

June 19, 2009

“GOLDCORP 7 – 2009”

Goldcorp has again successfully urged the Guatemala government to file criminal charges against poor Maya Mam villagers near its “Marlin” mine in the municipality of San Miguel Ixtahuacan, department of San Marcos, Guatemala.

On June 15, we sent information about how poor Maya Mam campesinos, from the community of Sacmuj, in the village of Agel, were resisting Goldcorp's forced entry onto their small plots of land:

http://www.rightsaction.org/articles/goldcorp_guatemala_061509.html. Official Goldcorp position: “It is our land.”

Now, there are criminal charges against 7 Sacmuj community members; all Maya Mam, all poor. Their names: Vicente Yoc, Jesus Perez, Jacinto Hernandez, Florencio Yoc, Angel Jacobo Lopez, Maximiliano Hernandez and Gregoria Crisanta Perez. The last one – Gregoria Crisanta Perez – is one of the “Goldcorp 8 – 2008” – she has two sets of criminal charges against her.

Besides the criminal charges against the “Goldcorp 7 – 2009”, there is a capture order in effect for Gregoria Crisanta Perez.

“GOLDCORP 8 – 2008”

In mid-2008, we – and other groups – reported on how Goldcorp urged the Guatemala government to file criminal charges against poor 8 Maya Mam women (including Gregoria Crisanta Perez), who were resisting Goldcorp's forced entry onto and harming of their properties, water sources and homes. See the YouTube documentary “8 Mayan Women”: http://www.rightsaction.org/articles/Eight_Women_112608.html

“GOLDCORP 7 – 2007”

In early-2007, we – and other groups – reported on how Goldcorp urged the Guatemala government to file criminal charges against poor 7 Maya Mam men, who had gone to Goldcorp's company offices at the mine site in San Miguel Ixtahuacan to negotiate a solution to the growing list of mining-caused harms, including: cracked houses, under-priced and forced land sales, dust contamination, drying of water sources, etc. While charges against 5 of the Goldcorp 7 – 2007 have been dropped, they are still open against 2.

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CRIMINALIZATION OF STRUGGLE OF INDIGENOUS & HUMAN RIGHTS

On numerous occasions, mine-affected community members have filed complaints related to mining-caused harms to court – to no avail. Meanwhile, in a country where 98% of all crimes go un-punished, Goldcorp knows it can count on Guatemala authorities to use the legal system as a mechanism of repression against people and communities that oppose its gold mining interests. Instead of addressing the underlying problems (health and environmental harms and human rights violations), people and communities are forced to fight trumped up and frivolous charges, while the company keeps on mining.

NO LEGAL REMEDY

Like so many struggles of this nature around the world, there is no legal remedy, in the short term, for the people and communities being harmed by Goldcorp's mining operation. Goldcorp operates with impunity and no fear of legal challenge in Guatemala or Canada. (We will report soon on petitions that have been filed with the weak but important Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, part of the Organization of American States)

MONEY & POLITICAL PRESSURE TALK CALL ON YOUR INVESTORS & POLITICIANS

It is up to North American investors – large and small – and Canadian and Guatemala politicians to bring pressure on Goldcorp to suspend its mining operation in Guatemala and help create the political space necessary to create a dialogue and begin to resolve the long list of harms and violations.

We urge people to contact their own politician (in Canada and the USA) to denounce this abusive corporate activity, and to contact their own investor and/or pension fund and ask if they are invested in Goldcorp. If so, inform your pension fund and/or investor of the growing list of harms and violations that Goldcorp is causing and contributing to, and ask your investor/ pension fund manager to contact Goldcorp directly with your concerns and/ or divest from the company.

BACKGROUND INFO

Go to www.rightsaction.org for extensive background info about Goldcorp caused and related harms and violations at its gold mines in Guatemala and Honduras.

MORE INFORMATION, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS: info@rightsaction.org

NAMES AND ADDRESSES BELOW

Send your messages to people, below ... BUT ... be sure to write first to your own politicians and investors and/or pension fund managers.

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CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada

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CANADIAN Minister of Foreign Affairs: Lawrence Cannon, 509-S Centre Block, House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

CANADIAN Embassy in Guatemala: Ambassador Leeann McKechnie,
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Hon. Bob Rae, MP Toronto Centre and Liberal Foreign Affairs Critic, RaeB@parl.gc.ca

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TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

for indigenous and community organizations resisting the harms of large-scale "development" projects (mining, tourism, hydro-electric dams) and implementing their own development projects (schools and scholarships, health clinics, solidarity economy, etc), human rights and environment projects, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

* UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887

* CANADA: 552 - 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS: <http://rightsaction.org/contributions.htm>

JOIN our listserv: <http://www.rightsaction.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=3>

JOIN our quarterly newsletter list: info@rightsaction.org

CREATE YOUR OWN email list and re-distribute this and other information

DAILY NEWS: Watch, listen to and read: www.democracynow.org /

www.upsidedownworld.org / www.dominionpaper.ca

READ: Eduardo Galeano's "Open Veins of Latin America"; Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States"; Naomi Klein's "The Shock Doctrine"; Paolo Freire's "Pedagogy of the Oppressed"

WWW.RIGHTSACTION.ORG: Based in Guatemala, Rights Action (with tax-deductible status in Canada and USA) funds and works with indigenous, development, environment and human rights organizations in Guatemala and Honduras, and also in El Salvador, Haiti, Oaxaca and Chiapas; and educates about and is involved in activism related to global development, environmental and indigenous and human rights struggles.