

Rights Action – May 8, 2011  
Guatemala Mining, Repression & Impunity Watch

## THE CONTINUING INVASION OF CANADIAN COMPANIES

“Guatemala is quickly becoming a "go to" mining country with successful mines”  
(<http://www.tahoeresourcesinc.com/company-information/>)

in a country

where the institutions of democracy (Congress, Ministries) and judiciary (courts, judges, lawyers) are corrupted by narco-dollars and/or the economic interests of national and international businesses and investors;  
where the levels of violence are as high as during the worst years of State terrorism and genocide, 1970s, 80s, early 90s;  
where less than 1% of criminal cases get resolved in the corrupted and dysfunctional legal system;  
where less than 1% of mining profits remain in the country;  
where serious health and environmental harms and human rights violations (including killings, gang rapes, shootings and beatings, water contamination & depletion, health problems, including miscarriages and death, etc) have been long documented at the two major mine sites: Goldcorp Inc’s “Marlin” mine and HudBay Mineral’s “Fenix” nickel mine;

The governments of Canada and the USA, the mining industry and many investors know all this.

BELOW

Two articles about some of the Canadian/ US mining companies trying to open new gold & silver mines southeast of Guatemala City: Tahoe Resources Inc. (40% owned by Goldcorp Inc), Goldex Resources Corp., Radius Gold  
An op-ed article by Magali Rey Rosa, Prensa Libre, Guatemala

WHAT TO DO: see below

Please re-distribute this information all around  
To get on/off Rights Action’s listserv: [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)

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ANTI-MINING PROTEST, WITH FLOWERS

Prensa Libre, 27/04/11

[http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/comunitario/Protesta-antimineria-flores\\_0\\_469753263.html?print=1](http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/comunitario/Protesta-antimineria-flores_0_469753263.html?print=1)

(translated by Rosalind Gill)

In order to be heard, people from Santa Rosa will carry out a protest this Wednesday (April 27) in front of the Canadian Embassy and the ministry of Energy and Mines, where they will leave the flowers, in rejection of the extraction of precious metals in their Department.

People from Santa Rosa consider the gold and silver mining project – “The Oasis” - as a threat to the natural environment in their Department people; this is a mining project in the municipality of San Rafael Las Flores [the flowers] of the Canadian mining company Tahoe Resources [40% owned by Goldcorp Inc.].

The Committee for Life, Against Mining, of San Rafael Las Flores, claims that the company [Tahoe Resources, 40% owned by Goldcorp Inc.] has already presented its environmental impact study to the Ministry of the Environment, even though there has not been a consultation process with the communities in the region, let alone that many nearby communities have not even been informed about the mining project.

According to neighbors, mining will impact upon the municipalities of San Rafael Las Flores, Casillas, Nueva Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa de Lima and Jumaytepeque; it is for these reasons that they are demanding the carrying out of community consultations.

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GOLDEX RESOURCES SIGNS DRILLING CONTRACT FOR EL PATO, GUATEMALA  
<http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/292036>

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA--(Marketwire - April 28, 2011) - Goldex Resources Corporation (TSX:GDX) ("Goldex" or the "Company") announced today that, further to its announcement of an upcoming 5,000 metre drill program on its El Pato property in Guatemala, the Company has contracted Kluane Guatemala S.A. ("Klaune") to conduct the diamond drilling.

Klaune will initially drill 12 holes to confirm the historic grades and historically inferred resources previously assessed on El Pato and further determine whether there is a continuation of mineralization extending along strike as far as the El Sauce sector where high-grade gold mineralization has been shown.

"Kluane expects to commence drilling operations during the first week of May and with the exploration program designed by our geologists we expect a very active spring," Charles Ross, Goldex President, stated.

The El Pato gold vein target is situated in an emerging gold district in Guatemala. Several major and junior resource mining companies are very active in the area, including Radius Gold with their Holly-Banderas property, Tahoe Resource's Escobal silver mine that contains an indicated resource of 300 million oz eq. of silver and Goldcorp's Cerro Blanco property which lies to the south of El Pato and has a proven resource of 1.3 million oz of gold. El Pato has a prestigious legacy of discovery having first been explored by the United Nations in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

About Goldex. Goldex Resources Corporation is a junior exploration company exploring for gold in the Americas. Goldex's operations highlight prestigious properties in Mexico and Guatemala, a world-class geological team, which boasts of 12 discoveries and a global investment following.

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WHO, WITH IRON, KILLS ...  
By Magali Rey Rosa, Prensa Libre  
[http://www.prensalibre.com/opinion/hierro-mata\\_0\\_471552934.html](http://www.prensalibre.com/opinion/hierro-mata_0_471552934.html)  
(Translated by Rosalind Gill)

Lobbying of public servants in key positions, misleading publicity campaigns, improbable development promises, false promises of social and environmental benefits, direct financing of

political campaigns for candidates targeted to win an election, corruption of local deputies and leaders and creation of social division and conflict, are just some of the tricks they commonly use here and in fact, all over the world.

A transnational mining company is not in the least moved or stopped by protests from local people or the destruction of a glacier. Whatever obstacle exists is simply removed.

The debate over metal exploitation has been going on in Guatemala for seven years. And although most people – even those who think Guatemala should be a mining country – agree that the 1% in royalties paid to the State is pathetically low and ridiculous, up to now, it has proven impossible to do away with the existing Mining Law and withhold granting of new licences.

Why is this? Only our honourable deputies and mining negotiators know the answer to this “sensitive” question.

And as they keep granting licenses for reconnaissance, exploration and exploitation, the conflict surrounding metal exploitation is on-going and increasing. Faced with imminent threat to their lands, desperate communities located near mining operations keep organizing meetings and participating in protests, marching with flowers in their hands — as in the case of the people of San Rafael Las Flores, Nueva Santa Rosa, who feel threatened by the silver mine run by Tahoe Resources, a transnational company, 40% owned by Goldcorp (similar to the Marlin mine).

We note that there have also been strong protests against iron mining on the coast. Interestingly, the people protesting iron mining have been known to support gold and silver mining in the mountains of San Marcos, as if that were something entirely different. The truth is, both types of mining cause social damage and irreversible destruction of the ecosystem.

Perhaps the difference is that up to now, gold and silver exploitation has affected only far-flung poor communities in the mountains, but iron mining will affect communities of fancy vacation homes on the South Coast.

The direct victims of metal mining are those who live near mining operations. But eventually, we will all be victims. Mining exploitation is destructive to nature and will thus, affect everyone on the planet. The way mining is destroying the environment and the speed with which it is doing so are leading us to a climate catastrophe unprecedented in the history of humanity; and metal mining is the worst form of mining when it comes to destruction of the environment.

What is really tragic is that most governments in the world pay homage to transnational corporations. The power of these corporations has grown to the point where they can force governments to submit to their plans; what is even worse, the companies support election campaigns in exchange for permanent favours. Today, the fate of the world is in the hands of a few transnational corporations. They are without scruples. Their only objective is to accumulate power and profits, yet it is they who will decide on the future of the planet.

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WHAT TO DO – GOLDCORP Annual Shareholder Meeting, May 18, 2011, Vancouver, Education and Activism

To get involved: [miningjustice@gmail.com](mailto:miningjustice@gmail.com), <http://goldcorpoutofguatemala.com/>

WHAT TO DO - DELEGATION to Guatemala (JULY 3-10, 2011)

“ELECTIONS; NO DEMOCRACY”

Join a Rights Action delegation to Guatemala from July 3 to 10, 2011. This pre-elections delegation will speak with human rights and social movement organizations struggling to create conditions for truly democratic processes, and limit the control organized crime and big business hold over the state through illegal networks of influence.

MEET WITH:

- \* Human rights organizations pressing forward the ‘exemplary cases’ against war crimes; even as they meet constant setbacks;
- \* Land rights movements of communities that support each other against the appropriation of their lands by politically influential plantation owners and organized crime bosses;
- \* Indigenous rights movements that seek full recognition of their rights including recognition of traditional authorities and their territory;
- \* Justice reform activists who seek to reform legal mechanisms that maintain impunity and criminalize human rights defenders; and
- \* Communities defending their territory against transnational interests (mines, dams or biofuels) backed by political power holders.

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WHAT TO DO – DONATE FUNDS

Since 1995, Rights Action has been funding the community development, environmental justice and human rights defense work of community based organizations in Guatemala and Honduras.

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: <http://rightsaction.org/contributions.htm>

WHAT TO DO - FOR QUESTIONS & MORE INFORMATION

about mining related environmental and health harms and other human rights violations in Guatemala & Honduras, contact: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org), [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org).