

Rights Action  
Goldcorp Watch, in Guatemala  
October 21, 2010

*"How many times can [Canada] turn [it's] head and pretend that [it] just doesn't see ..."*  
(with respect to Bob Dylan)

**BELOW: letter from European Parliament members, urging the government of Guatemala to suspend Goldcorp's mining operation in Guatemala**

**POEM ABOUT IMPUNITY & COMPLICITY**

As the list of entities and organizations calling for the suspension of Goldcorp's mine in Guatemala grow,

As the environmental and health harms and other human rights violations continue occurring,  
The Canadian government and politicians and investors remain silent,  
Goldcorp keeps mining,

- Please re-distribute and re-post this letter all around
- To get on/ off Rights Action's listserv:  
<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?m=1103480765269>

**FOR INFORMATION, QUESTIONS:** Grahame Russell, co-director, Rights Action ([info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org), 860-352-2448) and Annie Bird, co-director ([annie@rightsaction.org](mailto:annie@rightsaction.org), [annie@rightsaction.org](mailto:annie@rightsaction.org))

**HOW TO SUPPORT MINING AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN GUATEMALA & HONDURAS:** See below

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Brussels, October 2010

**OPEN LETTER TO GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA  
FROM: MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**RE: the precautionary measures granted by the Inter American Commission on Human Rights to communities of the Maya indigenous peoples of the Sipacapa and San Miguel Ixtahuacán Municipalities in the Department of San Marcos, Guatemala**

Mr. Alvaro Colom  
President of the Republic of Guatemala

We, the undersigned members of the European Parliament, express our concern regarding the information received about the alleged violations of human rights of the Maya peoples (Sipakapense and Mam) of the Sipacapa and San Miguel Ixtahuacán Municipalities in the Department of San Marcos, in the framework of the mining of the Marlin I project and other activities related to the concession granted to the company Goldcorp/Montana Exploradora de Guatemala S.A.

These alleged violations led the Inter American Commission of Human Rights (henceforth "the IACHR") to grant precautionary measures for the members of these communities on May 20, 2010. These precautionary measures, which respond to the same concerns we express, aim to avoid serious and irreparable harm to the human rights of these communities.

We urge the State of Guatemala to carry out efficient implementation of these measures, which request, inter alia:

- “the suspension of mining of the Marlin I project and other activities related to the concession granted [...];
- adoption of the necessary decontamination measures [...];
- assurance of [community] members' access to water fit for human consumption;
- addressing health problems [...];
- adoption of any other necessary measures to guarantee the life and physical integrity of the members of the 18 aforementioned Maya communities; and
- planning and implementation of the protection measures with the participation of the beneficiaries and/or their representatives”.

We appreciate that the State of Guatemala, on the initiative of the Prosecutor General (Procurador General de la Nación), began the administrative process to suspend operations of the Mining Law Marlin I on August 10, in order to comply with the commitments made under International Human Rights Law. We ask the Government to keep us informed on progress and results in the implementation of this process, to report to us on the extent to which precautionary measures are being implemented, and to inform us about the participation of the representatives of the communities in the planning and implementation of these measures.

We further voice our concern in relation to the growing climate of conflict in the villages surrounding the mine, the attacks against individuals opposed to mining, as well as alleged arrest warrants against leaders and spokespersons for the affected communities. We ask the government to keep us informed on the specific actions taken to protect the life and physical integrity of the members of the 18 communities, until the IACHR adopts a decision on the merits of the petition associated with this request for precautionary measures.

The strength of the Inter American human rights system and compliance with the obligations undertaken through the Inter American Convention on Human Rights are essential for strengthening the political, economic and social development of the region, and represent the basis of the European Union's relations with Central America. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in force and the recently signed Association Agreement have at their foundation the democratic and human rights clause. This clause gives us confidence that the State of Guatemala will comply with the precautionary measures granted by the IACHR.

#### **SIGNATURES FROM EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:**

Eva-Britt SVENSSON, Sweden, President of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Marita ULVSKOG, Sweden, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Ivo BELET, Belgium, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Jean-Luc DEHAENE, Belgium, Committee on Budgets

Jean LAMBERT, United Kingdom, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Göran FÄRM, Sweden, Committee on Budgets

Catherine GREZE, France, Committee on Development

Ska KELLER, Germany, Committee on Development

Nikolaos CHOUNTIS, Greece, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Barbara LOCHBIHLER, Germany, Subcommittee on Human Rights

Bart STAES, Belgium, Committee on budgetary Control

Wolfgang KREISSL-DORFLER, Germany, Committee on Foreign Affairs

Oriol JUNQUERAS VIES, Spain, Committee on Petitions

Franziska Katharina BRANTNER, Germany, Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Helmut SCHOLZ, Germany, Committee on International Trade  
Frieda BREPOELS, Belgium, Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Satu HASSI, Finland, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety  
Anna HEDH, Sweden, Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs  
Åsa WESTLUND, Sweden, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety  
Raul ROMEVA I RUEDA, Spain, Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality  
Olle LUDVIGSSON, Sweden, ommittee on Employment and Social Affairs  
Kathleen VAN BREMPT, Belgium, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy  
Rui TAVARES, Portugal, Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs  
Saïd EL KHADRAOUI, Belgium, Committee on Transport and Tourism  
Heide RÜHLE, Germany, Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection  
Martin HÄUSLING, Germany, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

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### **CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

Write to your own MP and government officials, to the Canada Pension Plan, to your own Pension fund (if they are invested in Goldcorp), and to any and all of the following.

Send a copy of the European Parliament letter. Ask them "How many times can [Canada] turn [it's] head and pretend that [it] just doesn't see ..." (with respect to Bob Dylan).

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<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

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### **FUNDS NEEDED**

Getting funds to community based groups is an important act of activism and solidarity – they are at the forefront of resisting the harms and violations and promoting global human rights, community controlled development and protection of the environment.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS, 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: [www.rightsaction.org/contributions.htm](http://www.rightsaction.org/contributions.htm)  
DONATION OF STOCK: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

### **SPEAKERS**

Contact us to plan educational presentations in your community, school, place of worship, home  
([info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org))

### **EDUCATIONAL DELEGATIONS TO CENTRAL AMERICA**

Form your own group and/ or join one of our educational delegation-seminars to learn first hand about community development, human rights and environmental struggles ([info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org))

**MORE INFORMATION & QUESTIONS**

Grahame Russell, [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org) & Annie Bird, [annie@rightsaction.org](mailto:annie@rightsaction.org). [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)