

April 5, 2013
Rights Action

MORE REPRESSION EXPECTED AT ANOTHER GOLDCORP–LINKED MINE IN GUATEMALA

- WHAT TO DO: see below
- TO SUPPORT MINING HARMED COMMUNITIES: See below

TAHOE CELEBRATES MINING LICENSE, SOON AFTER KIDNAPPING OF FOUR INDIGENOUS MEN AND MURDER OF ONE OF THEM

More repression is likely against people opposed to the silver mine

By Grahame Russell, Rights Action co-director, April 5, 2013

In Guatemala, Tahoe Resources has just received a mining permit from the fundamentally undemocratic government headed by former General Otto Perez Molina who, because he holds political office, has immunity from prosecution on charges that he is an intellectual and material author of Guatemala's State repression and genocide in the 1980s. (Another former General and Army colleague of Perez Molina, Efraim Rios Montt – who also enjoyed immunity from prosecution for close to 20 years - is now a defendant in the extraordinary and precedent setting genocide trial in Guatemala courts.)

In 2008, former Goldcorp CEO Kevin MacArthur stepped down from leading Goldcorp after overseeing the operation of widely opposed and very harmful cyanide-leaching mines in western Guatemala and central Honduras. As part of MacArthur's departure from Goldcorp, he incorporated a new company – Tahoe – to operate one project, the now widely opposed and already harmful Escobal mine. Goldcorp continues as a 40% owner of Tahoe.

On April 3, Tahoe announced to investors and the public: "Tahoe Resources Inc. (THO.TO)(TAHO) is pleased to announce that it has received the Escobal exploitation license from Guatemala's Ministry of Energy and Mines. Construction activities remain on-budget and on-schedule for mill commissioning in the second half of 2013 and commercial production in early 2014." (Marketwired - Apr 3, 2013)

KIDNAPPING AND ASSASSINATION

Tahoe made this announcement just two weeks after the March 17th kidnapping of four local indigenous Xinca men and the assassination of one of them – Exaltacion Marcos Ucelo. The body of Exaltacion was found the morning of the 18th; the other three men were able to flee their captors. The truck they had been traveling in, when kidnapped, was found riddled with bullets.

This kidnapping and murder took place very close to Tahoe's (Goldcorp's) Escobal mine in the municipality of San Rafael Las Flores, department of Santa Rosa, two hours south-east of Guatemala City.

No justice has been done for this repression. No justice will be done.

These kidnappings and murder are now part of a growing list of mining-related acts of repression against Mayan and campesino communities across Guatemala opposed the

forced imposition of mining projects in their regions, repression that includes gang rapes, murders, shootings, jailings on trumped up charges, forced evictions, etc.

On March 17, the Xinca men had been near the Escobal mine observing one of the many legally binding consultations taking place in communities to be harmed (socially, economically, environmentally) by the mine. To date, every community consultation has resulted in a resounding 'NO', they do not want and will not permit this type of mining project in their region.

These community consultations, provided for in municipal, constitutional and international law, are binding. To date, across Guatemala, these consultations have been outright ignored by the governments of Guatemala, Canada and the USA (being the home countries of most mining companies in Guatemala), by the mining companies themselves, and by institutions such as the World Bank that profited from its \$45,000,000 investment in Goldcorp's "Marlin" mine in western Guatemala.

By pretending to ignore that this repression is being carried out against community members because they are opposed to the imposition of this mining project, and then by openly celebrating the acquisition of their mining license so soon after a mining-related murder and kidnappings, Tahoe / Goldcorp are directly increasing the chances of more tension and repression against the local population who oppose this project – not only because they fear the environmental and health harms, including devastating water depletion and contamination, but also because repression is being used against humble local people simply because they are peacefully working to protect their lands, communities and environment.

Making a bad and repressive situation worse, Tahoe / Goldcorp are misleading, if not lying to investors and the public claiming that they are initiating their mining operation in a stable, healthy political environment, with the legal approval and support of the local communities that will benefit from this "development".

ON-GOING ACTION NEEDED

This relentless push for mining expansion is coming from Canada and the U.S. All the fundamental decisions are being taken by North American companies, investors and governments. The vast majority of profits flow to the companies, shareholders and investors. All the environmental and health harms, repression and other human rights violations occur against the local populations.

This relentless and harmful push to expand will only be slowed down, or curtailed when Canadians and Americans successfully hold their governments, companies and investors to account.

Please write your own letters, and send copies of this information, to your own elected politicians (MPs, Congresspersons, Senators) - and to other government officials, your local media, etc. – to warn them that it is almost guaranteed that there will be more threats and repression in and around this Tahoe / Goldcorp mine site, and that Canadian and American elected politicians and government officials must take concrete steps to put an end to the repression linked to the unwanted and often-times violent expansion of Canadian and American mining company operations in Guatemala. ... And then keep on writing them

CANADA PENSION PLAN

As of March 31, 2012, the CPP has \$297,000,000 invested in Goldcorp, \$9,000,000 in Tahoe.
([http://www.cppib.ca/files/F2012 - YE/Publicly-Traded Equity Holdings - CDN -
_March_31_2012 - Eng.pdf](http://www.cppib.ca/files/F2012_-_YE/Publicly-Traded_Equity_Holdings_-_CDN_-_March_31_2012_-_Eng.pdf))

Email: pac@cppib.ca; tel: 416-868-4075; Toll Free: 1-866-557-9510

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Do you know what companies your public pension fund and private funds are invested in? Ask!

TAHOE RESOURCES

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Canada: Royal Centre, 1055 West Georgia St, Suite 1500, Vancouver, BC, V6E 4N7

US: 5190 Neil Rd, Suite 460, Reno, Nevada 89502

"Kevin McArthur, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director. McArthur is the founder of Tahoe Resources as well as its President and CEO. He is an experienced mining executive with more than 30 years in the industry in operational and senior management roles. Prior to forming Tahoe, Mr. McArthur was President and CEO of Goldcorp Inc. until his retirement at the end of 2008. This followed his 18 years at Glamis Gold Ltd., where he served as President and Chief Executive Officer from 1998 until its acquisition by Goldcorp in November, 2006."

GOLDCORP

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"Charles A. Jeannes, President & Chief Executive Officer. Jeannes was appointed President and CEO of Goldcorp in December 2008. Mr. Jeannes previously held the role of Executive Vice President, Corporate Development from November 2006 until December 31, 2008. Mr. Jeannes was former Executive Vice President, Administration, General Counsel and Secretary of Glamis Gold from 1999 until its merger with Goldcorp in November 2006."

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FUNDS NEEDED

Rights Action funds work in San Rafael Las Flores in promotion of community development, the environment and human rights. We recently sent emergency relief funds to the surviving family of Exaltacion Marcos Ucelo.

TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS (in Canada and the U.S.) to support community organizations in Guatemala and Honduras , make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- UNITED STATES: Box 50887 , Washington DC , 20091-0887
- CANADA: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E , Toronto ON , M5A-1T8

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS can be made (in Canada and U.S.):

<http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

- be a monthly credit card donor (Canada and U.S.)
- to donate stock, contact: info@rightsaction.org

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS:

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