

Rights Action Statement  
January 22, 2015

## **Say no to misnamed “Conference on Sustainable Development of Natural Resources” in Honduras**

### **World Bank Must Renounce Partnering with Repressive Honduras Regime and Global Mining Industry, in the Aftermath of the 2009 Military Coup**

Rights Action denounces that the World Bank is sponsoring the so-called “Conference on Sustainable Development of Natural Resources” in Honduras, a country that, since the U.S. and Canadian-backed military coup in 2009, has become known as “the murder capital of the world”, and the “repression capital of the Americas”. (See World Bank communiqué, below)

The World Bank is already invested in, and benefitting from repression and human rights violations in Honduras, as it supports the Dinant Corporation that, owned by Honduras’ wealthiest land-owner and oligarch Miguel Facusse, has been systematically, violently and illegally evicting campesino communities from their lands in the Aguan valley region of northern Honduras, directly killing over 100 campesinos in that region alone since the 2009 military coup.

As the World Bank knows, just about every human rights group in Honduras and internationally has reported annually that the human rights situation and state of generalized violence in Honduras have worsened since the military coup in 2009; that repression and violence, corruption and impunity are the widespread norm today in Honduras.

There are no political, legal or social conditions in place, whatsoever, in Honduras in which to plan and carry out mining operations in a fair and just way. Renewed large-scale mining in Honduras will necessarily result in more illegal forced evictions, more State and paramilitary violence on behalf of mining companies, more human rights violations, and more environmental and health harms.

As we hold any mining companies accountable for the harms and violations they have committed, or soon will commit in Honduras, if they attempt to initiate mining operations, we likewise hold the World Bank responsible for the same.

There are many things the suffering majority population of Honduras need - violently imposed, exploitative, environmentally harmful mining is not one of them. The World Bank must renounce any sponsorship of, or participation in this misleadingly named “Conference on Sustainable Development of Natural Resources”.

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### **Conference on Sustainable Development of Natural Resources**

February 3-4, 2015, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2015/02/03/conference-on-sustainable-development-of-natural-resources-tegucigalpa-honduras>

The Secretary of Natural Resources of Honduras (SERNA) and the Honduran Institute of Geology and Mines (INHGEOMIN), in collaboration with the World Bank Group, are organizing a two-day international conference to strengthen the capacity of Honduras to develop their mineral resources in a sustainable fashion.

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Presentations and discussion will focus on areas of international experience that have shown to support development of a sustainable mineral sector: clear rules of the game that encourage responsible investment in mining, regulatory capacity and in-depth knowledge of mineral resources.

The principal objectives of the conference are to learn from international experience in terms of concepts, functions, organization and implementation in the function of public mining institutions, promote dialogue about development of the mining sector between the government, private sector and civil society (NGOs, universities and church); present the mining policy of the government and discuss its implementation.

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#### **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & United States)**

To support community organizations working for locally-controlled development, the environment, human rights and the rule of law in Honduras and Guatemala, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8
- USA: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091
- Credit-Card Donations: <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>
- Stock donation: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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