

GUATEMALA: OPEN LETTER BY DAWN PALEY TO IAN AUSTIN, CEO OF SKYE
RESOURCES MINING COMPANY

Please re-distribute this info all around. If you want on-off this e-
list:
info@rightsaction.org.

For more info about North American nickel and gold companies in
Guatemala, Honduras and beyond, info@rightsaction.org. WHAT TO DO?:
see below.

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Open Letter to Ian Austin

Ian Austin, President and CEO
Skye Resources
Suite 1203-700 West Pender Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada, V6C 1G8

February 6, 2007

Dear Mr. Austin,

One month ago today, I was present along with other members of the
international media during a series of evictions that took place in
lands allegedly belonging to CGN/Skye resources in Izabal and Alta
Verapaz, Guatemala. Since that time, a series of even more violent
evictions has taken place, this time away from the eyes of the
international community.

Having witnessed two days of evictions, on January 8th and 9th, 2007,
I would here like to clarify two important points that I can only
assume have not been properly communicated to you by your colleagues
in Guatemala. The first point arises in your response to the email
campaign about the evictions, dated January 17th, 2007, where you
state that "the police were unarmed."

With all due respect, Mr. Austin, that is not true. Many members of
the police were armed with guns or/and automatic weapons, all of them
appeared to be carrying batons and tear gas, and some were carrying
riot shields.

More troubling still, and in direct contradiction of the 1996 Peace
Accords in Guatemala, heavily armed members of the Guatemalan army
participated in the evictions that took place on the 9th of January.

Please see attached photos shot by photographer James Rodriguez at the
evictions on January 9th, 2007.

The second point requiring clarification is your January 17th contention that with regards to the houses burned on the 9th of January we don't know who started the fires, we do know it was not anyone who works for CGN or contracted by CGN. Again, Mr. Austin, that is simply not true.

CGN/Skye Resources employees were instructed by CGN/Skye Resources lawyers to burn the structures in Barrio Revoluci n on the 9th of January. The District Attorney responsible for reading the eviction notice, Mr. Rafael Andrade Escobar, denounced these acts of arson very clearly as acts carried out by employees of CGN/Skye Resources.

Should you wish to see further evidence that the police and army were heavily armed, or hear audio recordings confirming that CGN-Skye Resources employees burned the houses, please do not hesitate to contact me.

It is extremely worrying that you do not seem to have reliable information about the situation on the ground in El Estor, not only because it betrays the horrific reality of these evictions, but also because it most certainly affects your ability to give accurate disclosure of the activities of CGN/Skye Resources to your shareholders.

Sincerely,

Dawn Paley
Independent Journalist
772 E. Georgia st.
Vancouver, BC
604-715-4180

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WHAT TO DO:

* A fundamental element to work in favour of global justice, equality and the environment is to fund and support local organizations leading their own struggles in defense and promotion of development, the environment and human rights;

* Get involved in education and activism work in your home community concerning the negative impacts of North American investors and mining policies on community-controlled development, the environment and the human rights of local populations in Central America and southern Mexico;

* Consider coming in July 2007 to some of these mining-affected counties on an educational-activist delegation and invite us to give educational presentations in your home community;

* Get on our e-mail and snail-mail lists.

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