



New Penan blockade against oil palm plantation 23 December 2013



Penan armed with blowpipes block road as Shin Yang logging trucks approach, during a previous blockade.

© Survival

Forty [Penan](#) families, from the Malaysian state of Sarawak, are blockading in protest against the Shin Yang logging and oil palm plantation company for trespassing on their ancestral land.

The Penan from Long Jaik, below the controversial [Murum Dam](#), recently won a court case against Shin Yang for converting their land into an oil palm plantation. The court recognised the Penan's rights over the oil palm plantation. Shin Yang is appealing the court's decision.

The 40 families, led by their village chief, Tugang Matu, have now begun a blockade to stop [Shin Yang](#) continuing to trespass on their land and to demand compensation. Survival International has received a message from the village urging it to alert the media to their protest.

The Penan have been fighting for many years to keep logging companies off their land. Oil palm companies are now moving into areas from where the valuable timber has been taken.



Oil palms planted on recently-deforested land, Sarawak

© M Ross/ Survival

The recent court decision is a major victory for the Penan, but they fear that it will be ignored and the company will carry on as usual.

Shin Yang has established large-scale oil palm plantations on Penan land, often without consulting the Penan. It is also one of the biggest timber firms in Sarawak and is operating on large parts of Penan land.

Share this news story

[Tweet](#) [!\[\]\(a870788d6ed9b8fd294b7654a8c8526b_img.jpg\) E-mail](#)

Act now to help the Penan

- [Write a letter to the government of Sarawak](#) in Malaysia urging action on the Penan's situation.
- [Donate to Survival's campaign](#) for the Penan and other campaigns.
- Write a letter to your MP or MEP (UK).
- [Write to the President, your senators, congressmen or other elected officials \(US\)](#).
- Write to your local Malaysian high commission or embassy, [find out the address here](#).

RELATED





TRIBE Penan



VIDEO CLIP [An Appeal from the Penan](#)

NEWS FROM THE PENAN

Bullying tactics drive Penan to abandon dam blockade 9 DECEMBER 2013

Penan blockade continues, despite arrests 19 NOVEMBER 2013

Police arrest Penan as tribe blockades dam site 4 OCTOBER 2013

TOP STORIES NOW

First Amazon Indian to run London Marathon 20 APRIL

India misses deadline to end Andaman 'human safaris' 20 APRIL

Six Colombian Indians killed as armed groups invade 18 APRIL

Brazil: Mass Indian protests against assault on land rights 17 APRIL

Subscribe

Get email updates from Survival:

Subscribe to our news feed:

 [News feed](#)

or follow us on the web:



News archive

Browse by tribe

Browse by country

Browse by date

2015		Apr		
------	--	-----	--	--

For journalists

Media centre

Find press contacts, sign up to receive press releases and download our latest media kits

[Films](#) [Publications](#) [About Survival](#) [Contact us](#)

[privacy, legal & cookies](#)