

May 4, 2005

## **PUBLIC COMMUNIQUÉ & MEDIA RELEASE**

### **GLAMIS GOLD Ltd. MINING OPERATION IN GUATEMALA ASSOCIATED WITH LACK OF DUE CONSULTATION, OPPOSITION & REPRESSION, & UNDERMINING DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING OF CAMPESINO & INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

**For more info:** Grahame Russell, info@rightsaction.org, 416-654-2074

Glamis Gold Ltd. (a Canadian and US mining company - [www.glamis.com](http://www.glamis.com)) is holding its "annual and extraordinary general meeting at 1:30pm, at The Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West, Toronto".

Rights Action ([www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)) calls on Glamis Gold to indefinitely suspend its mining operation in Guatemala, to allow for and insist on full and impartial investigations into cases of repression (including deaths, break-ins, threats) that have been associated with its mining operations, and to initiate, with full and transparent public participation and knowledge, proper consultations with the Indigenous peoples and sectors of the Guatemalan population whose development and environmental well-being will be impacted by Glamis Gold's extensive mining interests in the country - both the current Marlin project and all possible future explorations.

### **PEACEFUL PROTEST & EDUCATION WORK**

With other organizations and individuals, Rights Action will peacefully gather at the Royal York Hotel (100 Front Street West, Toronto), Thursday, May 5, 1pm - 2pm, to protest Glamis Gold's mining operations in Guatemala and Honduras, and to provide educational materials to the media, and Glamis Gold Shareholders and Directors.

### **LACK OF CONSULTATION, REPRESSION & OTHER ISSUES**

Like many sectors of Guatemalan society, and numerous North American organizations, Rights Action is of the opinion that Glamis Gold and the Guatemalan government did not undertake proper consultations with the affected Indigenous and campesino communities. It is this lack of proper consultation that has led, in part, to the serious problems (widespread opposition, repression, social divisions, etc.) associated with this international business enterprise.

Despite Glamis Gold assurances to the contrary (at [www.glamis.com](http://www.glamis.com) one can find communiqués concerning its Marlin project in Guatemala), Rights Action is of the opinion that this mining operation, amongst other ones in Guatemala, undermines the short- and long-term development and environmental needs and human and Indigenous rights of campesino and Indigenous populations in Guatemala.

Attached, a series of articles related to the operations of Glamis Gold in Guatemala and Honduras:

- April 26, 2005. The Ottawa Citizen article on Glamis Gold in Guatemala.
- March 29, 2005. A Declaration, by Indigenous Guatemala mayors, about another Glamis Gold operation in Guatemala; and an April 13, 2005 Washington Post article.
- April 5, 2005. Amnesty International urgent action related to repression and death threats related to the Glamis Gold mining operation.
- March 30, 2005. Rights Action urgent action, concerning the killing of Alvaro Benigno Sanchez by security guards working for Glamis Gold subsidiary.

- January 19, 2004. Rights Action mini-report: "The Price of Gold: Extraction, Exploitation and Resistance and Resistance at the San Martin Mine in Honduras."
- Reference to a Rights Action report: "A Backwards, Upside-down Kind of Development: Global actors, mining & community-based resistance in Honduras & Guatemala", that details many problems associated with Glamis Gold, and other mining companies. Full report available at: [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org).

### **FACT-FINDING INVESTIGATIONS & DELEGATIONS**

We invite the North-American media to send investigative reporters and Glamis Gold to send a group of company officials and shareholders to Guatemala and Honduras on a balanced fact-finding mission.

If the media and Glamis Gold accept this invitation, we ask only that you give us, and our partner groups in the countries, a predetermined amount of time to set up meetings and community visits.

### **"BUSINESS AS USUAL" - A VERY SERIOUS SITUATION**

The attached information summarizes the situation of tension and repression in Guatemala, and indeed Honduras, as related to Glamis Gold's operation in both countries. There is extensive opposition in both countries to the operations and explorations of Glamis Gold and other North American companies. Continuing with "business as usual" in Guatemala and Honduras runs the serious risk of directly or indirectly causing further social division and tension, environmental harm and repression.

Thank-you.

Grahame Russell  
416-654-2074 / [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)