



COMMUNIQUE TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION

The **Executive Board of the Guna General Congress**, meeting in their office in Panama City, after evaluating the case of the launch and sale of the brand NIKE's "Air Force 1 Low" commemorative shoes, "in honor of Puerto Rico, as a tribute to a large number of cultures in recent times", wish to express their rejection and protest against this act of piracy, which infringes upon the existing traditional knowledge of the Guna Nation and Guna indigenous peoples in Panama and Colombia, for the following reasons:

1. We have corroborated with the NIKE company based in the United States of America regarding the launch and sale of the commemorative shoes in a few weeks, and it has been made known to them informally that the applied design is a MOLA GUNA.
2. We publically announce that the NIKE company never contacted the Guna authorities and never expressed the desire to use the MOLA for their products.
3. The Panamanian State by Law 20 of 2000, he gave protection to the MOLA, as heritage of the People of Guna and the United States since December of 2010 approves the declaration of United Nations on Indigenous Peoples, in particular the article 31, therefore, is in violation of Panamanian Law and International Law.
4. On behalf of the Guna Nation, we will be issuing a letter of public protest addressed to the company, giving an official statement of our disapproval and disagreement, because our ancestral knowledge is being pirated for commercialization behind the backs of our peoples.
5. We thank all the voices and writings of solidarity coming from different parts of the world with our people and we also invite you to directly address the Nike company, to the following petition:

https://www.thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/941/954/097/demand-nike-to-remove-panamian-mola-print-off-puerto-rican-inspired-shoe/?fbclid=IwAROLrDXQaxrlrLukwi4AoNqWzv7znGjOStdyvQeC8d6bm_mFfD4yadRSTVY

The case of the MOLA GUNA, is not unique in the world, but thousands of designs and ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples are being pirated by multinational companies or

designers of famous brands, who know that their activity is also in danger of piracy, yet they continue to insist and declare that traditional knowledge, art, crafts, traditional medicine and others, do not have owners because they are not registered based on Western commercial law, therefore indigenous peoples have to unite even more to protest against this danger and fight for the respect and protection of our collective rights.

Panama City, on the 18th day of the month of May 2019.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE GUNA GENERAL CONGRESS

Belisario López
BELISARIO LÓPEZ
Sagladummad

Damian Hernandez
DAMIAN HERNANDEZ
Siggui Dummad

Baglio Pérez
BAGLIO PÉREZ
Sagladummad



Iguayoikiler Ferrer
IGUAYOIKILER FERRER
Sagladummad