



## ACTIVISM WITH RETOX WATER – SCRIPT FOR TABLING

<p><b>Activity Objective</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness amongst members of the public about the health crisis for Indigenous communities affected by toxic water in Cuninico and Espinar</li> <li>• Encourage members of the public to sign our petition demanding a response from the Peruvian State to protect Indigenous rights.</li> <li>• Attract new supporters to Amnesty’s work</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expected Outcomes from Activity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signatures collected</li> <li>• More people are aware about the health crisis in Cuninico and Espinar</li> <li>• New supporters are recruited</li> </ul>
<p><b>Description of the Activity and Materials Needed for Set Up</b></p>	<p>For the purposes of generating awareness and action, our colleagues at Amnesty in Peru created a fake brand of “mineral water” called Retox.</p> <p>Set up a presentation stand with a large water dispenser labelled with the Retox label and glasses for sampling (we suggest eco-friendly reusable). Invite people to learn more about our mineral water and to try a refreshing glass. Before you pour a glass, point to the label which identifies the water as being enriched with arsenic, lead, mercury and cadmium. Your tone should remain promotional at this point. Casually add that ingesting these ingredients can produce health effects that range from headaches and high blood pressure to stomach cramps, vomiting, anaemia, kidney failure, memory loss, infertility and miscarriages.</p> <p>Table visitors will choose <b>not</b> to drink water they think is contaminated with toxins damaging to human health. This creates the perfect opportunity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain that Indigenous communities in Cuninico and Espinar, Peru do not have this choice, as their only source of drinking water has been contaminated with heavy metals, and;</li> <li>2. Invite table visitors to sign our petition calling on Peru’s President to address this environmental and health crisis.</li> </ol> <hr/> <p><b>SET UP:</b></p> <p><b>Materials Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table</li> <li>• Reuseable water dispenser</li> <li>• Reuseable glasses/cups</li> <li>• ReTox display banner for your table</li> <li>• Label for ReTox water to stick on water dispenser</li> <li>• Flyer about the impact of toxic contaminants in the water that Indigenous communities have no choice but to drink</li> <li>• Amnesty petition to President of Peru</li> </ul> <p>Use the following script as a guide to carry out the stunt:</p>

**SCRIPT FOR TABLING STUNT****Step 1:**

Suggested script: *“Hi! Would you like to try a new brand of refreshing mineral water? It’s called ReTox!. The water is bottled at source in the Peruvian Andes and rainforest, which means that is full of minerals that will have a huge impact on your health*

The activist invites the member of the public to try a small sample of the water, pointing to the water dispenser with the ReTox label on it.

**Possible answers:**

1. The person takes the sample and drinks it – Response: Go to Step 2.
2. The person reads the label and refuses to drink the water – Response: *Why don’t you want to give it a try?*  
- If the person replies that they won’t drink it because it has toxic metals, then reply: *“I can completely understand that you wouldn’t want to drink something that would harm your health, no one wants to drink water contaminated with toxic substances. But there are indigenous communities in Peru who don’t have the chance to choose what kind of water they drink”*. Then proceed to Step 3.
3. The person requests more information about the product – Response: hand them info flyer and proceed to step 2
4. The person leaves.

**Step 2:**

Suggested script: *“ReTox Water is unique because it is fortified with a distinctive combination of minerals from the region, including lead, cadmium, mercury and arsenic, which combine to produce a range of health effects including stomach cramps, vomiting, migrains, high blood pressure, anemia, infertility, memory loss, diabetes and cancer.”*

You can supplement this by pointing to the impact of toxic metals infografix.

**Step 3:**

Suggested script: *“Not tempted? I imagine you would prefer to drink clean water that brings benefits, rather than harmful effects, to your health? Don’t worry, this water isn’t actually contaminated. But there are Indigenous communities in the Peruvian Andes and rainforest who would also like to be able to drink clean water, but who currently don’t have this choice. Presently, their only sources of water are highly contaminated with these same toxic substances. Drinking this water, as they are forced to do, is causing a health crisis in these communities.*



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*The Peruvian government should act immediately to ensure that these communities have access to clean water and that their health is protected, don't you think? Unfortunately, it has not done so and the demands of these communities have gone unanswered for too long.*

*We're looking for people like you to help us support these communities' demands that the Peruvian State guarantees their right to health and clean water.*

*If you would like to stand with them in this struggle, please sign our petition.*

Hand over the petition and a pen.

### **Step 4: Answering FAQs**

If the consumer asks where the toxic contaminants came from, answer as follows:

*"Why is the water toxic? There have been oil spills and contamination from mining projects is also suspected. Our petition specifically calls on the government of Peru to carry out a credible investigation to determine who is responsible, to hold them to account for the contamination, and to stop future contamination.*

*The demands of our campaign are: access to safe drinking water and implementation of emergency health care plans for the affected Indigenous communities, as well as identification and elimination of sources of contamination.*

*The right to water and to a healthy environment are human rights we all should enjoy. Governments have an obligation to protect these rights.*

*If visitors to your table ask why we are doing this with regard to Indigenous people in Peru, when many Indigenous people in Canada also lack safe drinking water, answer as follows:*

*You are so right that many Indigenous people in Canada also lack safe drinking water and have had their right to a healthy environment violated by industrial activity and resource extraction. Amnesty Canada is campaigning around these activities too. Our campaigns include long standing collaboration with the Grassy Narrows First Nation around the contamination of their waterways and opposition to the Aite C dam in northern British Columbia. We are also working with Inuit leaders in Labrador on the #MakeMuskatRight campaign which aims to protect downstream communities from the threat of mercury contamination if the plans for finishing the dam aren't altered. The strategy we are currently using is an online one, encouraging people to tweet or email the Premier of Newfoundland. You can find out more at <https://e-activist.com/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1770&ea.campaign.id=50190&ga=2.124748552.340802699.1528127748-548092137.1415213752>*