

May 5, 2006

GOLDCORP Inc. (then GLAMIS GOLD Inc.) HOLDS ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER'S MEETING IN TORONTO

BELOW:

- A letter to the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), written by Rights Action, concerning its May 4 coverage (<http://www.cbc.ca/theurrent>) of the controversy surrounding Glamis Gold, a Canadian-American mining company with mines in Honduras and Guatemala [and elsewhere];

Please re-distribute this info far and wide. If you want on-off this elist: info@rightsaction.org.

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May 4, 2006

CBC - The Current

We write concerning your report (May 4, 2006) on the Glamis Gold mining company, and on CPP (Canadian Pension Plan) investments in the global mining and military industries. While we appreciated that the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) did this report, there are a few issues to address.

We are disappointed that the CBC chose to bring the company spokesperson into your studios for a live interview, after playing a few clips from a protest we helped organize, as well as some comments from Juan Tema ñ a Mayan community leader from the Glamis Gold affected region of Guatemala.

In this way, the CBC allowed the Glamis Gold Company to respond, unchallenged, to a few selected points.

In the interest of fairness and real dialogue, it would have been easy for the CBC to have us in your studio to debate the company representative on air.

A second point: Both the company official, in your studios, plus the Glamis Gold CEO (chief executive officer), in a clip you played from the CEO at the AG (annual general) meeting, said they tried to establish dialogue with Juan Tema, Carlos Amador (a community leader from the Glamis Gold affected regions of Honduras) and Rights Action, but that we had refused.

This is false. Glamis Gold had invited us to a private meeting with no determined agenda. This does not constitute a fair and open

dialogue, as is discussed below.

First of all, as stated, The Current could have provided a dialogue if you had invited one of us to talk with the company official on air.

Secondly, and more importantly, there was an obvious space and time for dialogue in the Glamis Gold AGM, that the company did not permit. After the CEO gave a glowing report of Glamisí mining operations in Honduras and Guatemala, highlighting that they had strong community support and that their profits were going steadily and steeply up, while their costs were going steadily and steeply down, the company invited questions from the assembled shareholders. There were no questions.

At that point, we were given 4 minutes to read a statement prepared by Carlos Amador and Juan Tema ñ available on request. Once their statement was read, the CEO then said, directly, that most of what Juan Tema and Carlos Amador said was false, but that there was not time to respond to the points at the meeting. The CEO invited other shareholders to ask questions about what they had just heard. No questions. No comments.

Neither Juan Tema and Carlos Amador, nor Rights Action members were asked to speak again.

The point is the company did not want to dialogue about these issues in front of their shareholders and investors, or the public at large. The issues that need to be discussed are extremely serious, as set out below, including two recent killings in Guatemala in incidents related to the Glamis Gold mine.

Why did The Current not ask the company official about the deaths, let alone other serious points?

There is a further issue related to the lack of dialogue. In both Honduras and Guatemala, Glamis Gold initiated its mining operations without proper consultation with and permission of the locally affected communities, in violation of local, national and international laws. From the very beginning of Glamisí mining in Honduras and Guatemala, there has been a resounding lack of willingness to dialogue, but not on behalf of the affected poor Mayan and campesino communities.

A further issue: We have little doubt that the Glamis Gold Company would sit with the community leaders and Rights Action, but they would do so behind closed doors, off the record. Why do we say this? We believe the company is quite happy to dialogue as long they are mining and making huge profits.

The flip-side is that for the communities, the harms and violations

are happening right now: people have been killed and wounded; many people have received death threats; chemical poisoning is happening [in Honduras]; water shortages are happening, even as the company uses [Guatemalan company figures] 250,000 liters of water/ hour; there is documented contamination of air, water and earth; local economies are being undermined and the number of young people from the Valle de Siria in Honduras traveling illegally and dangerously to the USA has spiked.

What is there to dialogue about when the harms and violations are happening right now? If Lake Ontario were proposed as a nuclear waste dump site and the project went ahead despite widespread opposition, would we accept to dialogue while toxic nuclear waste were being dumped in the lake? Of course company officials are open to talking circles around something, as long as the profits continue.

We agree with Carlos Amador and Juan Tema - both mining operations should be suspended immediately, to stop the immediate harms and violations, to then create the space in which real dialogue can take place, in which real investigation of the harms and violations could take place.

With its coverage of Glamis Gold, The Current is beginning to scratch the surface. The story of the harms and violations associated with Glamis Gold's mining operations in Honduras and Guatemala is not an isolated case; across the globe, hundreds of North American companies are mining for resources, and contributing in many cases to similar harms and violations.

We appreciate The Current on the (albeit long overdue) interview covering the CPP investments in mining and the military industry complex. This is a very important story that needs much further follow-up, as much of the Canadian public is unknowingly investing in the construction of open pit mines, cluster bombs, nuclear weapons, etc.

We hope that Canadian and American awareness of and opposition to the harms and violations committed by Canadian/US mining companies in countries around the globe continues to grow; we hope North American shareholders and investors begin to assume responsibility for their investments and profits; we hope the Canadian/ US media will provide much broader and balanced coverage of this very serious issue.

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WHAT TO DO:

- The #1 line of work in favour of global justice and equality, including community-controlled development, protection of the environment, justice and human rights in countries where we work (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Chiapas (Mexico), is to fund and directly support local organizations so that they can continue to lead their own struggles. Please make tax-charitable donations to Rights Action in Canada and the U.S.;
- Get involved in education and activism work in your home community concerning the global mining industry, whose policies and actions are controlled by the governments, including Canada and the U.S.;
- Consider establishing long-term partnerships between your community / organization with grassroots organizations / communities in these countries that are affected by North American mining companies;
- Consider coming to these countries on an educational-activist delegation;

Rights Action is a development, environment and human rights organization, with its main office in Guatemala. We channel your tax-deductible donations to over 50 community development, environment and human rights organizations in Guatemala, Chiapas, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti. We carry out education & activist work in the USA and Canada about global human rights, environment and development issues.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS - make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to the appropriate office in USA or Canada.

On-line donations: USA and Canada: www.rightsaction.org.