

August 19, 2010

GUATEMALA: Goldcorp Inc. acknowledges that the two men who tried to kill Diodora Antonia Hernández Cinto (Dona Maria) on July 7, 2010, are former employees of Goldcorp's "Marlin" mine in Guatemala.

BELOW:

- July 20, 2010, letter from Goldcorp Inc. to Rights Action and ADIMSI
- Rights Action's July 10, 2010, "Public Letter" concerning the attempted assassination of Diodora Antonia Hernández Cinto, that Goldcorp Inc. is responding to

UPDATE:

Diodora Antonia Hernández Cinto, who was shot in the head on July 7th (the bullet went in her right eye, and exited by her right ear) is still recovering from the attack. She has not yet returned home.

COMMENTARY:

Rights Action notes not only that Goldcorp acknowledges that the alleged assassins were former Goldcorp Inc employees, but that Goldcorp readily admits that "Violence and impunity are continuing threats to all Guatemalans and the continued development of the country."

Rights Action stands by our earlier assertion that attempted assassination "is most probably linked to the operation of [Goldcorp Inc.'s open-pit, cyanide leaching gold mine]." Ever since the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights called for the government of Guatemala to order the suspension of Goldcorp's mine (that neither the government nor Goldcorp have complied with), community threats and violence have increased against local villagers who oppose the mine's operation due to the extensive environmental and health harms and other human rights violations.

The attempted killing of Diodora is, in our opinion, the most serious of these examples of community violence and repression.

- Please re-distribute this information all around
- To get on/ off our listserv:
<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?m=1103480765269>

MORE INFORMATION: Grahame Russell, info@rightsaction.org, www.rightsaction.org

WHAT TO DO, HOW TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES: See below

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LETTER FROM GOLDCORP Inc. TO RIGHTS ACTION & ADISMI

GOLDCORP

July 20, 2010

Via electronic mail

Grahame Russell, co-director
Rights Action
info@rightsaction.org

Javier de Leon
ADISMI – Asociacion de Desarrollo Integral San Miguelense
nimjavier@gmail.com

Re: PUBLIC LETTER TO: The Canadian government & parliamentarians, the Canada Pension Plan and other investors, the media

Dear Mr. Russell and Mr. De Leon,

On behalf of Goldcorp Inc. and Montana Exploradora de Guatemala, I am responding to your public letter and "urgent action" message regarding the recent shooting of Ms. Hernandez Cinto a resident of San Jose Nueva Esperanza, a village located in the community of Agel in San Miguel Ixtahuacan, Guatemala. Both Goldcorp and Montana Exploradora de Guatemala condemn this violent attack and offer our sincere condolences to Ms. Hernandez and her family.

Based on information available in the local press and from local sources, I understand that Ms. Hernandez Cinto was attacked by two men in her home on the night of July 7, 2010. I am not aware of any details of or the motive for the assault. I understand that the two men who allegedly committed the assault have been identified and were detained by the police, but were subsequently released. However, I understand that the men have been ordered to appear before the Ministerio Publico in San Marcos to give statements regarding the incident.

Both the men are residents of San Miguel Ixtahuacan. One of the two was employed by Montana, but his employment was terminated more than one year ago. The other man is employed by a contractor that provides underground mine development services to Montana at the Marlin Mine.

Contrary to your statements, other than these employment relationships, there is no connection between the men, the assault, and Montana or the Marlin Mine. Certainly, there is no evidence that the assault "is most probably linked to the operation of [the Marlin Mine]."

For your information, Montana has written to Helen Mack in her capacity as the Commissioner for Reform of the National Police and to the Procuraderia de Derechos Humanos condemning the level of violence and lack of effective investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of violence in Guatemala. Copies of these letters are enclosed for your reference.

With respect to this specific incident Montana is contacting the auxiliary mayor in San Jose Nueva Esperanza to express the companies concern regarding the assault and to offer support to the community for the investigation of the assault and prosecution of those responsible. In addition Montana has advised the contractor that employs one of the two suspects in writing of Goldcorp's Code of Ethics and asked that the contractor ensure that the commitments of the code are fully respected.

Violence and impunity are continuing threats to all Guatemalans and the continued development of the country. Goldcorp and Montana are committed to strengthening the rule of law in Guatemala and respecting the security of all Guatemalans. The companies will continue to demonstrate their leadership in these areas through the implementation of the voluntary principles on security and human rights and their willingness to support training in the voluntary principles for the Guatemalan police and military. The companies reiterate their commitment with both governmental and non-governmental agencies to establish a more just and secure society in Guatemala.

We encourage you to desist from unnecessarily creating tension and conflict in the area by publishing unsubstantiated and speculative statements regarding the motive for the recent assault on Ms. Hernandez Cinto. Goldcorp and Montana reiterate our call to each of you and the organizations that you represent to join the companies in opposing the use of force, intimidation and other actions that may result in violent conflict within San Miguel Ixtahuacan and Sipacapa.

Sincerely,

David L. Deisley
Executive Vice President
Corporate Affairs and General Counsel

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July 10, 2010

**PUBLIC LETTER TO: The Canadian government & parliamentarians, the
Canada Pension Plan and other investors, the media**

FROM: Grahame Russell, Rights Action co-director, info@rightsaction.org

GUATEMALA: DIODORA ANTONIA HERNANDEZ CINTO ("DONA MARIA") SHOT IN HEAD

A Mayan-Mam woman in resistance to the harms & violations caused by Goldcorp Inc.'s gold mine, was shot in the head. Her health status is critical.

To Whom It May Concern:

We write to bring to your attention yet one more serious case of aggression and human rights violation that is most probably linked to the operation of Goldcorp Inc.'s open-pit, cyanide leaching gold mine in Mayan territories of western Guatemala.

On July 5, a Rights Action delegation led by co-director Grahame Russell (with the Mayflower congregation of Minneapolis/ St. Paul) completed a two day visit to the mine affected communities of San Miguel Ixtahuacan (department of San Marcos). We spent our time with ADISMI, the Association for the Integral Development of San Miguel Ixtahuacan, visiting homes and speaking with local villagers whose communities and lives have been seriously harmed by the mining operation. In one of our meetings, we met with Juan Mendez and Gregoria Crisanta Perez, cited in ADISMI's urgent action below.

On previous trips to the region, Rights Action staff and delegations have often met with Diodora Antonia Hernandez Cinto, known as "Dona Maria", the woman shot in her right eye at 7pm, July 7. The bullet exited her skull by her right ear, leaving her in a critical state.

SUSPENSION ORDER IGNORED

As set out in ADISMI's urgent action, and previous Rights Action emailings, this shooting and other recent attacks and threats are happening in a state of heightened tension in the region near Goldcorp's mine, given that the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights has ordered the Government of Guatemala to suspend Goldcorp's mining operation due to the serious and on-going allegations of environmental and health harms and human and indigenous rights violations caused by the mine.

The mining operation has not been suspended. The Government of Guatemala is not complying with the suspension order.

Goldcorp is doing and will seemingly continue to do everything possible to not stop mining. With the price of gold near \$1100/ ounce, they are making close to 8 times the profits from this mine that they initially conceived, based on their original economic feasibility studies.

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ADISMI – URGENT ACTION

(July 7, 2010, San Miguel Ixtahuacán, San Marcos, Guatemala)

At 7pm, July 7, 2010, in the neighborhood of San José Nueva Esperanza, village of Ágel, San Miguel Ixtahuacán, Señora Diodora Antonia Hernández Cinto was shot in the head. She is known as "Dona María".

Two men, unknown to her, young and tall, entered her home asking her for a cup of coffee. Then, as Dona María was preparing coffee, they shot her in the right eye and then ran off towards the neighboring village of San José Ixcaniche.

Doña María was taken to the health clinic in the town (and municipal center of) San Miguel Ixtahuacán. As of now, the on-going state of her health is critical. She will be moved to a hospital, as soon as possible.

Doña María (Diodora Antonia Hernández Cinto) is part of the Resistance Movement in San Miguel Ixtahuacán, in defense of human and indigenous rights, against the violations of human rights committed by the Montana Exploradora mining company, subsidiary of Canadian mining giant Goldcorp Inc.

Dona María has received numerous threats for her participation in the Resistance Movement. In June 2009, she was involved in the defense of water in the neighborhood of Sacmuj, when Goldcorp/ Montana (always trying to expand) wanted to get control of some land in Sacmuj and their natural spring water sources that supply local families with water.

On July 7, at 11:30pm, as community members gathered by the house of Dona Maria, in solidarity with her family, they heard gunshots fired off near by.

OTHER RECENT INCIDENTS

On July 2, Juan Mendez was walking along the main road, up the mountain. At 4:45am, a Goldcorp/ Montana truck was coming down the road, carrying workers to the mine. The truck belonged to the Transportes Pérez company. This truck (that says "Especial" on it) is owned by Fernando Pérez of the Caserío San José Nueva Esperanza. When the

truck got close to Juan Mendez, the vehicle crossed over to the other side of the road, straight at Juan Mendez, who was forced to scramble quickly up the side of the embankment. Juan is well known in this region, for his opposition to the harms and violations caused by the mine.

On July 5, two daughters of Gregoria Crisanta Pérez were walking on the same road, at 6:30pm, in the village of Agel. The same thing happened. A car – green – coming from the opposite direction, crossed over the road divider and aimed at them, forcing them to run off the road. They believe the car belongs to Goldcorp/ Montana.

Given this attempted killing of Diodora Antonia Hernández Cinto and other recent acts of aggression against people in opposition to the harms and violations caused by the mine, ADISMI demands of the Guatemala government:

That it guarantee the life and security of those people who demand respect for their rights as related to the mining-harms and violations;

That it comply with the precautionary measures ordered by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and suspend the mining operation;

ADISMI holds Goldcorp/ Montana responsible for these acts of physical aggression and threats, given that the majority of threats and attacks come from workers in the mine.

From the national and international communities, we request more human rights accompaniment and more investigations into these and other abuses;

ADISMI, PARROQUIA SAN MIGUEL, FEBIMI and ADIM
(All members of FREDEMI, the Miguelense Defense Front)
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DONA MARIA MOVED TO HOSPITAL IN GUATEMALA CITY

On July 10, Grahame Russell met with family members of Diodora Antonia Hernández Cinto, who were trying to visit her in the Roosevelt Hospital. She had been moved there to undergo a risky operation.

EYE-WITNESS SPEAKS

One of Dona Maria's family members was an eye-witness to the attempted killing. On the night of July 7, two unidentified men approached their isolated rural home (on the mountain side near Goldcorp's mine) from the dark side of the hut – they did not come forward by the light in front of their home.

They called in to say they missed their ride and needed a bed for the night. When Dona Maria and her family member responded that there was no room, they asked to buy a cup of coffee.

A few minutes later, the family member (eye-witness) came outside toward the men walking in front of Dona Maria who was carrying the cups of coffee. The family member was carrying a flashlight, as they walked towards the men, semi-blocked by some bushes.

All of a sudden, one of the men leaned around the family member (eye-witness) and shot Dona Maria in the head. The men ran off into the night, as the family member started screaming for the neighbors, and caring for Dona Maria.

THIS WAS NO "ATTEMPTED ROBBERY"

Assuredly, the government and mining company will deny this was an assassination attempt against a Mayan-Mam woman and community member who had regularly spoken out with dignity, criticizing the harms and violations caused by Goldcorp's mine.

For anyone who honestly follows Guatemala political and human rights issues, in the past and on-going today, there is little to no doubt that this attempted killing was linked to Dona Maria's peaceful, clear-spoken opposition to the mine.

As of the writing of this, Dona Maria's life hangs in the balance.

DEMANDS OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, POLITICIANS & INVESTORS

The multiple environment and health harms and human and indigenous rights violations caused directly or indirectly by Goldcorp's mine are endemic, unending.

At a bare minimum, we respectfully demand that Canada publicly support the suspension of the mine in Guatemala, as ordered by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.

From there, we demand a public, Canadian/ international inquiry into the harms and violations caused by Goldcorp's mining in Guatemala.

Based on a complete and transparent investigation, we demand full compensation and reparations for Mayan communities harmed by gold mining.

In Canada, we demand the passing of comprehensive criminal and civil law reform in Canada, so as to be able to hold Canadian companies and investors legally accountable for environmental and health harms and human rights violations caused by their operations in other countries.

The situation is hard, and getting harder.

Grahame Russell, co-director, Rights Action
July 10, 2010, Guatemala City

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WHAT TO DO

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS NEEDED

Rights Action has channeled initial emergency funds to the family of Dona Maria, who are now incurring expenses (transportation, food, lodging, medical) as they travel to Guatemala City to keep close to Dona Maria.

Over the past two years alone, Rights Action has provided emergency relief funds to family-victims of: military repression in Honduras; of State and mining company repression in El Estor, Guatemala (due to the nickel mining related struggles there); State and company related repression and harms in San Miguel Ixtahuacan (due to the gold mining related struggles there); company related harms in Siria Valley, Honduras (due to the gold mining related struggles there); etc.

TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS for emergency relief funds for indigenous and campesino communities resisting the harms and violations of Goldcorp's gold mine, 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://rightsaction.org/contributions.htm>

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WRITE YOUR OWN LETTER OF COMPLAINT AND DENUNCIATION

Please write letters to your own politicians and media, with a copy of this information, denouncing the attempted killing of Dona Maria (Teodora Antonia Hernández Cinto) and other recent threats and attacks against Mayan Mam and campesino villagers in San Miguel Ixtahuacan who are in resistance to the harms and violations caused by the Goldcorp mine.

In your letters, respectfully demand a response from who you write to, and demand:

- 1- that the Canadian government, politicians and investors publicly support the suspension of the mine in Guatemala, as ordered by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights
- 2- a public, comprehensive Canadian/ international inquiry into the harms and violations caused by Goldcorp's mining in Guatemala
- 3- compensation and reparations for Mayan communities and people harmed by gold mining
- 4- the passing of comprehensive criminal and civil law reform in Canada, so as to be able to hold Canadian companies and investors fully accountable for environmental and health harms and human rights violations

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SPEAKERS:

Contact us to plan educational presentations in your community, school, place of worship, home (info@rightsaction.org)

EDUCATIONAL DELEGATIONS TO CENTRAL AMERICA:

Form your own group and/ or join one of our educational delegation-seminars to learn first hand about community development, human rights and environmental struggles (info@rightsaction.org)

MORE INFORMATION:

Grahame Russell, info@rightsaction.org, www.rightsaction.org