

## Aura Minerals ALERT in Honduras

Share: <http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/aura-minerals-alert-in-honduras-illegal-cyanide-release-aura-minerals-preparing-to-exhume-bodies-from-200-year-old-cemetery-to-get-at-more-gold>

- **Illegal cyanide release into river, killing fish and aquatic life**
- **Backed by Honduran security forces, Aura Minerals preparing to exhume bodies from 200 year old cemetery to get at more gold**

*This is what "bringing development" means; million dollar profits flowing to Canada, the company and shareholders. For this, there is no political or legal oversight in Canada & little media coverage.*



(A cemetery worth fighting for ...)

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### Public statement

July 10, 2017

We, men and women representatives of the communities of Azacualpa, Toreras, Ceibita and Cedros, and of the Environmental Committees of San Miguel and Azacualpa (La Unión, Copán), make this statement in response to more harms to the environment and violations of our rights caused by Aura Minerals (of Canada) and its subsidiary Minerales de Occidente (MINOSA):

## **Contaminated Rivers**

Thousands of dead fish were found on the riverbanks of the Lara River, caused by the discharge of the cyanide leaching pools belonging to Aura Minerals/MINOSA, on June 26 2017.

Representatives of INHGEOMIN (Instituto Hondureño de Geología y Minas), DECA (Dirección de Evaluación y Control Ambiental), Mi Ambiente, National Police, Military Police, the Attorney General's office and the Municipal Government of La Unión, Copán came to confirm the occurrence. To date we have not received any information back from government authorities.

This illegal release of cyanide and other contaminants also puts at risk the health of 45,000 people from the city of Santa Rosa de Copan, since their drinking water comes from the Higuito River which receives waters from the Lara River.

## **Exhuming the cemetery**

What we have received information about, in a meeting on June 29th with Mr. Monty Reed, manager of Aura Minerals/MINOSA, is that the company will try, in mid-July, to push ahead with a test run exhumation at our community's cemetery, in violation of agreements reached with our communities.

As community leaders and environmental committees, we oppose these illegal exhumations and the destruction of our cemetery, which goes against the agreements reached in the addendum, and violates our rights to live in peace.

We hold Aura Minerals/MINOSA responsible for what may happen, and we hold the government of Honduras responsible for knowingly allowing such actions, fully aware that the inhabitants of these communities are not in agreement with the exhumations, and later, mining exploitation at this cemetery.

We request the support of national and international organizations - particularly in Canada -, to ensure that there be justice for our communities and that this death-promoting company leave once and for all, and let us live in peace in our communities.

*Community Leadership and Environmental Committees  
Area Affected by Mining Exploitation  
La Unión, Copán, Honduras*

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## **More info**

**Canadian Ambassador & Corporate Social Responsibility Counsellor misled Honduran villagers in community environmental defense struggle with Toronto-based Aura Minerals**

<http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/canadian-ambassador-csr-counsellor-misled-honduran-villagers-in-community-environmental-defense-struggle-with-toronto-based-aura-minerals>

## **Mining in a State of Impunity: Coerced Negotiations and Forced Displacement by Aura**

**Minerals in Honduras**, by Karen Spring, published by Mining Watch and Honduras Solidarity Network:

<http://miningwatch.ca/publications/2016/6/29/mining-state-impunity-coerced-negotiations-and-forced-displacement-aura>

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### **Write to**

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Member Parliament  
<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

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### **More information**

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### **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)**

To support community, human rights and environmental defense organizations (like Azacualpa Environmental Committee) in Honduras and Guatemala, working and struggling for justice and

for fundamental change from the local to global levels, 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: <http://rightsaction.org/donate/>

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

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