

“The [Goldcorp-linked] illnesses in these children [in Honduras] are devastating. There are infants with severe physical problems, born with malformations, unable to walk, and others already died.”

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/the-goldcorp-linked-illnesses-in-these-children-are-devastating>

- Article below: “Condemnation of Illnesses Caused by Goldcorp Inc. in Honduras’ Siria Valley”



[Photos taken by Siria Valley Environmental Committee in 2013 (though stamped with 2008!)]

Urgent cable to:

- Ambassador James Hill, Embassy of Canada in Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua, James.Hill@international.gc.ca, tglpa@international.gc.ca
- Minister Chrystia Freeland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Global Affairs Canada, chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca, chrystia.freeland.c1d@parl.gc.ca, chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca

Top priority.

Attention required immediately.

Will the Canadian government –from Global Affairs in Ottawa to the Embassy covering Honduras– call on the Canadian mining giant Goldcorp Inc. to properly fully repair all the health harms its gold mining operation caused in the Siria Valley, Honduras? In this way, the Canadian government would begin to prioritize the human rights of the Honduran people in Canadian mining harmed communities. It is never too late to change direction, and prioritize human rights.

*"Do with it what you will. Cry over it. Get angry. Forget it.
But don't say in years to come that you would have lived your life differently
if only you had heard this story. You have heard it now."
(Thomas King)*

I look forward to hearing from you.
Grahame Russell, director Rights Action
info@rightsaction.org

Condemnation of Illnesses Caused by Goldcorp Inc. in Honduras' Siria Valley

ConfidencialHN, May 15, 2018

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/5/15/denuncian-enfermedades-por-contaminacion-en-valle-hondureno/>

“There are innumerable health problems in the communities due to [Goldcorp’s] mineral exploitation [2000-2009]; and the illnesses in the children are devastating,” expressed Olga Velázquez, member of the Environmental Committee of Siria Valley.

Velázquez explained that the health problems that community members suffer are the result of the operations of Goldcorp’s then-subsiary the Entremares mining company. “The health crisis is most evident in the residents who live in the municipalities closest to the mining project, and include: dermatological, gastrointestinal and respiratory problems as well as hair loss.”

On this topic, she added that a toxicological analysis had been performed on several community members from the Siria valley, which showed that the illnesses were caused by exposure to certain minerals.

“Toxicological analyses were performed on samples from several residents, however these remained under the custody of the Honduran state, sent to Colombia and the studies did not return until 2013. We filed a complaint before the Office of the Prosecution, demanding that the results be given to community members who had a right to know about the findings.”

“At that time, they only tested for lead and arsenic and the studies on a group of people showed high levels of these elements in their blood,” she added.

Velázquez pointed out that children have been heavily affected by contamination, and has left them with severe health problems. “The illnesses in these children are devastating, there are infants with severe physical problems, who were born with malformations, unable to walk, and others already died,” she concluded.

Many deaths caused by the effects contamination have been recorded, and the population is presently carrying out acts of resistance to prevent the mining company from continuing its

operations, due to the irreversible harms these operations have caused to the health and the environment.

The Environmental Committee of Siria Valley demanded that Honduras cancel the mining company's permission to operate; there must be respect for the will of affected communities, against the installation of the geothermic project in the Siria Valley.

Background

Goldcorp's "Valley of Despair" in Honduras: Comprehensive health and environmental reparations needed, now

Here, an article by Martin Calix, published in 2017 by Contra Corriente, about the "Valley of Death" left by Goldcorp in Honduras (<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/goldcorps-valley-of-despair-in-honduras>)

Here, links to films documenting health harms suffered by families living near Goldcorp mine:

- "All That Glitters Isn't Gold: A Story Of Exploitation and Resistance" (2008), by Steven Schnoor. 10 minute trailer (of hour-long documentary): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tmqXc5rX8s>
- "Real Costs of Gold Mining: Goldcorp in Honduras" (2008). 9-minute film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TxLAzy3YT8>

Keep this story and demand for comprehensive health reparations alive

Share and re-share this information. Support the Goldcorp harmed communities in Honduras. Keep sending information, such as this, to Goldcorp, the Canadian government, your elected politicians, the media, reminding them that this is known and these are their harms and violations to fix.

More information

- Siria Valley Environmental Committee: Carlos Amador, piviamador@yahoo.com, [504] 9962-9481
- Rights Action: Grahame Russell, info@rightsaction.org
- Honduras Solidarity Network: Karen Spring, spring.kj@gmail.com
- Mining Watch Canada: Jen Moore, jen@miningwatch.ca

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

To support the development, human rights, environmental defense and emergency relief work of community groups in Honduras and Guatemala (like the Siria Valley Committee) – including ongoing efforts to hold Goldcorp, governments and investors accountable for this mining criminality, 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/>

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