

Rights Action  
May 8, 2015

## Tahoe Resources Chairman Kevin McArthur Ordered To Testify In Court In Guatemala

In Vancouver ~/~ Please join the Mining Justice Alliance to protest crimes, environmental harms and human rights violations caused by Tahoe's illegal, widely opposed mining operation in Guatemala: **WHEN:** Friday, May 8th, 9:00am; **WHERE:** Rosewood Hotel Georgia, 801 West Georgia St; **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/488314911332351/>

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### Guatemalan Judge Orders Police To Bring Tahoe Resources Chairman Kevin McArthur To Court

By Sandra Cuffe

<https://www.beaconreader.com/sandra-cuffe/judge-orders-police-to-bring-tahoe-resources-chairman-kevin-mcarthur-to-court>

The Guatemalan national police director has been instructed by a judge to bring Tahoe Resources founder and executive chairman Kevin McArthur to court on May 13 to testify about the criminalization of community leaders opposing the company's Escobal silver mine.

The court order, dated April 28, instructs the police to bring McArthur and Donald Paul Gray to court at 10am on May 13 so that they may testify in the trial of a prominent anti-mining community leader.

Prior to this year's merger of Tahoe Resources and Rio Alto Mining, McArthur was the CEO of Tahoe Resources and Gray its Vice President of Operations. Before coming out of retirement to found Tahoe Resources, McArthur was the CEO Goldcorp for two years after its 2006 acquisition of Glamis Gold, of which he was the CEO for 18 years.

A Canadian transnational mining corporation, Tahoe Resources owns the Escobal silver mine in southeastern Guatemala. The project, which began production last year, has faced fierce resistance in the area, and mining opponents have suffered [repression and criminalization](#).

Violence against communities organizing against the Escobal mine has included attacks against protesters and murders of local activists. A [state of siege](#) was declared in the region in May 2013. Alberto Rotondo, the former head of security at the Tahoe Resources mine site, faces trial for ordering [the company's security guards](#) to open fire on protesters in April 2013. Seven victims filed [a civil lawsuit against Tahoe Resources](#) in Vancouver last year.

Over the past few years, dozens of community leaders and members opposing the Escobal project have been targeted with spurious criminal charges, and many cases have been thrown out for lack of evidence.

Oscar Morales García, the outspoken coordinator of the Committee in Defense of Life and Peace of San Rafael Las Flores, has been charged more than once. He is currently faced with a charge of uttering threats against Camilo Medina Mazariegos, Manager of External Relations for Minera San Rafael, a Guatemalan subsidiary of Tahoe Resources.

Morales García [made a request](#) to the Office of the Public Prosecutor in October 2014 for McArthur to “testify to the policy of criminalization that Minera San Rafael has been carrying out against community leaders in resistance to the imposition of the Escobal mining project in the municipality of San Rafael Las Flores, Santa Rosa.”

McArthur [was issued summons](#) to testify at an October 21 hearing. This time, the judge ordered the national police director to ensure McArthur complies. The Guatemalan [court order](#) was circulated by the Center for Environmental, Social and Legal Action ([CALAS](#)) on the eve of Tahoe Resources’ annual shareholder’s meeting.

The company’s Annual General Meeting of Shareholders is scheduled for 9:30am PDT on May 8 at the Rosewood Hotel Georgia in Vancouver.

The Mining Justice Alliance, a Vancouver-based coalition of community groups, activists and students, has called for a gathering outside the hotel at 9am to communicate a message from communities in Guatemala and call on Tahoe investors to drop their shares.

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To support community organizations – like the Committee in Defense of Life and Peace of San Rafael Las Flores – that are courageously working for locally-controlled development, the environment, human rights, real democracy 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
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