

April 24, 2005

ANOTHER GLAMIS GOLD OPERATION IN GUATEMALA

As lead up to Glamis Gold company's annual meeting, May 5, Toronto (Canada), we circulate this Declaration made by the Instancia Maya "MAM AJPOP" (Guatemala) concerning NEW CONCESSIONS just made to the Glamis Gold company, this time under its subsidiary Entres Mares.

- Like Glamis Gold's Marlin project in Guatemala -- already facing wide-spread opposition and associated, in the opinions of many, with cases of repression and a complete lack of consultation with local Indigenous populations - this latest project of Glamis Gold is strongly opposed [see below];
- Global mining is a very beneficial business for North American shareholders, investors, consumers and governments, even as the mining industry impacts negatively on the environment and the development and human rights of local populations throughout Latin America;
- To come on an educational delegation to Guatemala & Honduras in July, to learn more about mining amongst other issues, or to be involved in efforts to educate about the harmful impacts of the global mining industry, contact: info@rightsaction.org;
- Go to www.rightsaction.org for a recent Rights Action report on mining;
- To provide tax-charitable donations for community development and environment projects in communities affected by the global mining industry, info@rightsaction.org.

This declaration was translated for Rights Action by Rosalind Gil. If you want on-off this e-list, info@rightsaction.org.

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[Instancia Maya "MAM AJPOP", San Marcos. 8th. Ave. 12-108, zona 1, San Marcos]

THE INSTANCIA MAYA "MAM AJPOP", HEREBY MAKES THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

On March 29 of this year, the Mayor of the Municipality of Comitancillo, Department of San Marcos, received formal notification, as stipulated in Resolution 035 of the General Mining Directorate, Ministry of Energy and Mines, that a Reconnaissance License for gold, silver and other metals had been granted to the "Entre Mares" company.

a) RELEVANT ASPECTS OF RESOLUTION NO. 035:

1. The area for which the license was granted is a closed polygon of 537 kilometres, located in the municipalities of Comitancillo, Concepción Tutuapa, Tejutla, San Miguel Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa in the department of San Marcos and Malacantoncito, Santa Bárbara, Colotenango, San Juan Atitlán, San Sebastián, San Ildefonso Ixtahuacán, San Gaspar Ixchil in the Department of Huehuetenango; and San Carlos Sija and Cabricán in the Department of Quetzaltenango.
2. The "Entres Mares" company will have to pay a Q.1,300.00 Granting Fee and a Q.120.00 per kilometre Area Fee of Q. 64,440.00, amounting to a total of Q.65,740.00 (approximately = US\$8,200.00)
3. "Entre Mares" has been granted the right to make use of waters in their natural riverbeds or in lagoons within the 537 square kilometer closed polygon.
4. They can construct paths, trails and access roads, carry out excavations and make boreholes, as required for technical studies.

5. The Reconnaissance Term is six months extendable and begins as of receipt by "Entre Mares" of notification that the license has been granted.

b) ISSUES OF CONCERN:

1. It is understood that this notification is not a request for authorization from the Mayor, let alone from the local population, to carry out this work in Comitancillo or in other municipalities. This is nothing more than a notification, as per part article L) of Resolution 035, which states that Mayors of municipalities aforementioned must be notified. The notification says that the Reconnaissance License for "Entre Mares" has been authorized by the Mining Directorate of the Ministry of Mines and Energy and that dependents of the State and independent groups must help establish right of access, where necessary, to allow for reconnaissance work to be carried out during the six month term of the license or during the extension of the term.

2. Clearly, (Guatemalan) President Berger has no real will to ensure that the provisions of ILO169 (International Labor Organization Covenant 169) are respected and that the indigenous population is consulted to find out if they agree with the granting of RECONNAISSANCE, EXPLORATION and EXPLOITATION LICENSES IN THE REGION. Development in the area should be planned by local residents, taking care to protect the environment and natural resources, as stipulated by the Law on Urban and Rural Development Councils.

3. This government has no respect whatsoever for the people of the country. In response to the people's opposition to open pit mining, the government said it would stop granting licenses for open pit mineral mining in the country. Nonetheless, we now hear of 537 square kilometers approved for reconnaissance, with the goal of moving on to exploration and exploitation as soon as possible.

4. Besides the above issues, there is the creation of a new HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION, made up of representatives from the government and from the Episcopal Conference of the Catholic Church of Guatemala. This is a clear manoeuvre to neutralize the people's struggle. To date, this High Level Commission has put forth no proposals and has said nothing with respect to licenses that have been granted.

5. Given this situation, local organizations, community leaders, the general public and the Municipality of Comitancillo, in a special meeting of the COMUDE of the Municipality held on March 20, AGREED UNANIMOUSLY TO OPPOSE all open pit mining activity in Comitancillo. We wish to ensure enforcement of the regulations of the Municipal Council that were sent to the Ministry of Energy and Mines, stipulating that there be consultation with the local population, as stipulated by ILO 169, and that information on the advantages and disadvantages of open pit metal mining be distributed widely and that information sessions on the subject be held in the areas affected.

6. It remains to be seen if the authorities of the country, led by Oscar Berger, will respect laws and conventions such as ILO169 and the Urban and Rural Development Councils Law that defend the interests and needs of the people, the majority of whom, in this case, are Maya MAM, or if the authorities will continue representing the interests of the transnationals and of a small group of companies in the country.

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