

Rights Action
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Goldcorp In Guatemala: Water Deprivation And Militarized Expansion



Militarized Expansion In Sipakapa?

On January 14, 2014, Guatemalan President, and former general Otto Perez Molina, ordered troops to the Mayan municipality of Sipakapa, department of San Marcos, in western Guatemala. The armed forces arrived on behalf of Goldcorp Inc. that is trying to illegally expand its "Marlin" mine into Sipakapan territory.

In 2005, the Mayan Sipakapan people overwhelmingly rejected Goldcorp's mine in their territory in a legally binding community consultation, documented in the film "Sipakapa Is Not For Sale": <http://vimeo.com/38097729>.



On January 14, 2014, thousands of campesinos from Sipakapa, San Miguel Ixtahuacan and 5 other municipalities came to Sipakapa to resist the expansion of Goldcorp that is trying to carry out exploration activities at the "Los Chocoyos" site in the village of Pie de la Cuesta, Sipakapa.





During the peaceful protest, a mining company employee signed a public agreement with Sipakapan community members, agreeing on:

1. the definitive suspension of Goldcorp's exploration work at the "Los Chocoyos" site in the Pie de la Cuesta village
2. the immediate withdrawal of Goldcorp's workers from the "Los Chocoyos" site
3. a 2 day period for Goldcorp to withdraw its mining equipment from the area

(Source of information and photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/cpo.comunicacion/posts/580969715317553>)

There is fear in Sipakapa and San Miguel Ixtahuacan that Goldcorp will not carry out with these commitments, but rather resort, again, to repression by the Guatemalan military and police forces so as to proceed with the illegal mining operations at the Los Chocoyos mine site.

Water Deprivation In San Miguel Ixtahuacan

On January 8, 2014, FREDEMI (San Miguel Ixtahuacan Defense Front) and PLURIJUR (Legal Multicultural Association of Guatemala) filed a lawsuit against the mayor of San Miguel Ixtahuacán, on behalf of five communities: Agel, San Antonio de los Altos, San Jose Nueva Esperanza, San Jose Ixcaniche, and Siete Platos, all of which have suffered chronic water shortage and contamination since Goldcorp began its mining operation in 2005.

The history of Goldcorp's "Marlin" mining operation, the harms and violations caused, and the resistance of the Mayan Mam people, is documented in "Gold Fever" (www.goldfevermovie.com).

In 2010, the IACHR (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights) granted precautionary measures in favor of these communities to protect them from the Guatemalan State and Goldcorp for harms and violations caused by the Marlin Mine. As part of the IACHR order, the Guatemalan government and Goldcorp are obliged to provide sufficient water to the harmed communities. Four years later, the government and company are still not complying with this obligation.

What to do

Contact Goldcorp in Canada, with copies to your elected politicians and media, insisting they withdraw completely and permanently from the Sipakapa territory and that they supply the five harmed communities with adequate water supplies on a permanent basis.

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Educational Delegation to Guatemala, May 31-June 8, 2014

Mining Injustice ~versus~ Community well-being and the Environment, in the context of on-going struggles for truth, memory and justice for the genocides and repression of the past. Hosted by Rights Action and SMAK (Sustainable Mining Alliance of the Kootenays). For information: info@rightsaction.org

Gold Fever

This award winning film documents the land and environmental defense struggle of the Mayan Mam people against the huge gold mine of Goldcorp, set against the backdrop of 6 decades of U.S.-backed repression and genocide in Guatemala. (View trailer / organize a screening / more information: www.goldfevermovie.com)

Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)

To support community organizations resisting mining harms and violations, and working in defense of the environment, local development and human rights in Honduras and 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 (Canada & U.S.): <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

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

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