

## **Statement about Las Pavas - The Body Shop International and Christian Aid**

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

In 2009, details emerged of a land rights dispute in Las Pavas, Southern Bolivar, Colombia. The dispute involves 123 small farmer families and a business consortium which includes CI Tequendama, a subsidiary company of Daabon Group. Daabon is the palm oil supplier for The Body Shop<sup>1</sup>. Whilst the land in question is not an area from which The Body Shop is sourcing any ingredients, the company takes such issues very seriously.

Christian Aid (UK and Ireland)<sup>2</sup> was the organisation that, supported by the local farmers and national human rights NGOs, initially flagged the concerns.

The Body Shop and Christian Aid are working closely together to try to clarify the facts of the case and to bring the dispute to a satisfactory conclusion. In order to do so we have jointly commissioned a team of experts to conduct an independent review into the dispute. This independent review is due to report back at the end of May 2010.

At this stage it would not be appropriate to offer any further comment on the review process as we do not wish to compromise the safety of the independent investigators or influence the outcome of the review in any way.

Paul Valentin  
***International Director  
Christian Aid***

Jan Buckingham  
***International Values Director  
The Body Shop***



**THE BODY SHOP®**

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<sup>1</sup> The Body Shop was founded by the late entrepreneur Dame Anita Roddick, in Brighton England, in 1976. Today The Body Shop International operates across more than 2,500 stores in over 60 markets worldwide, and is recognized as the original, natural, ethical beauty company.

<sup>2</sup> Christian Aid is an international development agency working in 50 countries. It works with the poorest and most marginalized communities, of all faiths and none. In Colombia it works with communities that have been victims or are at risk of violence, displacement, human rights abuses, or economic injustice. It works through local organizations, supporting their work, and adding value where it can.