

Rights Action
February 24, 2014

Celebrating Two Years of Courageous, Peaceful Resistance to Illegal and Harmful Mining in Guatemala

GHRC petition

Please consider signing ...

Peaceful, Courageous Resistance at “La Puya”

Since early 2012, Rights Action has – with your support - been providing funds to the communities of San Jose del Golfo and San Pedro Ayumpuc that are peacefully resisting the illegal, harmful entry of the US-based Kappes, Cassiday & Associates ("KCA" - <http://www.kcareno.com>) mining company onto their lands and territories, protecting their local watersheds and environment, promoting community controlled development projects.

The Canadian company Radius Gold Inc. (<http://www.radiusgold.com/>) first tried to forcibly operate this “Tambor” mine. During Radius Gold’s ownership, an assassination attempt was carried out against Yoli Oqueli, a community member, on June 13, 2012. Barely escaping death, she remains a strong member of the peaceful resistance, with a bullet lodged close to her spine.

Never being held to account, neither in Guatemala nor in Canada, for the assassination attempt against Yoli, Radius sold most of its interests to KCA in late 2012. However, if ever KCA operates this harmful, unwanted mine, KCA will make quarterly payments to Radius totaling \$10m. “Additional royalty payments will be made based on the future price of gold and the number of ounces produced from the property”, Radius informs its investors. Radius adds that it remains “optimistic that commercial production will be achieved at Tambor and the company will be reimbursed for the investment it has made in the region since discovering gold at Tambor in the year 2000.”

From: Robert Mercatante [rmercantante@ghrc-usa.org]
Sent: February 24, 2014
To: Robert Mercatante

Petition ~ 2nd Anniversary of “La Puya”

The families of La Puya (opposed to a mining operation in their communities) will be celebrating the second anniversary of their peaceful resistance on Sunday, March 2! GHRC is coordinating an effort to send an overwhelming show of national and international support to the valiant men and women of La Puya. The version in English reads:

To: The men, women and children of La Puya

Congratulations on the two-year anniversary of your resistance! We recognize that your struggle has been a difficult and has required great sacrifice of you and your families. But know that we stand with you, both in times of crisis and in these moments of celebration.

We applaud your courage and dedication in defending the environment and human rights. Your commitment to peaceful, nonviolent resistance --especially in the face of insults, threats and attacks-- is an inspiration to us all.

May you stay motivated, may your courage never waiver, and may your resistance lead to a better life for you, your communities, Guatemala and the rest of the world.

“Todos y todas somos La Puya... We are all La Puya!”

Sincerely,
[Your name]

We've opened a petition in [Change.org](http://www.change.org) to facilitate individual signatures:

- English: <https://www.change.org/petitions/stand-in-solidarity-with-la-puya-guatemalan-environmental-justice-movement-celebrates-two-years-of-resistance>
- Spanish: <http://www.change.org/petitions/alcemos-la-voz-en-solidaridad-con-la-puya-un-movimiento-guatemalteco-en-defensa-de-la-tierra-y-la-naturaleza-que-celebra-dos-años-de-resistencia>

We can also receive institutional and other signatures (communities, resistance movements) by email until Friday, February 28. We will present a printed version of the letter and all the signatures during the 2nd Anniversary celebration.

In addition, we are planning to print a banner of solidarity with La Puya with the message:

¡Felicitaciones en el segundo aniversario de su resistencia! Aplaudimos su valentía y su dedicación a la defensa de la naturaleza y los derechos humanos. Su compromiso con la resistencia pacífica, no-violenta, es una inspiración para todos nosotros.

We welcome any and all organizations that wish to add their logo to the banner to send it to our communications person, Lindsay Bigda, at lbigda@ghrc-usa.org by Thursday, February 27.

Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)

To support “La Puya” and other communities, resisting mining harms and violations caused by KCA and Radius, Hudbay Minerals and CGN, Goldcorp Inc., Tahoe Resources, etc, and working in protection of the environment and for locally-controlled development in Honduras and Guatemala, 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 (Canada & U.S.): <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

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

Educational Delegation to Guatemala, May 31-June 8, 2014

“Mining Injustice ~versus~ Community well-being and the Environment”

... in the context of on-going struggles for truth, memory and justice for the genocides and repression of the past. Hosted by Rights Action and SMAK (Sustainable Mining Alliance of the Kootenays). For information: info@rightsaction.org

Gold Fever ~ This award winning film documents the land and environmental defense struggle of the Mayan Mam people against the huge gold mine of Goldcorp, set against the backdrop of 6 decades of U.S.-backed repression and genocide in Guatemala.

- View trailer / organize a screening / more information: www.goldfevermovie.com

Defensora ~ This award winning film documents the lives and vision of the Mayan Qeqchi people, and their efforts to seek justice in Canadian courts against Hudbay Minerals.

- View trailer / organize a screening / more information: www.defensorathefilm.com

Say No To “Business As Usual”

The U.S. and Canadian governments, and North American companies and investors (including public pension funds like Social Security and the Canada Pension Plan) maintain profitable economic and military relations with the Guatemalan and Honduran elites, turning a blind eye to repression, violence and impunity that are the norm in both countries.

Send, send and re-send copies of this information, and your own letters, to your own elected politicians (MPs, Congresspersons, Senators), to your media, and to your own pension and investment funds, asking why our governments, companies and investment firms do nothing about repression and violence, and environmental and health harms associated with North American businesses, while benefiting from these economic relations with the Guatemalan and Honduran political, military and economic elites.

Contact:

- Member Of Parliament:
<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>
- Congress: <http://www.house.gov/> to get info for your member of Congress, and call: 202-224-3121
- Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/> to get contact for your Senator, and call: 202-224-3121

Comments / Questions: info@rightsaction.org

Get on/off our listserv: www.rightsaction.org

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