

BELOW:

- A report from in & outside of Goldcorp's (formerly Glamis Gold) annual shareholder meeting in Vancouver (Canada)
- Mining speaking tour to continue, May 28 ñ June 4, in Ontario (Canada)

READ & then Ö PLAN YOUR OWN EDUCATION AND ACTIVISM WORK TO CONFRONT NORTH AMERICAN MINING COMPANIES CONTRIBUTING TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ENVIRO- AND DEVELOPMENT HARMS IN MANY COUNTRIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH.

To get on-off this elist: info@rightsaction.org

To see images from the Rights Action speaking tour & May 2 demo outside the Goldcorp AGM, check out independent photographer James Rodríguez photo essay: ìGoldcorp: No More Mining Terrorism,î <http://www.mimundo-jamesrodriguez.blogspot.com>.

When people started to arrive at about noon to start up a street demonstration in front of the Goldcorp AGM in downtown Vancouver, the only sign that anything was going on was the presence of four police officers, waiting punctually in front of the Hyatt Hotel, where the action was planned.

Though activists were threatened with a bylaw ticket within minutes of their arrival, they respected the cops' demands to stay over to the street side of the sidewalk and had no further problems with the police throughout the afternoon.

By about 12:20, they were essentially set up on the streets. While they were setting up, they were photographed from all angles by a man who identified himself as ìJim,î who was clearly working either for the police or for the company.

By 13:00 the demonstration was in full tilt. There were about fifteen people who stayed though out the entire demonstration and about another 20 who came and went. People donned skull masks, miners' hats; there was an Ian Telfer double with a \$23,000,000 novelty cheque; huge puppets borrowed from Oaxaca solidarity activists and a big sign that said ìGoldcorp: No more mining terrorism.î

Noisemakers, drums and chants helped keep up spirits and attract attention to the action over the course of the alternately rainy, cloudy and sunny afternoon on Burrard Street. Close to 600 info flyers were distributed to passersby and many strangers were engaged in discussions by the ìExecutives of Death.î

The AGM started at 14:00, and at 13:50, independent journalist Dawn Paley attempted to enter the AGM with Carlos Amador from the Siria Valley, Honduras (San Martin Mine) and Mario Tema from Sipacapa, Guatemala (Marlin Mine). They were blocked by hotel security, who informed them that no protestors would be allowed into the AGM.

Dawn had a proxy for the meeting, which sent hotel security looking for a company official. Once the proxy was recognized as legitimate by the company, the three of them were ushered upstairs to the registration table, where more security attempted to delay their entrance into the meeting. Dawn informed security that as a proxy holder, she had the legal right to vote at the meeting and thus to attend it from the beginning until the end. The woman working for the auditing firm controlling the AGM (Deloitte & Touche) backed up Dawn's point, and the three of them were allowed into the meeting.

At the very moment that Dawn, Carlos and Mario stepped inside the half-sized convention room, all of the double doors closed at once. There were nearly 100 shareholders present, at the outset all were seated and listening to Chairman Ian Telfer address the crowd. As the board of directors was elected and other motions passed in a breeze, it seemed as if the meeting would last only a matter of minutes.

By about eight minutes past 14:00, Mr. Telfer called for the first part of the meeting to be closed. Dawn raised an objection to the closure of the meeting, at which time she addressed the shareholders from a standing position within the audience for about four minutes. She read from a statement decided upon by Mario, Carlos and Sandra Cuffe of Rights Action.

She began by quoting a statement Ian Telfer had made to newspapers a few days earlier: "Companies have to be very, very honest with themselves about what the true cost of what these developments are going to be." Dawn called on Goldcorp to be honest about the true costs of their developments as well.

Dawn noted that Carlos and Juan Tema from Sipacapa had attended the AGM of Glamis Gold the year before, and made demands of the company that had not been respected by Goldcorp. She then brought forward some of those demands:

that the community consulta saying NO to mining exploration, exploitation or further expansion of mining infrastructure be respected in Sipacapa, and that community members in the Siria Valley be compensated for health problems and that the company clean up the water before they leave the Siria Valley next year.

Dawn's interruption in the proceedings of business was greeted with a loud round of applause from shareholders. Telfer closed the first portion of the meeting without further ado.

Goldcorp CEO Kevin McArthur went on to make a power point presentation about all of the mines that Goldcorp is exploiting. Based on the plans laid out by the company, it is apparent that further research and work around Goldcorp mines in Cree territory in Canada, as well as in various provinces of Mexico is going to be crucial in the coming years, as Goldcorp continues to push into indigenous territory throughout the Americas.

In the course of his presentation, Mr. McArthur assured shareholders that Goldcorp is winning the hearts and minds of community members. He finished his presentation and opened the floor to questions.

Three other shareholders raised questions pertaining to statement Dawn had made objecting to the closure of the meeting. One woman – who identified herself as a new shareholder – stood up and said that she was worried that McArthur used the terms "hearts and minds," a term straight out of George W. Bush's mouth, to describe community relations. She also received a round of applause from shareholders.

McArthur insisted that they could not please 100% of the people in the communities where they operate, and discredited the information that Dawn, Carlos and Mario brought forward in the meeting. Some shareholders reacted to this statement, asking why two people would travel all the way to the meeting from Central America to tell lies.

Dawn raised the final question in question period, again asking if the company would provide compensation for community members suffering health problems in the Siria Valley, and whether or not the company would respect the Consulta in Sipacapa.

Most of McArthur's answer was the same tired company whitewash, including the standard line about how health problems in the Siria Valley are related to people living in essentially subhuman conditions. When pressed, McArthur blatantly admitted that Goldcorp would not respect the community consulta in Sipacapa.

After the meeting was finished at close to 16:00, a solid group of people were still outside wearing masks and leafletting, keeping at it diligently on a rainy Wednesday afternoon. Dawn stated when she came out that: "it was an elating feeling to realize that some shareholders were in fact starved for information and very concerned about Goldcorp's activities, but the road ahead of us as we speak out against Goldcorp and other global mining companies is long, and there is a lot of work to be done."

For more information, to get involved, or to get on/off the Rights Action email list, contact: info@rightsaction.org, 860-352-2152, www.rightsaction.org

JULY 22-28 EDUCATIONAL-ACTIVIST TRIP TO GUATEMALA {AND POSSIBLY HONDURAS?} to visit with and learn more about mining-affected indigenous and campesino communities (amongst other issues).

FOR MORE INFO about trip: info@rightsaction.org.

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MAY 28 ñ JUNE 4: RIGHTS ACTION MINING SPEAKING TOUR TO CONTINUE IN ONTARIO (Canada)

After a month heading up the west coast USA, speaking about the global mining industry, North American public and private investment, and human rights violations in Honduras and Guatemala, video activist Steven Schnoor and Sandra Cuffe of Rights Action will continue the speaking [& video-screening] tour ñ highlighting Goldcorp and Skye Resources' activities, community resistance in Honduras and Guatemala, & global connections ñ in Ontario.

CONTACT: Sandra Cuffe, caminando27@yahoo.es, t: 604-525-1226

WHEN: May 28th to June 4th (or thereabouts, depending on interest)

WHERE: southeastern Ontario (Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Guelph, Hamilton, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, & thereabouts)

WHAT: public presentations, high school talks, video & discussion evenings, community forums, radio interviews, brown bag lunch discussions to update local activist organizations, etc

WHO: *Steven Schnoor* is a Canadian activist and Communications and Culture PhD student at York University in Toronto. Recently, Steven spent four months as a Rights Action intern collaborating with mining-affected communities and organizations in Guatemala and Honduras. A short independent documentary video produced by Steven about violent illegal evictions in five Mayan Q'eqchi' communities in the region of Skye Resources' planned nickel project has generated widespread public response, including from the Canadian Ambassador in Guatemala and the company itself.

Sandra Cuffe works with Rights Action and has lived and worked in Honduras for four years, working on a wide range of development, environment and human rights issues with community organizations in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador; Sandra has investigated and written extensively about the violations and harms caused by North American mining companies ñ including Goldcorp (formerly Glamis Gold).

HOW: Contact Sandra Cuffe (caminando27@yahoo.es; tel 604-525-1226 through May 20th) for more information or to coordinate a speaking tour event in your neighbourhood cafe, school, church, union meeting, collective space or territory Ò

All event hosts are strongly encouraged to fundraise (seek donations/ plan to pass the hat/etc) to help cover food & transportation costs, as well as lending a hand to find borrowed floor space for sleeping where needed.