

Rights Action  
March 12, 2014  
[info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

### **Sipakapa Says No (Again) To Goldcorp Inc.**

In Sipakapa, San Marcos, Guatemala,

- Peaceful Rejection of Goldcorp Inc. That Is A “Death Sentence”
- Criminalization of the Sipakapan People



The Council of Sipakapan People reports that on March 7, 2014, community members participated in a peaceful march, coordinated with 11 parishes in the San Marcos highlands.



Once again, the people of Sipakapa stated clearly they do not want Goldcorp Inc. expanding its gold mine into the municipality of Sipakapa, in a place called “Los Chocoyos”, that “sentences them to death”.

## CONSEJO DEL PUEBLO SIPAKEPENSE

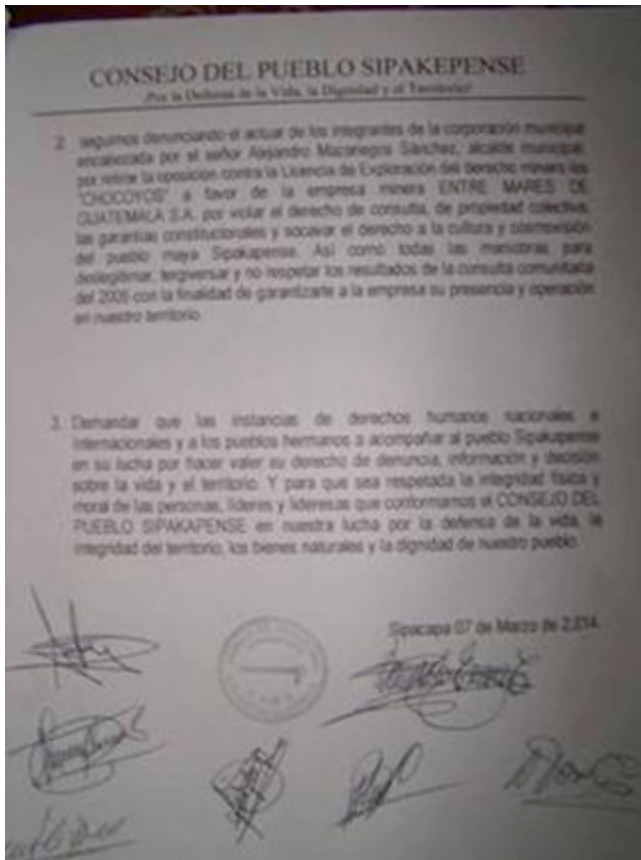
Por la Defensa de la Vida, la Dignidad y el Territorio

El Consejo del Pueblo Maya Sipakapense, una vez más se pronuncia en contra de la actividad minera en nuestro territorio, de esta manera el Consejo del Pueblo Maya Sipakapense, rechaza la usurpación a nuestros derechos colectivos como Pueblo.

1. Que los resultados de nuestra consulta comunitaria de buena fe reflejan para la vida y la historia de nuestro pueblo que somos la gran mayoría los que estamos conscientes que nuestro proyecto de vida no es la destrucción de nuestra madre tierra por medio de la explotación minera de metales pesados, en manos de empresas extranjeras.
2. Somos habitantes del Pueblo Maya Sipakapense propietarios y poseedores de un territorio de 153km<sup>2</sup> que habitamos desde antes de la venta de los concesionarios. Actualmente registrado bajo el número 30.054 folio 175 del Departamento de San Marcos debidamente inscrito en el registro de la propiedad y amparado por el derecho internacional de los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas.
3. Somos conscientes que usar nuestro derecho a decidir sobre el destino de nuestro territorio fue y es una ofensa contra el sistema dominante y por lo tanto hemos experimentado durante estos 9 años una agresión inmensa de la empresa minera Montana subsidiaria de la Gold Corp., donde el soborno, el engaño, la manipulación, la mentira, las amenazas y la persecución ha sido para los habitantes de Sipacapa. Y como producto de esta agresión hemos visto corromper a funcionarios municipales, hemos visto alimentar la sed de poder de caciques locales y enfermar con intereses personales a líderes comunitarios.

### POR LO ANTES EXPUESTO, PROCLAMAMOS

1. Estamos dispuestos a mantener nuestra palabra, nuestra densidad y nuestra voluntad de defender nuestro territorio, nuestras vidas, los bienes naturales y la propiedad colectiva de nuestra tierra. Así como ante día articulándonos como pueblo y hermanos del Occidente, manifestando nuestro desagrado e inconformidad a las actividades mineras en nuestro territorio.



### **Criminalization of the Sipakapan People**

On January 14, 2014, the Sipakapan people carried out a peaceful protest against Goldcorp Inc. Soon after that, a criminal complaint was filed against three community leaders – Alfredo Jacinto Perez, Anselmo Jacinto Perez, Timoteo Vasquez -, criminalizing them, labelling them as people who are “against development”. On February 24, the three were ordered to appear before the Public Ministry on March 6, to deal with the criminal charges.



Thank-you.

Consejo en Resistencia Sipacapense  
Teléfonos: [502] 5342-5437, 4903-1594

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#### More Information:

##### “Sipakapa No Se Vende”

- Documental Completo: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfHDgWnBC5s>
- (2005, 56 min.) GUATEMALA, Director: Álvaro Revenga

This film documents the community consultation process that took place in Sipakapa in 2005, that resulted in a democratic and legally binding rejection of Goldcorp Inc’s mining in the municipality of Sipakapa.

##### “Gold Fever”

- Trailer / Screenings / Information: <http://www.goldfevermovie.com/>
- (2013, 83 & 55 min.), by Northland Films

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"? The Canadian mining giant Goldcorp Inc. continues to mine

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relentlessly in San Miguel Ixtahuacan, despite 8 years of documented health and environmental harms and other human rights violations.

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#### **Join an 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). Contact: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)
- July 3-10, 2014: "Mayan Communities & Environmental Well-Being ~ versus ~ Large-Scale Mining And Hydroelectric Dam Projects, In An Unjust Global Economic Order", 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 Mayflower United Church of Christ (Minneapolis). Contact: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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

To support Mayan communities efforts to defend their community well-being and attain justice for the harms and violations caused by mining companies, 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 (Canada & U.S.): <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

- to donate stock, contact: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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