

September 21, 2008

GOLDCORP Inc. in GUATEMALA: The Latin American Water Tribunal found Goldcorp Inc. "guilty of causing harm to the environment and to the people of San Miguel Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa, San Marcos".

Just like the Tribunal found Goldcorp Inc. guilty, last year, for harms and damages caused in the Siria Valley, Honduras, once again Goldcorp has been exposed for harmful and destructive mining practices.

BELOW: an article from the Guatemalan Prensa Libre newspaper. Thanks to Rosalind Gill (RGill@glendon.yorku.ca) for translation of this article.

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WATER TRIBUNAL FINDS MINING COMPANY GUILTY OF WATER CONTAMINATION

Prensa Libre, September 13, 2008, by Alberto Ramírez Espada

Yesterday, the Latin American Water Tribunal (LAWT) found the Montana Exploradora Company (a subsidiary of Goldcorp) guilty of causing harm to the environment and to the people of San Miguel Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa, San Marcos. The verdict was rejected by the National Mining Association of Guatemala.

In a week of public hearings, in Antigua, Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, the LAWT heard 10 cases concerning water contamination and water depletion on the Latin American continent. Last night, the Tribunal announced its verdicts on these cases. The Jury was made up of 10 members from different countries, amongst whom were Alexandre Camanho, former Attorney General of Brazil, Philippe Texier, a former French judge, David Barkin, a Mexican academic, as well as two members from Guatemala - Augusto Willemsen, former Assistant Procurer of Human Rights and Dr. José Barnoya.

DENOUNCEMENT OF DAMAGES

The petition examined by the Tribunal was submitted by the Municipality of Socapa, the community of Tres Cruces and the Sipakapense Mayan community. They accused the Marlin Mine (property of Montana) of affecting 10,000 inhabitants by causing wells to dry up and by detonating explosions to make wells inside the mine, all of which have caused harm to homes and to communities in the area.

The Tribunal concluded that it is highly possible that the slag heap in the mine is discharging acidic water and that there is risk of spills that could cause serious harm to the communities located near the Cuilco River and Tzala river basins and to aquatic species in those rivers.

The LAWT holds Montana responsible for damage to the environment and recommended that the company provide financial compensation to the communities of San Miguel Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa. The Tribunal also recommended that independent studies be carried out to ensure that affected communities are allowed to participate in the investigation into the mine's capacity to operate without causing damage to the community and the surrounding area.

The LAWT holds the Government of Guatemala responsible for failing to deal with damages caused by these high-risk mining operations. The Jury also criticized the Government for not applying ILO 169 and for not acknowledging the popular referendums conducted by the petitioning communities. The Tribunal recommended that Congress introduce reforms to the Mining Law, in the interest of protecting national sovereignty and defending the rights and the legacy of Guatemalans.

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CONNECTING THE DOTS BETWEEN THE GLOBAL MINING & INVESTMENT INDUSTRY

... and ...

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC HARMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

North American mining and investors industries are sometimes contributing to and benefiting from environmental destruction, undermining local economies and violating human rights.

Rights Action includes this information that has been pieced together from various sources. This is not a complete list of investors and beneficiaries.

GOLDCORP Inc. – SOME 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).

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WHAT TO DO

Write to your own politician and media, and to any/ all of the company, government and investor officials listed below, to ask for a suspension of Goldcorp's mining operation in Guatemala, and the establishment of a truly independent commission to investigate the environmental and health harms and other human rights violations caused by Goldcorp in Guatemala, and determine what compensation and reparations Goldcorp should pay to the harmed and affected communities in San Marcos.

GOLDCORP Inc.

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CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

CANADIAN Minister of International Cooperation, Ms. Bev Oda, 509-S Centre Block, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6, Oda.B@parl.gc.ca.

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CANADIAN Embassy in Guatemala, Attention Mr. Ambassador, 13 Calle 8-44 Zone 10, Edificio Edyma Plaza, Ciudad de Guatemala, Tel. (502) 2363-4348, gtmla@international.gc.ca.

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For more information, to get involved, to support the mining affected communities:

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