

Mayan Mam People Say 'NO' To Canadian Government's CSR Mining Promotion Office

<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=bb22f6ca5e>



(Diodora Hernandez survived an assassination attempt in 2010 because she refused to sell her plot of land to Goldcorp. Photo: Rights Action)

Statement by FREDEMI (Miguelense Defense Front)

August 10, 2016

(Translated for Rights Action by Lori Berenson)

"Everyone should rise up, everyone should be called. No single group, or two groups from amongst ourselves should remain behind the rest." POP UJ.

FREDEMI writes to national and international organizations that deal with issues of extractive industries and human rights violations:

The Miguelense Defense Front FREDEMI – an organization of community resistance in San Miguel Ixtahuacan, Guatemala – was founded to bring together communities to defend natural resources, territory and general community well being.

Recently, we were contacted by Esma Mneina, the "Stakeholder Liason Officer at Global Affairs Canada". Unfortunately, in the past, FREDEMI had received Esma Mneina in our communities, helping her with research for her Master's Degree thesis she was writing concerning the Marlin

Mine, property of the Canadian mining company Goldcorp Inc. This was before we were aware of her interest to work promoting mining companies with the Canadian government.

She recently contacted us to invite us to a meeting in the Capital City of Guatemala to speak with Mr. Jeffrey Davidson, a consultant for Corporate Social Responsibility in the extractive sector for the Canadian government. This man appears to be interested in speaking with a FREDEMI representative to hear perspectives on Goldcorp Inc's Marlin Mine gold and silver mining exploitation in San Miguel Ixtahuacan.

Ever since it arrived here, the Goldcorp mine has committed the following violations and aggressions:

- It failed to carry out a process of prior informed consultation with the population, thereby violating the right to consultation and generating social conflict;
- It has deteriorated the environment by destroying forests and soil;
- It has caused damage to more than 500 homes as it has carried out its mining operations in areas that contain homes of families that live here. Cracks have appeared on walls and floors of many of these homes;
- It has contaminated water sources in the exploitation area, into which they have released dangerous amounts of heavy metals, rendering the water inapt for consumption by people, animals and plants, according to several academic and professional reports;
- Numerous employees have become sick with cancer due to the inhalation of heavy metals in the extraction areas;
- Women and men community defenders have been criminalized;
- Assassination attempts have been carried out against Miguel Angel Bamaca and Diodora Antonia Hernandez, human rights defenders and members of the resistance;
- And more.

FREDEMI has been involved in dialogues with the Canadian government for more than nine years, but we have seen that the Canadian government has never shown interest in resolving the issues of human rights violations and aggressions against people and against Mother Earth, or it is incapable of resolving mining related conflicts in which human rights violations occur.

Therefore, we reject any attempt by the Canadian government to dialogue with the affected populations. This Maya Mam population states firmly that we are not agreeing to carry out any meeting with these people and no other person is authorized to represent us in a meeting with them without our consent.

San Miguel Ixtahuacán, San Marcos
August 10, 2016

Award winning documentary film: “Gold Fever”

Diodora Hernandez and other Maya Mam community defenders are featured in “Gold Fever” documenting how the Canadian mining giant Goldcorp Inc. continues to mine relentlessly in San Miguel Ixtahuacan and Sipacapa, Guatemala, despite 13 years of repression, other human rights violations, environmental destruction, corruption and impunity. Gold Fever takes the viewer into the homes and communities of courageous Mayan Mam people resisting the harms and violations, struggling for justice and a different “development” model. Trailer / Information: www.goldfevermovie.com/

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To support groups like FREDEMI and people like Diodora, working and struggling for real democracy, community controlled development, protection of the environment, and respect for the rule of law and human rights, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

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