

[Sorry for repeat sendings ...]

January 13, 2009

**UPDATE: Goldcorp Inc. in Guatemala and the Sign-on letter-report to the new Canadian Ambassador.**

Happy new year, friends. FYI, and for your own possible further letter writing ...

Over 140 people and organizations signed the letter-report we sent the new Canadian ambassador to Guatemala:

[http://www.rightsaction.org/urgent\\_com/Canada\\_Goldcorp\\_Guate\\_111208.html](http://www.rightsaction.org/urgent_com/Canada_Goldcorp_Guate_111208.html)

From the Ambassador herself, or her assistant, we heard nothing back.

Below, you will find a letter from an official of the Canadian embassy in Guatemala. This is the closest that anyone got (as far as we know) to a response from the embassy to the letter-report sent to them November 21.

This letter lists a whole bunch of things the Canadian government says it is doing ... and says nothing about the serious allegations set out in the November 21st letter-report.

Meanwhile ... the Ambassador, in one of her first public activities, went to San Miguel Ixtahuacan on December 18, 2008, with the Guatemalan First Lady (Primera Dama) and Goldcorp company officials. They were present in a public activity as Goldcorp handed funds over to the municipal government of San Miguel Ixtahuacan.

We encourage you to send letters to the Ambassador and other embassy officials listed below, AS WELL AS TO your own elected representatives (in Canada) demanding a response to the letter-report:

- Ambassador Leeann McKechnie, [leeann.mckechnie@international.gc.ca](mailto:leeann.mckechnie@international.gc.ca)
- Karin Reinecke, Assistant to the Ambassador, [karin.reinecke@international.gc.ca](mailto:karin.reinecke@international.gc.ca)
- Ram Kamineni, Chargé d'Affaires, [gtmla@international.gc.ca](mailto:gtmla@international.gc.ca)

**EDUCATIONAL-DELEGATION TO GUATEMALA:**

From April 12-17, Rights Action is organizing an educational trip to Guatemala and the Goldcorp Inc.-mining affected regions. For more information:

[http://www.rightsaction.org/Delegations&Tours/Guatemala\\_Delegation\\_Mining\\_April09.html](http://www.rightsaction.org/Delegations&Tours/Guatemala_Delegation_Mining_April09.html). This trip will be led by Grahame Russell.

Thank-you all. For more information: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org), [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org). To get on/ off Rights Action's email list: <http://www.rightsaction.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=3>

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From: [gtmla@international.gc.ca](mailto:gtmla@international.gc.ca)  
Subject: Goldcorp's Mining in Guatemala  
Date: Sunday, January 4, 2009, 11:01 AM

Dear Mr. Sherwood

Thank you for your letter of December 18 regarding your concerns about the activities of Goldcorp at their Marlin Mine site in Guatemala.

The Government of Canada encourages and expects all Canadian companies in all sectors working abroad to respect all applicable laws and international standards, to operate transparently and in consultation with the host government and local communities and to develop and implement CSR best practices.

Canada supports efforts to help countries effectively manage their extractive sector, contributing to economic and social development and environmental stewardship, including transparent development of legislation in host countries and striking the right balance between government responsibilities and corporate activity. There is a limit to the support that companies are able to provide with regard to the social, health and educational needs of the communities in which they operate abroad. In the case of Guatemala, its government is striving towards developing its natural resources in a responsible manner as it is a viable option to the country's economic development.

As you noted, the Government of Canada organized a series of National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the Canadian Extractive Sector in Developing Countries in 2006 to discuss the issues raised in the June 2005 report entitled Mining in Developing Countries and Corporate Social Responsibility. The independent Advisory Group for the Roundtables released a consensus report and recommendations in March 2007.

The Government of Canada has already acted on the recommendations emerging from the Roundtables process through a series of actions. These include:

- the strengthening of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; Canada's \$1.15 million contribution to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to help build the capacity of countries to improve transparency in matching declarations of extractive sector revenues provided by companies with those declared as received by governments (2007);
- Export Development Canada's adoption of the Equator Principles, an international financial benchmark for assessing and managing social and environmental risk in project financing (2007);
- Canada's support to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, which is considered the universal basic reference point for social responsibility in labour issues; and
- Canada's support to the United Nations Global Compact to which forty eight Canadian companies have submitted Communication of Progress reports to date.

A key element of the CSR approach of the Government of Canada has been adherence to the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the establishment of a National Contact Point (NCP). The Guidelines are a set of voluntary recommendations to multinationals on environmental protection, respect for labour standards, anti-corruption and respect for human rights. The Canadian NCP is an interdepartmental committee with representatives from a number of federal government departments, chaired by the

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and its role is to ensure the effective implementation and promotion of the Guidelines.

Thank you for taking the time and sharing your views with me.

Sincerely,

Ram Kamineni  
Chargé d'Affaires  
Embajada de Canada / Canadian Embassy / Ambassade du Canada  
13 Calle 8-44 Zona 10 Edyma Plaza  
Ciudad de Guatemala

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From: Walt, in California  
Sent: December 18, 2008 12:17 PM  
To: McKechnie, Leeann -GTMLA -HOM/CDM  
Cc: Reinecke, Karin -GTMLA -GR; GTMLA ( G); [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)  
Subject: Goldcorp's Mining in Guatemala

Dear Ambassador McKechnie,  
I recently signed on to a letter about Goldcorp's mining activities in Guatemala, and to my knowledge there has not yet been a response from your office.  
As a frequent traveler to Central America, I have witnessed first-hand some of the harmful effects of open-pit mining, both to the natural environment and to the individuals and communities who inhabit the lands where the mining takes place.  
I hope you will read the letter carefully and seriously address the concerns that it raises.  
Thank you for your attention to this matter.  
Walt, Davis, California

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## WHAT TO DO

TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS for Indigenous and community-based organizations resisting the harms caused by large-scale "development" projects (mining, tourism, hydro-electric dams) and implementing their own community development projects (schools and scholarships, health clinics, solidarity economy productive projects, etc), human rights and environment projects, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- \* UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- \* CANADA: 552 - 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS: [http://www.rightsaction.org/Templates/donations\\_index.html](http://www.rightsaction.org/Templates/donations_index.html)

JOIN Rights Action's quarterly newsletter list: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)  
CREATE YOUR OWN E-MAIL LIST and re-distribute this and other information  
DAILY NEWS: Watch & listen to [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org); Read [www.upsidedownworld.org](http://www.upsidedownworld.org), [www.dominionpaper.ca](http://www.dominionpaper.ca)

BOOKS TO READ: Eduardo Galeano's "Open Veins of Latin America"; Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States"; Naomi Klein's "The Shock Doctrine"; Paolo Freire's "Pedagogy of the Oppressed";

[www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org) - Based in Guatemala, Rights Action (with tax-deductible legal status in Canada and USA) funds and works with community-based Indigenous, development, environment and human rights organizations in Guatemala and Honduras, and also in Oaxaca, Chiapas, El Salvador, Peru, Haiti and Nicaragua; and educates about and is involved in activism related to global development, environmental and Indigenous and human rights struggles.