

Rights Action
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ENDEMIC HEALTH CRISIS IN THE SIRIA VALLEY (HONDURAS), CAUSED ASSUREDLY BY GOLDCORP Inc.

by Carlos Amador and Grahame Russell, July 5, 2013
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This photo-essay is yet another presentation of images demonstrating the reality of health problems experienced by people living in the Siria Valley, Honduras. These photos were taken by members of the Environmental Committee in the last week of June, 2013 (despite the fact that the date displayed on them is 2008).

#2543 - PETRONILA VELASQUEZ, COMMUNITY OF EL PEDERNAL, 50 YEARS OLD



There are many more photographs demonstrating these health problems. For years now, we have been persistently denouncing what is obviously an endemic health crisis caused most assuredly by the use of chemicals at the Goldcorp Inc. mining operation and poisonings due to heavy metals such as mercury, lead and arsenic.

These recurring health problems can be directly traced to the mining exploitation carried out from 2000 to 2008 by Entremares, subsidiary of Goldcorp Inc. (Canada), at its "San Martin" open pit, cyanide leaching gold mine.

#2591 - CARLOS RAMOS, EL ESCANITO, 48 YEARS



Since 2003, Rights Action has supported the Environmental Committee in its work and struggle to document and denounce health and environmental harms and other violations of the rights of people living in the communities near the mine. As well, the Committee has done everything it can to provide support directly to individuals and families suffering from health problems.

As these photos indicate, the people of the Siria Valley are experiencing chronic health problems and suffering, and this situation has continued every year ... despite the fact that it has been more than 5 years since Goldcorp suspended its mining operation here.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION regarding this mining operation and studies that have been carried out, over the years, demonstrating links between the mining operation and health problems: info@rightsaction.org, www.rightsaction.org.

#2585 - GUILLERMO VELASQUEZ, EL PEDERNAL, 75 YEARS



DEMANDS

The Siria Valley Environmental Committee and Rights Action reiterate the following demands:

- For the establishment and implementation of a comprehensive medical care programme to attend to the health needs (short and long term) of all people affected by the Goldcorp mine. This programme should be mainly paid for by Goldcorp and the governments of Canada and Honduras, and must be administrated and implemented by an independent team of health specialists, including representatives from affected communities;
- For the complete cancelation of all mining concessions held by Goldcorp in Honduras, especially those in the Department of Francisco Morazan where the "San Martin" mine continues to contaminate the area;

#2611 - GLADIS INESTROZA, EL ESCANITO, 36 YEARS



AN UNJUST MODEL OF "DEVELOPMENT"

While almost all the profits from the "San Martin" mine benefitted Goldcorp investors and stockholders in Canada and the USA, these photographs give the real picture of the other side of the coin in this unjust economic model. They demonstrate the suffering of the people of the Siria Valley, on-going still today, years after the suspension of operations at the Goldcorp mine.

#2596 - ALBA ARTEAGA, PALO RALOS, 50 YEARS



#2420 - CLEMENTINA VELASQUEZ, EL PEDERNAL, 28 YEARS



#2418 - ERNESTINA ACOSTA, GUAYABILLAS, 40 YEARS



WHAT TO DO?

FUNDS NEEDED FOR HEALTH EMERGENCY

To make tax deductible donations (in Canada and the U.S.) for the health needs of the mining harmed people in Siria Valley, 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

WRITE YOUR POLITICIANS

Please send copies of this information, and your own letters, to your Canadian and American politicians (MPs, Congress members and Senators) and to your own media. The US and Canadian governments, and North American resource extraction companies maintain full and profitable economic and military relations with the Honduran elites, turning a blind eye to these well documented health harms.

- MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:
<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>
- CONGRESS: <http://www.house.gov/> to get info for your member of Congress, and call: 202-224-3121
- SENATE: <http://www.senate.gov/> to get contact for your Senator, and call: 202-224-3121

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Environmental Committee in its struggle for a comprehensive medical care programme: piviamador@yahoo.es (write in Spanish).

- Please re-publish and share this Photo-essay. The idea is to share with peoples of our Americas the grave impacts left behind by these mining companies.