

Rights Action
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December 11, 2013

**Appeal from the Mayan Sipacapan People of Western Guatemala:
for Northamerican Solidarity, Confronted with Goldcorp Inc.'s Push to Expand Mining, Backed by the Guatemalan Army and Police, into Sipacapan Territories.**

Across Guatemala, and in San Marcos, campesino and Mayan peoples are protesting the illegal granting of a 23 square kilometer exploration license to Goldcorp (EntreMares)

- What To Do / How To Support: See below.

The People Of Sipacapa, Via The Mayan Council Of Sipacapa, Informs:
(Translated by Rights Action)

- To all sisterly and brotherly peoples, national and international authorities, national and international social and human rights organizations;
- To the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Interior; and
- To EntreMares (Goldcorp Inc.):



"Sipacapa Already Said No To Mining Exploitation. "Sipacapa Is Not For Sale"."

In 2005, the population firmly rejected mining exploration and exploitation in its territory, as was documented in the acts of the community consultation carried out in good faith on June 18, 2005 in each community of the municipality.

Since that time, the community has continued to defend that position. The population does not want its land destroyed by metallic mining, which only leads to social contamination (conflict),

environmental contamination, health problems, deterioration of wildlife and economic injustice, as we see in the sister municipality of San Miguel Ixtahuacán, department of San Marcos.

Nevertheless, on April 30, 2012, the Ministry of Energy and Mines – through its general director of mining – issued a mining exploration license to the company EntreMares de Guatemala (owned by Goldcorp Inc.), called the “Chocoyos” license, to exploit gold, silver, nickel, cobalt, chromium, copper, lead, zinc antimony and rare earth elements in an area of 23 square kilometers.

For these reasons, we have been protesting peacefully since December 4, 2013, to reject the presence of exploration machinery and personnel from EntreMares/ Goldcorp. We demand the withdrawal of this machinery and the company personnel from the territory of Sipacapa, and request that central government authorities respect the community consultation carried out in 2005.

We request and demand that they cease to force us to accept the presence of the EntreMares/ Goldcorp mine in Sipacapa. We continue to be intimidated by the presence of the National Civilian Police.

We also demand the presence of the departmental governor, the director of Energy and Mines, the Minister of Energy and Mines and the Human Rights Prosecutor. We request their presence in our municipality to resolve this issue, since the only thing we seek is peace. The presence of the mine is causing social conflict, on a family level and on a community level, and it is destroying our social harmony.

We ask our sisters and brothers from other nations to accompany us in this struggle which in benefit of all. Municipal authorities should not be promoting destructive projects.

Municipality of Sipacapa, San Marcos
December 7, 2013

El Pueblo Sipacapense, Por Medio Del Consejo Maya Sipacapanse, Hace Saber:

- A todos los Pueblos Hermanos, autoridades nacionales e Internacionales, Organizaciones Sociales y de derechos Humanos locales e Internacionales;
- Al Ministerio de Energía y Minas, Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, al Ministerio de Gobernación; y
- A la Empresa EntreMares (Goldcorp Inc)



Desde el año 2005, específicamente el 18 de Junio, la población - por medio de la Consulta comunitaria de Buena fe - rechazó rotundamente la exploración y explotación Minera en su territorio, tal como quedó documentado en las actas celebradas en cada comunidad.

Desde ese tiempo ha venido defendiendo la posición, ya que el pueblo no quiere que sean destruidos sus suelos, por causa de la Minería Metálica, que al final de todo, genera contaminación Social (conflicto), Contaminación Ambiental, problemas en la salud, deterioro de la Fauna, e injusticia económica, tal como se ve en el municipio hermano de San Miguel Ixtahuacán, departamento de San Marcos.

Sin embargo, el 30 de abril del año 2012, el Ministerio de Energía y Minas - a través de su director general de Minería - le otorga Licencia de exploración minera a la Empresa EntreMares De Guatemala (Goldcorp Inc), denominada la licencia "Chocoyos", para explotar Oro, Plata, Niquel, Cobalto, Cromo, Cobre, Plomo, Zinc, Antimonio y Tierras Raras, en un área de 23 Kilómetros cuadrados.

Por ello, desde el Miércoles 04 de Diciembre del presente año, se ha iniciado una manifestación pacífica, rechazando la presencia de Maquinaria de exploración y personal de la empresa Entremares/ Goldcorp, y que lo que se pide es el retiro de esta Maquinaria y personal de la Empresa en el territorio de Sipacapa, y que las autoridades centrales y locales respeten la Consulta comunitaria del año 2005.

Pedimos y exigimos que no nos obliguen a aceptar la presencia de la Minera Entre Mares/ Goldcorp en Sipacapa, ya que nos están intimidando con la presencia de la Policía Nacional Civil.

Y Exigimos la presencia del Gobernador departamental, al director de Energía y Minas y al Ministro de energía y Minas, y Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos para que se constituyan el nuestro municipio a resolver el problema, ya que lo único que queremos es paz. Pero con la presencia de la minería nos están programando un conflicto social a nivel familiar y comunitarios, destruyendo nuestra armonía Social.

Pedimos a nuestros Hermanos de otros pueblos, a que nos acompañen en esta lucha que es de

todos y todas. Y a las autoridades municipales pedimos que no se conviertan en promotores de proyectos destructores.

Municipio de Sipacapa, San Marcos
7 de Diciembre de 2013

What To Do:

Write Letters & Say No To "Business As Usual"

The U.S. and Canadian governments, and North American resource extraction companies and investors (including public pension funds like the Canada Pension Plan, Social Security, and Pension funds across Canada and the USA) maintain profitable economic and military relations with the Guatemalan elites, turning a blind eye to health and environmental harms, repression and other violations linked to mining operations.

Send copies of this Sipacapan Communiqué, and your own letters, to Goldcorp, to your elected politicians (MPs, Congresspersons, Senators), to your media, and to your own pension and investment funds.

- **"Gold Fever"**: Award winning documentary film about Goldcorp's cyanide-leaching, mountain-top removal mine in Guatemala. Trailer / More Info: <http://www.goldfevermovie.com/>

Demand that Goldcorp not expand its already harmful mine in the Mayan regions of western Guatemala. Invite them to a screening of Gold Fever. Ask them why our governments, companies and investment firms do nothing about repression and violence, and environmental and health harms associated with mining and other resource extraction businesses, while promoting and benefiting from these very economic relations with the Guatemalan political, military and economic elites.

Contact:

- 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

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Tax-Deductible Donations

To support the community development, human rights and environmental defense work of mining harmed communities in Guatemala, 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>

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