecuador—where Chevron executives had hoped they would win—Chevron was found guilty and ordered to pay \$19 billion in damages and for cleanup. They fled the country and to date have demonised Steven Donziger.

Today, Steven Donziger will be sentenced by a Chevron-Texaco sponsored judge in New York after an unprecedented 787 days under house arrest. The eyes of the world will be on this trial.

I am calling on you and your associates to stand down as Texaco Childrens Art judges and refuse to host any further Texaco-sponsored exhibitions. Our children have a right to a clean, abundant and sustainable future - something Texaco has denied thousands of children in Ecuador.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours Faithfully,

Tom Roche - Founder Just Forests