

Azacualpa villagers resist Aura Minerals/MINOSA's Covid19-spreading mine

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/azacualpa-villagers-resist-aura-minerals-covid19-spreading-mine>

For years, villagers have been courageously resisting the environmentally harmful, socially divisive, open-pit, cyanide-leeching gold mine of the U.S./ Canada-based Aura Minerals (and MINOSA, its Honduran subsidiary) that are backed by the coercive power of the Honduran regime's police and military.

As Covid19 further devastates the lives of the poor majority in Honduras, Azacualpa villagers see even more need to do whatever they can to peacefully stop this mine.



Azacualpa community members peacefully blocking mining company access, June 14, 2020.

On top of years of environmental and health harms, social divisions, etc., Aura Minerals/MINOSA have been trying to illegally dig up all the bodies from the 200-year old Azacualpa cemetery, to mine the gold underneath.

If Aura succeeds in destroying the cemetery, their mining operation will continue along the mountain ridge and lead to the destruction and forced relocation of the village itself of Azacualpa.

Added to this decade long community defense struggle is the fight to stop the spread of Covid19. Mining operations around the world are directly helping spread Covid19 amongst mine company employees and surrounding communities (<https://inequality.org/research/mining-profiteers-covid/>).

Azacualpa La Union copon 4 de Junio 2020

Comunicado
 Nosotros los miembros del Conite Ambiental
 por la defensa de los bienes comunes
 Nos pronunciamos en el siguiente comunicado

La Empresa AURA MINERALS (MINOSA)
 a partir de la fecha de hoy empieza la
 explotación a cielo abierto en el Cerro el
 Cementerio alrededor de la Comunidad de Azacualpa.
 Manifestamos nuestro desacuerdo ya que esto
 aumenta el riesgo de contagio de la Pandemia
 COVID 19 a nuestras comunidades debido a que
 este reinicio implica del traslado de personas de
 otros municipios y departamentos y sobre todo es
 necesario para la empresa traer quimicos y combustible
 de otras ciudades. Culparamos al Estado de
 Honduras por prestarse a este riesgo y ser parte
 de el. X Sobre todo a todos los Entes que
 en complicidad ya que hasta el momento no hay
 Contagios de esta Pandemia

Firmamos La Presente.

Oscar Miranda
 Juan José Ramirez
 Jose Angel Lopez

Manuel
 Yanira Rodriguez

Azacualpa Environmental Committee denounces Aura Minerals/MINOSA increased risk of spreading Covid19.

[Lisbeth Jiménez](#): “The regime’s military-imposed quarantine applies only to the poor. This company does what it wants, destroying, dispossessing, digging up and re-burying the dead. Aura Minerals/MINOSA lies.”

Mining industry/ rich country impunity, corruption and violence “Getting on with normal”

As Azacualpa villages put their bodies on the line to prevent further destruction, dispossession and spread of Covid19, it remains the fundamental challenge of Canadian and U.S. citizens to start to hold our companies and governments accountable in Canada and the U.S. when they engage in destructive, divisive and violent economic activities.

“Where even the Dead can’t rest”

6 minute film (2019) by Trocaire, about Canadian/U.S. mining company Aura Minerals illegally digging up bodies for gold in Honduras, despite objections of family and community members.

- View: <https://vimeo.com/365482741>

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**Rights Action’s Covid19 response fund
 Supporting indigenous & campesino communities, Honduras & Guatemala**

(Updated: June 12, 2020)

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/covid19-response-fund-updated-june-12-2020>

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

Make check to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
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Credit-Card Donations: <http://rightsaction.org/donate/>

Donations of securities in Canada and the U.S.? Write to: info@rightsaction.org

Bank-to-bank transfers? Write to: info@rightsaction.org

Go Fund Me campaign

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/covid-19-supporting-communities-and-forced-migrants>

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