

December 2, 2012

**GOLDCORP IN GUATEMALA:
Cow Dies After Drinking Water from the Rio Cuilco, below the “Marlin”
Mine**



(FREDEMI photo, Nov. 16, 2012. Dead cow of Marcela Mejia, from village of Siete Platos, down the mountain from Goldcorp’s mine and tailings pond.)

BELOW:

- Communique from FREDEMI (San Miguel Ixtahuacan Defense Front) about the latest harms caused by Goldcorp’s “Marlin” mine, operating since 2005.
- A Prensa Libre [news](#) article
- [Links to recent Rights Action communiqués](#) related to the shooting of a local Mayan Mam woman, Diodora Hernandez, and dangerous cracks and fissures opening in the land near Goldcorp’s mine due, most likely, to underground tunneling

Please re-post and re-publish this information

- Get on/off Rights Action’s listserv: www.rightsaction.org
- Follow Rights Action on facebook: www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org
- More info: Grahame Russell, info@rightsaction.org

From: FREDEMI San Miguel, movimientofredemismi@gmail.com

Sent: Sunday, November 18, 2012

San Miguel Defense Front – FREDEMI
San Miguel Ixtahuacan, San Marcos, Guatemala

The San Miguel Defense Front – FREDEMI - informs the national and international community, especially the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, officials of the Governments of Guatemala and Canada, of the following: On November 16, Señora Marcela Mejía of the village of Siete platos, which is located down the mountain below the “Marlin” mine (owned by Goldcorp Inc.), took her animals to drink water in the Cuilco river that runs through her community. On the way back home, the cows started to vomit violently and suddenly died. Senora Mejia says she is concerned because since the mine opened, she has seen livestock around the river dying – six cows have died, including three of her own. Her neighbours in the Cuilco river area have had to face the same sad reality. Although the Association of Community Environmental Monitoring (AMAC) is aware of the situation and has taken samples in the area around the mine, nothing has been done. We therefore denounce the situation once again to national and international authorities, mainly the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, since it is already familiar with the San Miguel Ixtahuacán case. We urge them to look into the critical situation in the municipality, with contamination of the Cuilco River caused by Goldcorp’s Marlin mine.

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Grupo de pobladores anuncia acciones contra la mina Marlin

http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/mina-marlin-sanmarcos-contaminacion_0_815318729.html

Prensa Libre, 23/11/12

El Frente de Defensa Miguelense (Fredemi) anunció que en los próximos días planteará una denuncia penal ante el Ministerio Público (MP) contra la mina Marlin, por contaminación ambiental y cultural en San Miguel Ixtahuacán, San Marcos. La organización cita como ejemplo que el 16 de noviembre pasado, Marcela Mejía, de la comunidad Siete Platos, ubicada en la parte baja de la mina, llevó a sus animales a beber agua al río Cuilco, y después el ganado padecía de vómitos hasta que murieron, y en lo que va del año ha perdido a seis vacas. Fredemi sostiene que la muerte de ganado es producto de la contaminación que ha generado la mina Marlin, y por existir más casos como el de Mejía, acudirán al ente investigador para accionar contra la empresa minera. También señala esta organización que solicitarán a la fiscal General, Claudia Paz y Paz, que ordene la investigación sobre las consecuencias del reciente terremoto, que afectó San Marcos, en la represa de desechos, túneles de las minas subterráneas, escombreras, tajos, y demás instalaciones, así como nuevos hundimientos de tierras y los pozos mecánicos.

BACKGROUND

On November 6, 2012, Rights Action sent to our listserv and facebook page a previous communique from FREDEMI, denouncing: CRACKS IN THE GROUND NEAR GOLDCORP'S "MARLIN" MINE DUE (MOST LIKELY) TO UNDERGROUND TUNNELING:

<http://rightsaction.org/action-content/cracks-ground-near-goldcorps-marlin-mine-due-most-likely-underground-tunneling>

See recent Al Jazeera film and news report about the survival, resistance and courage of Diodora Hernandez, a Mayan Mam woman shot point blank in the head because she will not sell her small plot of land to Goldcorp: <http://rightsaction.org/action-content/goldcorp-mining-interests-and-shooting-diodora-hernandez-two-years-later-and-still-no>

(Forth-coming film) "GOLD FEVER" - Watch trailers: <http://www.gprojectfilm.org/video>
"Gold Fever" is about gold mining and global impunity in Guatemala. In the film, Noam Chomsky asks: Is it proper "to benefit from over half a century of repression, violence, destruction, and elimination of democracy"? Goldcorp Inc. continues to mine relentlessly in San Miguel Ixtahuacan, despite 8 years of documented health and environmental harms and other human rights violations. Investors across North America - from public pension funds to private equity capital - profit from their investments, with no apparent concern for how the profits are made.

FOR THE RECORD ... IMPUNITY versus COMMUNITY DIGNITY AND RESISTANCE

Since 2004, Rights Action has regularly denounced widespread [human rights violations, environmental and health harms](#) – and even death – that humans and animals have suffered near Goldcorp's open-pit, mountain top removal gold mines in Guatemala and Honduras. Rights Action is honored to continue funding and supporting FREDEMI and the mining-harmed communities of San Miguel Ixtahuacan. Since 2005, many groups have been involved in this struggle, documenting and denouncing the myriad of harms and violations that Goldcorp has caused, continues to cause ... and to no avail in the short-term. There is no end in sight, and there has been no remedy, whatsoever, to anyone for any of the harms or violations caused, to date.

There is no political will or honesty, whatsoever, amongst the governments of Guatemala and Canada, to assume any role in holding Goldcorp – an extraordinary cash cow – to account for and to remedy the harms and violations it is causing. Neither have any shareholders, investors and other profiteers – from public pension funds like the Canada Pension Fund, to private investors – acted with anything but narrow-minded [focus on profiting](#) from this incredibly profitable mine, always turning a blind eye to [or denying](#) the on-going harms and violations.

Statements of 'no honesty' and 'no political will' [are not](#) too harsh. [How](#) else might one label the complete inaction? [Comments about 'narrow-minded focus on profiting' are not](#) too harsh. [How](#) else might one label the motivations of those reaping all the benefits from this?

Yet, the struggle of FREDEMI and the mining harmed communities is not in vain – they continue to serve as shining lights of resistance and dignity and for that deserve all respect and as much support as possible.

DONATE (TAX-DEDUCTIBLE in Canada and the U.S.)

Rights Action continues to be one of the only groups in North America that provides on-going funds directly to grassroots organizations – like FREDEMI - in mining harmed communities that are struggling to protect their local environment, defend community well-being and human rights. To support courageous and on-going community development and environmental protection work in mining harmed and affected communities. Make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

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

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS can be made (in Canada and U.S.):

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

- be a monthly credit card donor (Canada and U.S.)
- to donate stock, contact: info@rightsaction.org

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