

Rights Action  
December 11, 2014  
[info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

## **Goldcorp and Tahoe Resources Contaminating in Guatemala (Government Report) / Death Of Worker In Goldcorp Tunnel**

*“The assessment confirms the presence of levels of total nitrogen, lead and arsenic that exceed legal limits in Guatemala”* at the San Rafael mine (owned by Tahoe Resources) and at the Marlin mine (owned by Goldcorp Inc.).



(In 2014, Mayan Sipacapan people resist illegal and harmful expansion of Goldcorp’s mine into their territories.)

Meanwhile, the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and pension funds and private investors across North America profit unabated from investments in Goldcorp and Tahoe, even after years of documentation of serious health problems

due to contamination, environmental destruction, houses falling down due to the use of explosives, shootings and killings of community human rights and environmental defenders, etc.

**Below:**

- Summary of Guatemalan government contamination report
- Death of a worker in a Goldcorp tunnel
- Telesur news report: Fissure in earth by Goldcorp's mine threatens indigenous communities
- Report on extent of Goldcorp's underground mines in San Miguel Ixtahuacan/ Sipacapa

How to support mining harmed communities in Guatemala: see below

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**INACIF Report Confirms Water Contamination In San Marcos And In Santa Rosa Caused By Mining Activity**

An assessment carried out by the Guatemalan government's National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF) confirms contamination at the San Rafael mine (owned by Tahoe Resources) and at the Marlin mine (owned by Goldcorp Inc.)

[Original: <http://plurijur.blogspot.ca/2014/11/peritaje-inacif-y-plano-de-marlin.html#more>]

“The assessment carried out by INACIF confirms the presence of levels of total nitrogen, lead and arsenic that exceed legal limits in Guatemala” at the San Rafael mine (owned by Tahoe Resources) and at the Marlin mine (owned by Goldcorp Inc.).

At the request of the Office of the Public Prosecutor for Crimes Against the Environment, INACIF has submitted an expert report in the context of on-going criminal proceedings against Goldcorp Inc. (Montana Exploradora) and Tahoe Resources (Minera San Rafael). The report confirms contamination of water by both mining projects, in the following ways:

**Contamination Of Water By Tahoe Resources (Minera San Rafael) In San Rafael Las Flores, Santa Rosa:**

The INACIF assessment finds that Minera San Rafael, a subsidiary of the Canadian transnational company Tahoe Resources Inc., contaminated the water of the El Escobal river by discharging water contaminated with sediments and fecal coliforms. It is hoped that, as a result of this report within the next few days, the General Manager of this company will be summoned to a preliminary hearing and faced with criminal proceedings.

**Contamination of Water By Goldcorp Inc. (Montana Exploradora) In San Miguel Ixtahuacan And Sipacapa, San Marcos:**

The INACIF assessment confirmed that the total nitrogen in the water discharge from the treatment plant at Goldcorp's Marlin mine exceeds the limits established by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN). It is possible that the source of the high level of nitrogen is the cyanide used to extract the gold and as well, the remnants of unexploded ordnance. The report also confirms that levels of total lead and arsenic exceed legal limits for drinking water set by the National Standards Commission (COGUANOR). Local communities, especially their children, are suffering from environmental illness - arsenic poisoning, caused by arsenic contamination of water sources.

The INACIF report can be found at: [http://issuu.com/plurijur/docs/oficio\\_inacif\\_25\\_marzo\\_2013](http://issuu.com/plurijur/docs/oficio_inacif_25_marzo_2013)

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**Death Of A Worker In A Goldcorp Tunnel**

Máximo López Ambrosio, a 53 year old worker from the community of Xeabaj, Sipacapa died in the West Vero underground mine, at 3am, Tuesday, September 9, 2014. According to statements from other workers, he died in the Marlin mine medical clinic after being transported by ambulance all the way to the San Martin hospital in Huehuetenango, rather than to the closer clinic - Centro de Atención Permanente in San Miguel Ixtahuacán, financed by Goldcorp Inc. Workers have testified to the extreme working conditions in the West Vero mine –

unbearable heat and poor ventilation. Family members of the dead miner have stated that the San Martin hospital refuses to inform them of the cause of death, unless ordered by law.

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### **Fissure In Earth By Goldcorp's Mine Threatens Indigenous Communities**

Telesur 2 minute report: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=UUbHFKMtqLYkIBRiPHJwxu\\_w&v=Vf10k5AsoO0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=UUbHFKMtqLYkIBRiPHJwxu_w&v=Vf10k5AsoO0)

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### **Goldcorp Report On Underground Mines In San Miguel Ixtahuacán**

Goldcorp's 2003 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Marlin Mine states that gold and silver deposits at the Marlin site cover an area approximately 10 kilometers long, running East to West. According to the Goldcorp report, there are five underground mines at the Marlin site: (1) MARLIN, (2) DELMY, (3) CORAL, (4) VIRGINIA, and (5) WEST VERO. Missing from this list is the LA HAMACA mine, authorized by the MARN in 2006, making a total of 6 underground mines.

According to the Hydro-geological Analysis carried out by Goldcorp (Montana Exploradora) in June 2011, these mines operate over two aquifers. The one that provides water to local communities is not very deep, while the other one sits at 100 to 300 metres below ground level.

The physical area covered by the mine can cause accumulative impacts on water sources, through both the length and depth of its tunnels: the longitude from Marlin to Coral is one kilometre, from Marlin to West Vero at least two kilometers, and from Marlin to La Hamaca, 3 kilometres. The 2006 EIA of La Hamaca authorized a 2,100 metre longitudinal extension to the subterranean mine. As we have already mentioned, the mineral deposit runs for up to ten kilometres longitudinally from East to West.

The 2003 EIA authorized Marlin to go ahead with a 300 metre deep underground mine (2000 and 1700 below sea level) and as well, with a 180 metre deep mine at La Hamaca, both in San Miguel Ixtahuacán. Only the 2003 EIA for the Marlin underground mine and the 2006 EIA for the La Hamaca underground mine have been approved by MARN. The other mines have no legal authorization to operate.

The Goldcorp Report indicates that there are 347 metres between the West Vero and Delmy mines (1660 and 2007 meters below sea level). And the difference in height between the West Vero and Sipacapa mines (1970 below sea level) indicates a depth of 310 metres, in comparison to San Miguel Ixtahuacán mine (2065 below sea level) with a depth of 405 metres.

Goldcorp Inc. has been exploiting the Marlin mine for nine years, using dynamite underneath the local communities. This explains the cracks in the houses, churches and schools in San Miguel Ixtahuacán.

Goldcorp Report, PLANO MINA MARLIN SUBTERRANEA:

[http://issuu.com/plurijur/docs/plano\\_mina\\_marlin\\_sub](http://issuu.com/plurijur/docs/plano_mina_marlin_sub)

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### **Gold Fever**

- Trailer/ Screenings/ Info: [www.goldfevermovie.com/](http://www.goldfevermovie.com/)

Gold Fever documents gold mining, human rights violations, environmental destruction and 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 relentlessly in San Miguel Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa, despite 10 years of documented health and environmental harms and other human rights violations.

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### **Year-end Matching Donor**

An anonymous donor will match donations, to a total of \$25,000, until December 31, 2014

**Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & United States)**

To support community organizations working for locally-controlled development, the environment, human rights and the rule of law in Honduras and Guatemala – including in the Goldcorp and Tahoe harmed communities, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8
- USA: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091
- Credit-Card Donations: <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

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