

## **SERIOUS HEALTH CRISIS IN THE SIRIA VALLEY, HONDURAS CAUSED BY GOLDCORP INC.**

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### **A MESSAGE FROM THE VICTIMS OF MINING CONTAMINATION: Chronicle of a Death Foretold**

By Carlos Amador, July 2, 2012

Below, we present a series of photographs documenting the reality of life in the Siria Valley, Honduras, where a serious endemic health crisis continues to unfold. The health problems were caused by open-pit mining exploitation carried out by Entremares, a subsidiary of Goldcorp Inc. of Canada, at its "San Martin" mining operation.



(1666) Maria Cabrera, El Pedernal

"I am really concerned about my health problems caused by contamination left by the mine. Before the mine came here, we were poor but healthy."

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Since 2003, we have been documenting and denouncing the harms to our health and our environment, as well as other violations of our rights. As you will see in these photos, the problems are chronic. We are very alarmed, as we see the health of our community members getting worse every day ... and it has been four years since Goldcorp suspended its mining operation here.

I, Carlos Amador, took these photos on May 10, 2012, when the Medical Brigade came to the community of El Pedernal (Siria Valley). People came to be examined by the Brigade from: El Pedernal, Palos Ralos, Barrosas, El Escanito, Guayabillas and Pueblo Nuevo. Former employees of Entremares (Goldcorp), with health problems caused by work in the mine, also came to be examined.

The Medical Brigade was coordinated and directed by Dr. Juan Almendrades Bonilla.



(1658) Gladis Hernandez, El Pedernal

"Look at the state I am in. It keeps me awake at night. My health is poor, very poor. I have a lot of pain at night. I can't sleep at all. All I do is feel pain."

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This is the part one of our photo-report. In the days to come, we will bring out part two, dealing with the impacts on the health of our community members whose lives are seriously threatened – they find themselves in a chronicle of a death foretold.

### **INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TRIBUNAL – GUATEMALA**

As well, on July 14 and 15, we will be participating in the International Health Tribunal taking place in the community of San Miguel Ixtaguacan, Guatemala.

(<http://tribunaldesalud.org/>; <http://healthtribunal.org/>)

This photo-essay is a message from the Siria Valley Environmental Committee to inform people of the terrible health crisis we are experiencing as a result of mining exploitation activities carried out by Entremares (Goldcorp Inc).

We urgently need more funds to support those who are suffering from health harms. As well, we need political support to continue our struggle for truth, justice and full reparations for all victims.

Please contact us directly with questions and comments.

In Canada and the United States, please contact Rights Action, an NGO that we have worked with in our struggle since 2004. Rights Action also supports us with funds received from Canada and the United States.

Thank-you. Please re-distribute this photo-report widely.

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(1600) Rogelio Sorto, El Pedernal  
"I am really worried about this – my health is bad."



(1083) Pedro Ramos, El Pedernal

"I am really worried about my health. I used to be healthy, but when he mine came here it harmed us. This mine has caused a lot of harm to us."



(1671) Jose Gutierrez, El Escanito

"I am worried about my sickness. All this mine did was harm us. This say they want to open it again. Do they want to kill us off?"



(1552) Juana Aceituno

"Look at how sick I am. I never had problems like this. It was when the mine came that I got sick. I have a lot of pain and I don't know what to do about it. This Canadian mine came here and ruined everything."



(1617) Petronila Arteaga, Palo Ralos

"I cry when I see the state of my health because I never imagined I would have such problems. The mine destroyed the hills and all they left behind was health problems. Look at what a terrible state I am in. I don't know what to do – my health is terrible."



(1618) Luisa Hernandez, El Pedernal

"I am in very poor health. Look at me. This is what the mine left behind – nothing but bad health."



(1615) Genesis Velasquez, El Pedernal

"I can tell you I had no health problems before. The mine destroyed the hills and then this whole disaster with my body began. I am in pain. I cry all the time because I don't know what to do. I am looking for medicine from this medical brigade you brought here but I don't know if it will cure me. But the mining company will be paid for ruining our lives."



(1661) Juana Diaz, El Pedernal

"Look at my body. I never had any health problems. Never. I have been to clinics and they say my illness was caused by pollution left by the mine – it has poisoned the water and harmed our health."



(1663) Angelica Suarez, Palo Ralos

"Look at the state of my daughter. I cry all night because she is very itchy and scratches herself so much she bleeds. I am in a desperate state over this. This Canadian mine caused nothing but harm here and now they have the money they made from our hills."

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**PLEASE RE-DISTRIBUTE, RE-PUBLISH, RE-POST THIS PHOTO-REPORT WIDELY**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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## **EMERGENCY HEALTH RELIEF FUNDS NEEDED FOR VICTIMS OF HEALTH HARMS IN SIRIA VALLEY, HONDURAS**

**To make tax-deductible donations in Canada and USA:**

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** can be made (anonymously):

<http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

**DONATIONS OF STOCK** can be made (anonymously): [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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