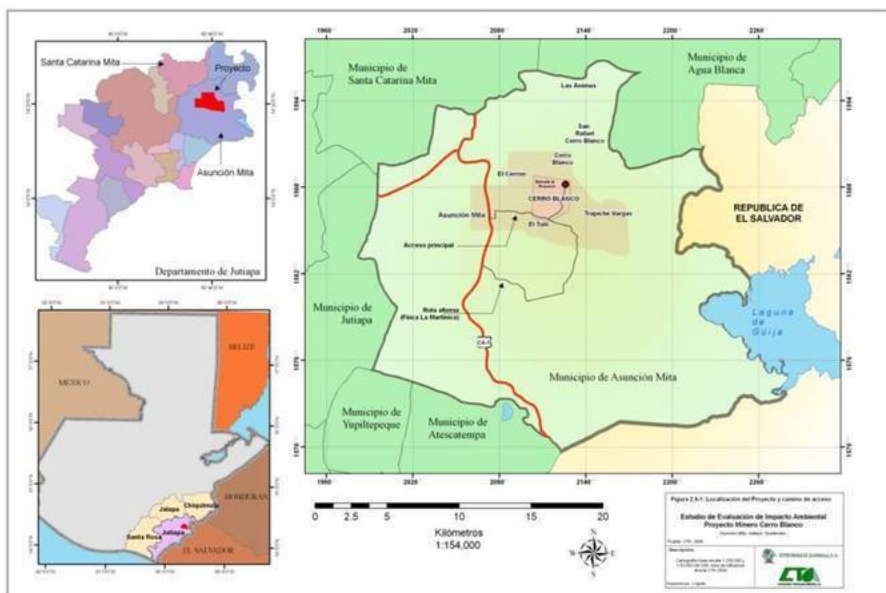


## More mining violence and environmental harms to come in Guatemala: Bluestone Resources/Goldcorp Inc. & the “Cerro Blanco” mine

[Share/ View in browser: <http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/more-mining-violence-and-environmental-harms-to-come-in-guatemala-bluestone-resourcesgoldcorp-inc-the-cerro-blanco-mine>]

After 15 years of environmental degradation, health harms, community breakdown, violent evictions and government-company repression (including killings, shootings, gang-rapes, etc.) linked to Goldcorp Inc., Hudbay Minerals, Tahoe Resources, KCA and Radius Gold, yet another Canadian company – Bluestone Resources – will try and operate a mine in the conditions of endemic corruption, repression and impunity in Guatemala. Bluestone purchased this mining interest from Goldcorp that maintains investment interests in Bluestone.



Location of Bluestone/Goldcorp’s “Cerro Blanco” mine, close to El Salvador border.

*“What is common across all of these projects is the exceptional violence, contamination and criminalization of community leadership and accompanying organizations, as mining operations are implemented despite community opposition during the last ten years.” (Luis Solano)*

See below - Forthcoming book: **“Mining Impunity in the Aftermath of Guatemala’s Genocide: The Violence of Contemporary Predatory Mineral Exploitation”**, co-edited by Catherine Nolin and Grahame Russell

\*\*\*

## **Fears after the acquisition of the failed Cerro Blanco mining project**

Original, Spanish: <https://cmiguate.org/temor-ante-adquisicion-de-fallido-proyecto-minero-cerro-blanco/>

By Luis Solano, June 4, 2017

On May 31, the Canadian mining company Bluestone Resources announced the acquisition of the Cerro Blanco mining project from Goldcorp Inc. for \$80 million Canadian dollars, which includes the Mita Geothermic project. The Cerro Blanco project has received significant community opposition in both Guatemala and El Salvador, due to the potential contamination of vital water sources in both countries.

### **Big interests behind the scenes**

The purchase announced by Bluestone Resources was the result of a negotiation that began in January and finalized five months later. One month earlier, in April, with the objective of consolidating the acquisition, Bluestone Resources was capitalized with the sale of 31.4% of its actions to two Luxemburg based investment funds: Lorito Holdings LLC and Zebra Holdings and Investments LLC which are shareholders of Lundin Gold.

Both funds were created by the Swede Adolfo Henrik Lundin (deceased) who founded the powerful mining and oil Lundin Group that exploits copper, diamonds, gold, nickel, uranium, zinc and oil in different parts of the world. Lundin Gold is a mining company that belongs to the Lundin Group, property of the Lundin Family. The acquisition of both projects includes the transfer of subsidiary companies Between Seas L.C. (Entre Mares S.A.) registered in Guatemala that operates the mining project; and the Eastern Geothermal Project of Guatemala L.C. (Geotermia Oriental de Guatemala S.A.), that operates the Mita geothermal project in the same mining site.

The Cerro Blanco mining project is registered under the exploitation license LEXT-O31-05, of 2005, granted during the government of Oscar Berger (2004-2007). Initially it was issued to Between Seas, L.C. (Entre Mares, S.A.), subsidiary company to the then Glamis Gold mining company. It is located in the municipality of Asuncion Mita, on the border with El Salvador.

After Glamis Gold merged with the Canadian Goldcorp company, all of the mining rights of the former passed to the latter from 2007 onward. This included the Marlin mining project and its subsidiary, Explorations Montana L.C. (Montana Exploradora S.A.) in San Marcos; and Escobal and its subsidiary San Rafael Mining Company L.C. (Minera San Rafael, S.A. -- Minerasa), in Santa Rosa.

In addition to these projects, the government of Berger reactivated the Fenix Project to mine nickel in El Estor, Izabal, in 2004, after passing its rights to the Canadian company Skye Resources and founding the Guatemalan Nickel Company L.C. (Compania Guatemalteca de Niquel, S.A.) its subsidiary, with the direct participation of the Buffet Sosa, Berger, Pemuelier and Associates (2004) and later A.D. Sosa and Soto, directly and indirectly tied with former president Oscar Berger.

### **Violence, Contamination, Criminalization**

All of these mining exploits of gold, silver and nickel were granted between 2004 and 2005, period in which strong Guatemalan business interests predominated the government administration, which facilitated their involvement with this extractivist industry. They are part of a geological belt that includes the Marlin project [Goldcorp Inc.] in San Marcos, the El Sastre and El Tambor projects in Guatemala and El Progreso [KCA & Radius Gold], the San Rafael mine [Tahoe Resources] in Santa Rosa and Jalapa.

This mining belt was promoted by the government of Alvaro Arzu (1996-1999), as part of the international campaign to attract foreign capitals to involve them in the industry of metal mining extraction. The mining project in La Puya, San Jose El Golfo, Guatemala, cannot be seen outside of the context of the project to explore and exploit gold and which affects a large belt that traverses the mountainous central zone on the west and east of the country.

However, what is common across all of these projects is the exceptional violence, contamination and criminalization of community leadership and accompanying organizations, as mining operations are implemented despite community opposition during the last ten years.

In San Marcos and in Santa Rosa, this repeats time and again, and La Puya is not the exception either.

Cerro Blanco, a project that had been suspended definitively after the resistance movements that emerged at the border of Guatemala and El Salvador, is looking to be reactivated by Bluestone Resources today. The strong opposition that led to joint actions between Guatemalans and Salvadorans was a factor that weakened the continuation of the mining project.

We have yet to see if the next phase of the project will be financial speculation in order to find new investors and resell the project, or if, to the contrary, the latent risk of contaminating the principal and scarce sources of water shared between El Salvador (which has prohibited mining activities in its territory) and Guatemala, begins to be a reality that will lead to new resistance movements with expected government response.

\*\*\*

#### **Bluestone Resources Inc.**

John Robins, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, (604) 657-6226

<http://www.bluestonerresources.ca/>

1110-1111 West Georgia Street,

Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6E 4M3

Ph: 778-327-5799

#### **Goldcorp Inc.**

Investor Contact: Lynette Gould, Director, Investor Relations, (800) 567-6223, E-mail: [info@goldcorp.com](mailto:info@goldcorp.com),

[www.goldcorp.com](http://www.goldcorp.com);

Media Contact: Christine Marks, Director, Corporate Communications, Telephone: (604) 696-3050, E-mail: [media@goldcorp.com](mailto:media@goldcorp.com), [www.goldcorp.com](http://www.goldcorp.com)

\*\*\*

### Forthcoming book

### **“Mining Impunity in the Aftermath of Guatemala’s Genocide: The Violence of Contemporary Predatory Mineral Exploitation”** (provisional title)

Catherine Nolin and Grahame Russell recently returned from trip to Guatemala – along with photo-journalist James Rodriguez and journalist Sandra Cuffe - carrying out final interviews for this forthcoming book to be published in late 2017, early 2018.

- Catherine Nolin, [catherine.nolin@unbc.ca](mailto:catherine.nolin@unbc.ca)
- Grahame Russell, [grahame@rightsaction.org](mailto:grahame@rightsaction.org)

\*\*\*

### **General information**

Mining Watch Canada, [www.miningwatch.ca](http://www.miningwatch.ca), <https://www.facebook.com/MiningWatch>, @MiningWatch

\*\*\*

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

To support the work and struggles of indigenous and non-indigenous communities in Guatemala, in defense of their communities, human rights and environment, resisting harms, violations repression caused by global mining companies, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations: <http://rightsaction.org/donate/>

Donations of stock? Write to: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

More Info: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

Subscribe to e-Newsletter: [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org](http://www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RightsAction>, @RightsAction

\*\*\*\*\*