

Rights Action  
July 9, 2015

## **Global Mining Companies Taking Advantage of Impunity and Corruption in Honduras**

Any mining operation – Honduran or international – that tries to operate in Honduras, will violate human rights, will harm the environment, will use (directly or indirectly) repression, and will contribute to and benefit directly from impunity and corruption.

For some of the global mining industry, it appears to be ‘business as usual’ in the ‘Murder Capital of the World’, and a ‘Repression and Corruption Capital of the Americas’. Canadian company Aura Minerals (<http://www.auraminerals.com/>) is a principal sponsor of this “First International Mining Congress” (<https://congresodemineria.upi.edu.hn/>).

### **Below**

- Statement from COPINH
- Rights Action ‘Matching Donor’ – Help support grassroots organizations in Honduras
- Delegation to Honduras, November 2015
- Free Screenings - “Resistencia: The Fight for the Aguan Valley”

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### **COPINH: WE CONDEMN the International Congress of Mining in Honduras. No to Mines!**

<http://copinh.org/article/copinh-condenamos-el-congreso-internacional-de-min/>

We, members of the Lenca People and the Civic Council of Grassroots and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), come from communities in the provinces of Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Santa Barbara and Cortes, Lenca territories of age-old resistance. We have arrived in Tegucigalpa to once again join and support the process of outrage and protest, along with sister organizations of the Platform of Social and Popular Movements of Honduras, to which we belong, to condemn the so-called “First International Conference on Mining in Honduras”, being held from 7 to 11 July in Tegucigalpa.

This event reflects the continuing policy of the Government of Honduras to continue handing over territory, sovereignty, common goods and nature, as it moves forward in the establishment of a transnational dictatorship.

We denounce the government, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (SERNA), and other actors of the so-called Congress who propose the cynical idea that there is concern for the environment, that extractive methods are less harmful in a "mining culture that is responsible and ecological."

We reject this farce that has been unmasked again, contrasted with the reality of death that mining leaves. We have seen the true intentions of the mining industry - with 30% of the

Honduran territory handed over in concessions to mining companies and more than 870 land grants in the approval process. We know the looting and brutality this means.

To President Juan Orlando Hernández, his government, the national congress and the mining companies, we demand a stop to the expansion of death, pollution and violation of the rights of indigenous people, black people, campesinos and all the Honduran people. We demand an end to their corrupt, illegal and illegitimate actions.

Our honorable people and organizations are in a state of rebelliousness and watchfulness, and we are actively defending our territory, which is part of our historical rights. We are engaged in the continuous construction of our future, demanding structural changes, rethinking Honduras based on justice and equity - re-founding our country in all of its diversity.

With the ancestral force of Iselaca, Lempira, Mota and Etempica we raise our voices full of life, justice, dignity, freedom and peace!

<http://www.copinh.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/copinh.intibucaadministracion@copinh.org>

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

*Until July 15th, an anonymous donor will match donations to Rights Action in the U.S. and Canada (up to \$30,000).* Help us continue to directly support COPINH and other grassroots organizations in Honduras struggling for a just society and State. 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 donations: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

### **Delegation to Honduras, November 7-15, 2015**

“Connecting the Dots from the Global to the Local: Understanding the Environmental, Human Rights, Poverty and Impunity Crisis in Honduras”

Rights Action and the Mir Centre for Peace at Selkirk College invite you to join this educational seminar trip to Honduras.

Flyer: <http://rightsaction.org/action-content/honduras-education-seminar-trip>

More info: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

### **Free Screenings - “Resistencia: The Fight for the Aguan Valley”**

In recognition of the on-going, courageous struggle for justice and serious political transformation in Honduras, the documentary film “Resistencia: The Fight for the Aguan Valley” will be available for free for two weeks.

Trailer / Live streaming: <http://resistenciathefilm.com/>

## **More Information**

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