

April 15, 2008

GUATEMALA: Catholic Bishop Ramazzini is receiving death threats for his support for Mayan campesinos who are opposed to the harmful mining practices of Goldcorp Inc., a Canadian/USA mining company.

Please redistribute this info far 'n' wide. If you want on-off this elist: info@rightsaction.org

WHAT DO TO: see below.

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TRADES UNIONISTS CALL FOR PROTECTION FOR BISHOP

Monday, 14th April 2008, by George Conger

<http://www.religiousintelligence.co.uk/news/?NewsID=1878>

TRADE UNION activists have called upon the government of Guatemala to protect a Roman Catholic bishop from assassination at the hands of right-wing death squads.

Mgr Álvaro Ramazzini, the Bishop of San Marcos, has been warned that he will be killed unless he withdraws his support for landless peasants (campesinos) and Indians who have protested the issuance of mining permits to a Canadian multinational corporation [RA note: this company is Goldcorp Inc.].

On March 31 a nun was stopped while driving her car through the town of San Marcos and given a note to deliver to the bishop, warning him of the consequences of his actions

Bishop Ramazzini is president of the Roman Catholic Bishops Conference of Guatemala and the Church's representative to the "High Level Commission" formed to regulate the exploitation of the region's natural resources.

He has drawn the ire of landowners for backing the campesinos and insisting upon strict environmental safeguards and equitable labour practice to prevent the despoliation of the forests and farmland of the region as well as the exploitation of its people.

A longtime advocate for the poor in the Central American country, in January 2005, Guatemalan President Óscar Berger blamed Bishop Ramazzini for riots in San Marcos after police shot a campesino during anti-government demonstrations. President Berger said the bishop was an "authentic leader" who should have controlled the protestors.

Along with other bishops he also played a pivotal role in the 1996 Peace Accords that ended Guatemala's 36-year-long civil insurrection that left an estimated 150,000 dead [RA note: over 250,000].

Bishop Ramazzini co-authored a 1998 report detailing government human rights abuses. Two days after the report was released the principal author of the report, the Archbishop of Guatemala Juan Gerardi, was bludgeoned to death.

Bishop Ramazzini was a witness in the Gerardi murder case, which saw three army officers and a priest convicted of the archbishop's murder. In 2005 he testified before the United States Congress on human rights violations in Guatemala and urged the rejection of a Free Trade Agreement between the US and Guatemala saying it would serve only to exploit the campesinos, who make up 95 per cent of the population.

On April 1, 2008 the International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC) wrote to current Guatemalan President Álvaro Colom demanding that "the necessary measures be taken to guarantee the safety and physical integrity of Monsignor Álvaro Ramazzini and to ensure that such threats cannot be carried out in a Guatemala where all citizens can freely enjoy their fundamental rights."

The ITUC has also urged the UN's International Labour Organisation (ILO) to place Guatemala's human rights record before the international body, urging it to bring pressure upon the government to institute economic and land reforms in the Central American republic.

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WRITE your short letters of concern and send them to Goldcorp Inc. (addresses below) and send copies to Pension Funds (see below) that you might have funds in, that have major investments in Goldcorp Inc.

MAY 20, 2008 – Please get involved in educational activities in Toronto, Canada, around the time of Goldcorp Inc's Annual Shareholder Meeting. (info@rightsaction.org)

JULY 7-12, 2008 – Please join Rights Action's educational delegation to Honduras to visit communities affected by Goldcorp Inc's open pit, cyanide leaching gold mine there. (info@rightsaction.org)

WRITE TO GOLDCORP Inc.

info@goldcorp.com; inquiries@cibcmellon.com; hr@goldcorp.com; Directors@Goldcorp.com;
info@goldcorp.com; inquiries@cibcmellon.com;

GOLDCORP INC. HEAD OFFICE:

Park Place
Suite 3400-666 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2X8
Telephone: (604) 696-3000
Facsimile: (604) 696-3001

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

To report complaints about Goldcorp's accounting, internal accounting controls, auditing matters or other concerns to the Board of Directors or the Audit Committee, please select one of the following options:

Goldcorp Inc.
Park Place
Suite 3400-666 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2X8
1(866)696-3055 or local (604)696-3055

Directors@Goldcorp.com

INVESTOR RELATIONS:

E-mail: info@goldcorp.com
Toll Free: (800) 567-6223 (Canada and USA only)

TORONTO OFFICE:

3201 – 130 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, Ontario Canada M5H 3P5
Telephone: (416) 865-0326
Facsimile: (416) 361-5741

TRANSFER AGENT:

For information on such matters as share transfers, dividend cheques, or a change of address, please contact:
CIBC Mellon Trust Company
Telephone 1-800-387-0825
Email: inquiries@cibcmellon.com

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Email: hr@goldcorp.com

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PENSION FUND HOLDINGS IN GOLDCORP, AS OF MARCH, 2008

(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 Chairman 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!