

## **Aura Minerals (Canadian Company) Threatens To Expand Gold Mine Into 200-year Old Cementery In Honduras**

### **Misleading Investors and Shareholders**

In a December 21, 2015, news release, Aura Minerals misleads investors and shareholders, writing that “The Company has achieved a peaceful resolution to the situation at its San Andres gold mine in Honduras, announced on November 19, 2015.”

<http://www.auraminerals.com/News-Events/News-Releases/News-Release-Details/2015/Aura-Minerals-AnnouncesResumption-of-Operations-at-San-Andres-Mine/default.aspx>

This is false. We have many more photos of Honduran men and women peacefully protesting to protect their cementery. These protests continue today!



(Community members peacefully occupy Aura Minerals open pit, protesting expansion into this 200 year old cementery. Photos @ Karen Spring)

Nothing has been resolved, and community members are, once gain, threatened by further military repression on behalf of Aura Minerals.

### **Write to Aura Minerals and demand they abide by community demands:**

1. That Aura Minerals cancel any plans to remove or in any way touch the community cementery
2. That Aura Minerals suspend its entire mining operation, and sit down and engage in a transparent, public discussion with the communities of San Andres and Azacualpa to review whether Aura Minerals will comply fully, legally and transparently, with pending commitments related to housing and land-titling; whether Aura Minerals will agree to not expand its mining operation onto and over the cementery and two remaining mountains in Azacualpa.

(Addresses and contact information)

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## **Communiqué – Azacualpa Environmental Committee**

Azacualpa, La Unión, Copán, December 23, 2015

As members of the community of Azacualpa in La Unión, Copán, Honduras we would like to draw the attention of the local, national and international press and the general public to the following abuses that we are facing as a result of the activities of the company Minerales de Occidente S.A. (subsidiary of the TSX-listed and Toronto-headquartered company Aura Minerals):

The company Minerals de Occidente S.A. (MINOSA) is operating on a mining concession in the southern part of the department of Copán, specifically in the communities of San Miguel, San Andrés and Azacualpa in the municipality of La Unión, Copán.

MINOSA is a Canadian company that is operating an open-pit gold mine that is highly contaminating and detrimental to the lands within our territory.

Azacualpa has a cemetery where it has been burying its dead for 200 years representing the cultural heritage of our communities. MINOSA is extracting minerals from the hill where the cemetery is located without community authorization. During a community assembly on January 11, 2015, the community of Azacualpa decided that we were not in agreement with the destruction of the hill through mining where the cemetery is located.

With regard to the above, we declare that:

MINOSA is violating our community's human rights through disrespect for our decision and our right to our territory. It is also creating social upheaval and putting us in greater vulnerability, which is an ongoing threat to our lives and our commons.

We are being persecuted for defending our rights and to date 26 leaders are being legally processed, a violation of their right to the freedom of expression and to association.

We make this declaration and request support from the authorities and national and international human rights organizations to avoid the

ongoing criminalization and violation of our rights as Hondurans, including the right to life, to a healthy environment, to freedom of expression, to the freedom of association, and others. We hold Minerales de Occidente S.A. responsible for the harm being done to our environment, our commons and our health.

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## **Aura Minerals**

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### **Send copies of your letters to your media and Member Of Parliament:**

- <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>
- Canadian embassy in Honduras: Centro Financiero CITI, 3d Floor, San Juan Bosco, Colonia Payaqui, Box 3552, Tegucigalpa, T: (+504) 2232 4551, [tglpa@international.gc.ca](mailto:tglpa@international.gc.ca)
- Office of the Extractive Sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): [csr-counsellor@international.gc.ca](mailto:csr-counsellor@international.gc.ca)

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### **Background**

- "Canada-based Aura Minerals Ready To Expand Open-pit Gold Mine, Including Into Community Cemetery", by Karen Spring, November 2014,  
<http://desdeaquibajoabajo.blogspot.com/2014/11/community-evicted-for-protecting-their.html>

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### **Emergency Funding – Cemetery Defense Struggle**

In December, Rights Action sent \$500 to the Azacualpa Environmental Committee, as support for their courageous cemetery, community and environmental defense struggle. We will continue to send small grants, as funding permits.

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

Make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

## Credit-Card Donations

- Canada: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/rights-action/>
- U.S.: <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations> (click on NetworkForGood)

Donations of stock? Write to: [grahame@rightsaction.org](mailto:grahame@rightsaction.org)

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## More information

- Karen Spring, Honduras Solidarity Network (in Honduras), [spring.kj@gmail.com](mailto:spring.kj@gmail.com)
- Jen Moore, Mining Watch, [jen@miningwatch.ca](mailto:jen@miningwatch.ca)
- Grahame Russell, Rights Action, [grahame@rightsaction.org](mailto:grahame@rightsaction.org)

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