

WANTED: Goldcorp Inc. Vice-President on bribery charges in Guatemala. Does Goldcorp face criminal liability in Guatemala, Canada or the U.S.?

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Goldcorp Inc.

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Dear Mr. Garafolo and friends at Goldcorp,

Please help locate Eduardo Villacorta, your former senior Vice President - now a fugitive from justice – who is wanted in Guatemala on criminal charges of bribery of public officials with an aim to benefit Goldcorp, while he worked as Goldcorp's VP.



While working as senior VP with Goldcorp, it is alleged that Villacorta (left) illegally financed the presidential campaign of Otto Perez Molina (center), a former military general and president now in jail on corruption charges.

Ideally, Goldcorp would communicate directly with the Attorney General's office in Guatemala and tell them what you might know about where Villacorta is hiding, but if Goldcorp is nervous about its own potential criminal liability – in Guatemala, Canada or the U.S. -, an anonymous tip would be fine.

Dear friends in Canada and the U.S., please write letters to Goldcorp, along the same lines (sending copies to your own media and politicians).

Former Senior VP of Goldcorp Inc., now fugitive from justice for bribery of State officials, appears as a scholarship recipient for a prestigious international leadership program

July 6, 2017, by [Carlos Arrazola](#), Coauthor [Enrique Naveda](#)

<https://www.plazapublica.com.gt/content/profugo-por-cooptacion-del-estado-aparece-becado-en-un-prestigioso-programa-internacional-de>

Eduardo Villacorta, former senior vice president of Goldcorp Inc., the mother company of the Marlin Mine, intended to use a scholarship to attend the XIII [Central American Leadership Initiative](#), CALI, the regional program for the U.S. based [Aspen Institute](#), but organizers decided to expel him when Plaza Pública advised of his legal status and asked if they knew of his whereabouts.

“The Central American Leadership Initiative informs that Eduardo Villacorta, of Honduran nationality, is no longer part of the CALI 13 class” was the brief official statement on the matter.

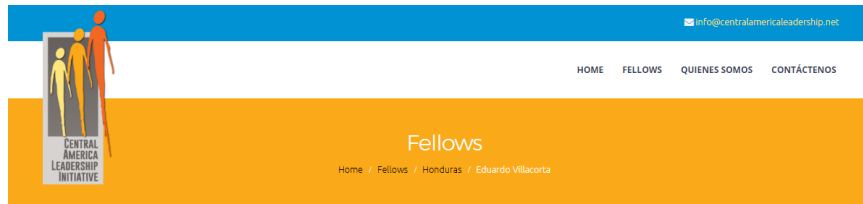
Villacorta is accused of the crimes of Illicit Association and Active Bribery. According to accusations by the Special Prosecutor’s Office against Impunity (FECI in Spanish), of the Office of the Prosecution and the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG in Spanish), the Honduran lawyer illegally financed the electoral campaign of the Patriot Party in 2011, and was involved in the so-called Co-opting the State corruption case.

At the time, Villacorta was managing director of Montana Exploradora and senior Vice-President of Goldcorp Inc. CICIG suspects that his support for the criminal network of former president, now jailed Otto Perez Molina and former vice-president, now jailed Roxana Baldetti served to obtain a favorable treatment for Goldcorp.

- Also read: Los muchos favores del Estado a la minería [The many favors the State gives to mining companies]: <https://www.plazapublica.com.gt/content/los-muchos-favores-del-estado-la-mineria>

After the “Co-opting of the State” criminal case became known in Guatemala in June 2016, Goldcorp (Montana) dissociated itself from statements pointing to Villacorta, insisting that they were accusations against its former manager and not against the company.

This morning the head of the FECI, Juan Francisco Sandoval, ratified Villacorta’s situation as fugitive from justice, but refrained from making comments about his participation in CALI. By the afternoon, Plaza Publica had learned that Villacorta had been accepted in the CALLI program after several interviews, the last of which took place this year in Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras, and that he overcame filters that included a background check through the U.S. State Department and the International Police (Interpol). Neither one nor the other were alerted about the criminal accusations against him in Guatemala.



Eduardo Villacorta

is general manager and owner of Brio Inversiones, a company focused on real estate business and corporate strategy consulting. Eduardo retired in March 2015 as senior vice-president of operations for Goldcorp, Inc. based in Chile, the world's second largest gold producer from a market cap perspective. Eduardo led the operations owned by Goldcorp, Inc. from Guatemala down through Argentina, including two joint ventures. He sat on several boards representing the interest of the company focused on safety, partnerships, environmental stewardship, efficiency and margins. Eduardo was nominated as Mining Entrepreneur of the year in Argentina in 2014. While he was president of the CSR arms of Goldcorp Inc., he also focused on sustainable development and identified opportunities to help different sectors in need. Prior to Eduardo's 15 years as an executive miner, Eduardo worked as corporate lawyer for Abogados & Asesores Corporativos in Tegucigalpa. He received his law degree from the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH in Spanish) with a specialty in corporate law. Eduardo is a Fellow of the 13th class of the Central America Leadership Initiative and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

Información Adicional

MEMBER SINCE	2017
ORGANIZATION	Brio Inversiones

(From the website of the XIII [Central American Leadership Initiative](#), CALI, regional program for the U.S. based [Aspen Institute](#).)

According to the office of Interpol in Guatemala, only ten people related to the Co-Opting of the State case have international arrest orders pending, and Villacorta is not on that list. The Office of the Prosecution has not yet explained the reason.

The criminal case involves Goldcorp's Villacorta has been delayed due to the many legal tactics used by the defense team. The case implicates 53 individuals, including Perez Molina and Baldetti, as well as former ministers and State officials, businessmen, bankers, people from the construction industry among others.

According to CICIG, after the 2007 general elections, which had been lost by the Partido Patriota, a "gangster-like criminal structure" was formed with the objective of co-opting political power by electoral means, in order to benefit the interests of illicit political-economic networks which were consolidated during the government of Perez Molina and Baldetti.

According to Villacorta profile, published on the CALI web, the lawyer is presently the general manager and owner of Brio Inversiones, a company focused on consultancies for property developments and corporate strategies. It was not possible to determine the country in which this company is based, nor its relations with other companies.

Along with Villacorta, CALI had selected another 23 people from the academic, business and public sectors of Central America, to prepare them to become leaders in their respective areas of action over the next two years, with the commitment to launch initiatives that have a positive impact on the region by the time the process finalizes.

Documentary film

Gold Fever

This film by Northland Films documents how Canadian mining giant Goldcorp Inc. has been mining relentlessly in Guatemala, despite well documented repression, human rights violations, environmental destruction, and endemic corruption and impunity. Gold Fever takes the viewer into the homes and communities of courageous Mayan Mam people resisting harms and violations, struggling for justice and a different “development” model.

- Trailer: <http://www.goldfevermovie.com/>

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

To support community, human rights and environmental defense organizations in Honduras and Guatemala suffering harms, violations and repression due to their opposition to Goldcorp’s open-pit, cyanide leaching mines in both countries, 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/>

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