



## **The Affirmative Protection Act - 2001**

I, Leonel Antonio Chevez, the hereditary chief of the indigenous people known as the Lenca people, hereby declares and proclaims this Act, which shall be known as “The Affirmative Protection Act”.

This Act enshrines the primary rights that all Lencas have. The responsibilities and the privileges in the face of a changing political, economical and social order in Lenca homeland.

Art.1- All Lenca indigenous children are born Lenca and must be registered with the tribal house.

Art. 2- All Lenca have the right to acquire indigenous citizenship as defined and regulated by the respective Act.

Art. 3 – Lenca men and women are equal. It is forbidden to discriminate based on ethnicity, gender, belief, age, political affiliation, and socio-economic status.

Art. 4- All Lenca have the responsibility to rescue, preserve and promote the indigenous heritage while at the same time, respecting and cherishing the heritage of others.

Art.5- The Lenca culture will survive as long as the Lenca people survive. It is therefore imperative that families, communities and the nation, take measures to protect the life and livelihood of the Lenca People.

Art. 6- In ensuring the survival of the nation, families and communities have the right and the responsibility to act to ensure survival.

Art. 7- In time of war, lethal threat, public calamity or persecution, the Lenca people have the individual and collective right to seek refuge in a place and with people they deem safe.

Art. 8 – The Lenca people, being a minority, have the individual and collective right to seek protection afforded under the international human rights systems. These include the right of asylum, humanitarian protection and refuge.

Art. 9 – The Lenca people have the responsibility to organize campaigns of support and protection of sites, resources, people and other components of the heritage.

Art. 10 – The Lenca diaspora is a central pillar within the Lenca nation. They have the right and responsibility to protect and support efforts that enhance the nation.

Art.11 – The Lenca authorities shall seek cooperation with other nations, affording support, seeking solidarity and / or jointly undertaking initiatives to further peace and development.

Art. 12 – The Taulepa remains the ruling house of the nation. This shall seek the empowerment of the people, and as much as possible, coordinate with local governments, indigenous nations, states, kingdoms and territories, so that to enhance peace and human cooperation.

Art. 13 – These articles are proclaimed in good faith and may be reformed from time to time as needed. They come into force from the moment of signature by the Manauelike Lenca Taulepa.

The Jaguar House, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2008.



The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'L. H. ...'. To the right of the signature is a circular stamp. The text within the stamp reads 'Maya Lenca House' at the top, 'Chief' in the center, and 'Administrative Office in Australia' at the bottom.