

August 22, 2005

GUATEMALA: World Bank slammed over support for Canadian mining company in Guatemala.

For over 3 years, RightsAction has funded and worked with rural communities in Honduras and Guatemala being negatively impacted by Glamis Gold mining operations in Honduras and Guatemala. Their operations in Honduras continue, unabated, and harmfully.

In Guatemala, there has been more coordinated and widespread opposition, even though Glamis Gold has been strongly supported by the Canadian and Guatemalan governments and the World Bank. Below, you will find a Financial Times article concerning the World Bank investment in this project.

ADMISSIONS: Please read the short Financial Times article and consider that:

- this report was done by the WB itself;
- the WB funded company - Glamis Gold - did NOT properly consult with the mining affected Mayan communities;
- the WB continues to invest in "extractive industries", even as it was recommended not to;
- there is 98% local opposition to the Glamis Gold project, even as Glamis Gold insists it has "broad support";
- there was no proper consultation with the mining-affected communities, as required by law;
- there as already been repression associated with the mining project, even as the actual mining has not begun;

Please write the World Bank and Canadian government offices (see below) and demand an immediate suspension of all mining activities - as demanded by the affected communities (that RightsAction supports) and a wide range of NGOs and Church groups in Guatemala and Canada.

Rights Action requests your tax-deductible donations for mining-affected communities in Honduras and Guatemala that are defending their community development and environment interests. [see below]

If you want on-off this elist: info@rightsaction.org. Please re-distribute far and wide.

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WORLD BANK ATTACKED OVER GOLD MINE, Financial Times, by Christopher Swann in Washington, 8/21/05

The World Bank has come under fire from one of its own internal watchdogs over its role in funding a gold mine project in Guatemala. The venture has been seen by some as a test case of the bank's ability to handle successfully such projects following its rejection of a recommendation by an independent report to pull out of extractive industries.

The confidential draft report, obtained by the FT, charges that the bank failed adequately to consult the local community or properly evaluate the environmental and humanitarian impact of the mine. Although only in draft form, the report is likely to be an embarrassment to the bank.

Glamis Gold, the Canadian company constructing the mine, has said the venture has broad support from the indigenous Mayan Indians. But the project has been plagued by controversy.

In January a 40-day protest by locals ended in bloodshed when security forces clashed with protesters, resulting in one death. On March 13 a villager was shot dead by an off-duty employee of Grupo Golan, a company providing security for Glamis.

And in June a referendum in a nearby municipality showed 98 per cent opposed moving forward with the project.

The draft report charges that the IFC -- the private finance arm of the World Bank -- failed to give sufficient time "to allow a reasonably

informed  
consultation". "The IFC should have considered more systematically  
the  
potential risk on human rights at the project level; should have taken  
appropriate measures to mitigate these risks."

Kevin McArthur, president and chief executive of Glamis Gold, said:  
"We have  
a signed document from the indigenous leadership early on in the  
project  
that they wanted to go ahead. We are convinced this will be good for  
the  
local community."

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PLEASE WRITE TO:

Embassy of Guatemala in Canada  
Ambassador Carlos Jiménez  
130 Albert Street, Suite 1010, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4,  
F: 613 233 0135  
E: embassy1@embaguante-canada.ca, embguante@ottawa.net,

Glamis Gold Mining company  
310-5190 Neil Road  
Reno, NV, USA 89502  
F: 775 827 5044  
E: info@glamis.com  
Michael A. Steeves, MichaelS@glamis.com

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT:

- James Lambert, Canadian ambassador in Guatemala,  
gtmla@international.gc.ca  
- Ginette Martin, Advisor, Canadian embassy in Guatemala,  
ginette.Martin@international.gc.ca  
- Monica Izaguirre, Monica.Izaguirre@international.gc.ca

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Rights Action is a development, enviro and human rights organization,  
with  
its main office in Guatemala. We: channel your tax-deductible  
donations to  
over 50 community development, environment and human rights  
organizations in  
Guatemala, Chiapas, Honduras, Haiti; provide accompaniment for 'at  
risk'  
community development leaders; carry out education & activist work  
with

partner groups about global human rights, environment and development issues. [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org), [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org).

Make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

\* United States: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887.

\* Canada: 509 St. Clair Ave W, box73527, Toronto ON, M6C-1C0.

On-line donations: USA and Canada: [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org).

Wire funds to Rights Action: contact [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org), 416-654-2074.

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