



March 24, 2008

BELOW: a news article from Guatemala about how **Goldcorp Inc. is about to release liquid waste from its open pit, cyanide leaching gold mine, into the local river system.** It is widely believed the waste contains metal residues that can contaminate the Cuilco River basin.

You will also find, way below, a partial list of the investors in and beneficiaries of Goldcorp.

WHAT TO DO? See below.

Dawn Paley, a Canadian writer and activist, is on a Rights Action speaking tour right now in Canada (Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, Whitehorse) and north-west USA (Seattle to Portland), talking about North American mining companies – including Goldcorp Inc. – in Central America. She can be reached at: dawnpaley@gmail.com. For her schedule: info@rightsaction.org.

July 7-12, Rights Action is leading a delegation to Honduras to visit communities affected by Goldcorp Inc's open pit, cyanide leaching gold mine there. For more info: info@rightsaction.org.

To get on-off this elist: info@rightsaction.org

WITH THE MARLIN MINE (owned by Goldcorp Inc.) ABOUT TO DISCHARGE WATER FROM ITS TAILINGS DAM, THERE ARE FEARS THAT MINERAL WASTE WILL POLLUTE THE RIVERS

by Alberto Ramírez, <http://www.prensalibre.com/pl/2008/marzo/18/226955.html>, (translated for Rights Action by Rosalind Gill, RGill@glendon.yorku.ca)

Social organizations have expressed their concern that the Marlin Mine [Goldcorp Inc.] is about to discharge liquid waste that is a by-product of gold extraction in San Marcos. It is believed that this waste contains metal residue that can contaminate the Cuilco River basin.

According to María Eugenio Solís, a lawyer for the MadreSelva Collective, there is concern, because the water in the tailings dam, where mining waste materials accumulate, is a murky green colour. If this water is discharged, it will contaminate the Tzalá River, which flows into the Cuilco River, which in turn, flows into the Grijalva River that reaches as far as Mexico.

Solís indicated that the forest near the mine has already been contaminated by cyanide which is carried on the wind and burns the leaves on the trees.

According to Vinicio López, Coordinator of the Pastoral Commission Peace and Ecology, what is most alarming is that the exact content of these waste materials is unknown. Many local communities use the water in the rivers contaminated by this waste, which means that the health of thousands of people is affected.

"We are concerned that the Marlin Mine uses a large quantity of water, for which it does not pay. Then it puts the water back into the rivers and pollutes them. It is a matter of public health and environmental impunity." said López.

CONTROL OF THE WATER

Eugenia Castra, Director of Environmental Management, Ministry of the Environment, said that before any discharge of tailings water is carried out, this office should analyse the quality of the water and the level of metal residues it contains.

She reiterated that the commission she is in charge of had not been allowed to take samples of the water in the tailings dam.

She further added that the company had agreed to adhere to the law that states that no discharge can be made from the dam without authorization from the Department of the Environment.

Attempts were made to telephone executives of [Goldcorp's wholly owned subsidiary] Montana Exploradora, the owners of the mine, but there was no answer.

Social organizations fear that the water from the tailings dam will be discharged (see photo) before the basin of the Cuilco River Basin can be treated.

THE ROOTS OF SOCIAL DISCONTENT

The Marlin Mine began operating in 2005.

- In 2006, the Water Tribunal condemned the Government of Guatemala for authorizing metal mining.
- In January 2007, the Catholic Church expressed concerns regarding pollution caused by Marlin.
- In December 2007, the government of Oscar Berger declared metal mining to be in the national interest.

WHAT TO DO: info@rightsaction.org, www.rightsaction.org

EDUCATIONAL DELEGATION

From July 7-12, Rights Action is leading an educational delegation to Honduras to investigate the territorial and human rights struggles of Indigenous/Garifuna peoples and community-based resistance to the environmental and economic harms and human rights violations being caused by Goldcorp Inc's open pit, cyanide leaching mine. If interested: info@rightsaction.org.

3rd SOCIAL FORUM OF THE AMERICAS – GUATEMALA, OCTOBER 7-12, 2008

Form your own group and/ or join a Rights Action delegation to come to Guatemala around the time of the 3rd Social Forum of the Americas. More than 10,000 people from across the Americas are expected at this gathering to debate and discuss (and enjoy awesome music, art and theater) how Another World Is Possible ... And Necessary. For more info: info@rightsaction.org.

RIGHTS ACTION

Based in Guatemala, Rights Action (with tax-deductible legal status in Canada and USA) funds and works with community-based development, environment and human rights organizations in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and southern Mexico (Oaxaca, Chiapas); and educates about and is involved in activism related to global development, environmental and human rights struggles.

TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS for indigenous and community-based organizations that are working for justice and to end impunity, and to implement their own development, human rights and environment projects, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to: UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887; CANADA: 422 Parliament St, Box 82552, Toronto ON, M5A 4N8. **CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS:** www.rightsaction.org.

JOIN: Rights Action's listserv and newsletter lists.

CREATE YOUR OWN E-MAIL LIST: and re-distribute this and other information.

LISTEN: to the www.democracynow.org news program every day.

READ: Eduardo Galeano's "Open Veins of Latin America"; Naomi Klein's "The Shock Doctrine"; Paolo Freire's "Pedagogy of the Oppressed".

SMILE: And live to make another world is possible, everyday.

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CONNECTING THE DOTS BETWEEN THE GLOBAL MINING & INVESTMENT INDUSTRY ... and ... environmental and economic harms and human rights violations caused by global mining companies and investors.

North American mining and investors industries are sometimes causing great environmental destruction, undermining local economies and violating human rights. Rights Action sends out this information that has been pieced together, based in part on work done by www.miningwatch.ca. This is not a complete list of investors and beneficiaries.

PENSION FUND HOLDINGS IN GOLDCORP AS OF MARCH, 2008

(Comprised by Dawn Paley. Source: Stockwatch.com)

\$320,606,100. OMERS ADMINISTRATION CORP. Represents public sector workers as well as unionized workers in Ontario, including members of the Canadian Auto Workers, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association, the Ontario Nurses Association, Ontario Public Service Employees Union, and Police Associations.

\$222,197,310. ONTARIO TEACHERS PENSION PLAN BOARD, <http://www.otpp.com/web/website.nsf/web/home>.

\$293,203,215. CANADA PENSION PLAN INVESTMENT BOARD, <http://www.cppib.ca>.

\$230,990,895. BRITISH COLUMBIA INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT CORP, <http://www.bcimc.com>. Represents public sector workers in British Columbia, including teachers, nurses, etc.

OTHER

\$165,200,000. Québec Pension Plan (RRQ), Annual Report, 2006.

Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund: \$4,446,000 (Annual Report, 2006), <http://www.atrf.com/home/default.aspx>.

Ethical Funds Company (Mutual Fund), www.ethicalfunds.com, t: 604.714.3833.

BENEFICIARIES

GOLDCORP CEO Ian Telfer's 2006 payday worth \$23-million. (Globe and Mail, April 4, 2007)

University of B.C. received a \$5 million donation, for a new earth-sciences building, from Goldcorp chairman Ian Telfer (Vancouver Sun, April 26, 2007).

Goldcorp Inc. Chairman Ian Telfer donated \$25 million to the University of Ottawa's management school; it will be renamed the Telfer School of Management (Ottawa Citizen, May 9, 2007).

WHAT TO DO

ACT for the Earth has developed campaign tools for pension fund activism. Pensions for Peace: <http://www.actfortheearth.org/> (Click on 'Pensions for Peace') Learn about ACT for the Earth's campaign for peaceful pensions, access petitions and sample union resolutions.

Within your own unions, ask your representatives to be put in contact with your union fund managers. The union pension fund structure is often that there is one meeting a year to decide how to invest funds. Go to Pensions at Work: <http://www.pensionsatwork.ca>. This project responds to a call from the trade union movement for more research and educational resources to assist union pension trustees, activists and pension staff in shaping a union pension agenda.

COAT (Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade) has an online petition against CPP investments in war: <http://coat.openconcept.ca/>. Sign this petition to urge the government to stop the CPP from investing in businesses that profit from war and demand that they divest now!