

89 bodies dug up by Aura Minerals, Canadian company in Honduras, to get at more gold

By Grahame Russell, February 14, 2018

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/89-bodies-dug-up-by-aura-minerals-canadian-company>

Even as the Honduran military and police have killed over 40 people protesting the stolen elections of November 27, 2017, Aura Minerals and MINOSA (its Honduran subsidiary) have dug up at least 89 cadavers, pressuring and paying mostly impoverished families for the “right” to move their dead.



On a number of occasions, Aura Minerals/MINOSA have dug up the “wrong bodies”, those of families who - despite harassment and repression by soldiers, police and company security guards - oppose the desecration and destruction of their 200 year old cemetery and removal of their dead.

On September 5, 2017, Aura Minerals/MINOSA - supported by Canadian authorities and investors and the Honduran government and military - began the grotesque, depraved process of trying to clear out this sacred place. Watch film clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQWtlh8XloQ>



(Photos @ Azacualpa Environmental Committee, September 6, 2017)

“Story Behind the Story: What Aura Minerals didn't want us to see in Azacualpa”

Here, a 4 minute film by Maggie Padlewska documenting how the company, soldiers and police tried to prevent a delegation of Canadians from visiting the mine and Azacualpa cemetery in 2016:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1uY6E6zs7Q>.

The attempted destruction of the Azacualpa cemetery comes after years of operation of this open-pit, cyanide-leaching gold mine that has caused health harms, deforestation, air pollution, water pollution and depletion, destruction of the local economy, repression against and ‘criminalization’ of community members, many with the Azacualpa Environmental Committee, who document and protest the harms and violations.



Pending destruction of the village of Azacualpa?

Not only do most community members want the destruction of their cemetery to stop – there are hundreds of loved ones buried there - but they know that Aura Minerals wants not only the gold under the cemetery, but also on the other side of the cemetery, up the mountain ridge, including – a few kilometers away – the village of Azacualpa.

Support needed

Since 2014, Rights Action has supported the Azacualpa Environmental Committee and their environmental, community, human rights and cemetery defense work. (More information, see below.)

Outcry?

How grotesque and harmful does Canadian-backed mining have to be, before Canadian politicians, media, investors and the industry say enough? In the name of the dead and the living in Azacualpa, share this information with family, friends, media, your politicians, etc., to keep on exposing how Canadian companies operate in other countries.

Until the people of the home country of the mining companies – Canada, in this case – hold their companies, investors and governments legally and politically accountable for environmental harms, human rights violations and repression caused by mining, these abuses – including the desecration of the dead - will continue.

Grahame Russell, director Rights Action

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Canadian authorities must publicly support the Azacualpa community members and their calls for an immediate stop to the exhumations and a suspension of all mining expansion.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Minister Chrystia Freeland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Global Affairs Canada,

chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

Ambassador James Hill, Embassy of Canada in Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua,

James.Hill@international.gc.ca, tgjpa@international.gc.ca

Canadian embassy for Honduras: Bertrand-Xavier Asselin, Bertrand-Xavier.Asselin@international.gc.ca;

Isabelle Solon Helal, Isabelle.SolonHelal@international.gc.ca; Kyle Sundstrom,

Kyle.Sundstrom@international.gc.ca

Contact your Member of Parliament and pressure them to write to make write the above offices as well:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>

Aura Minerals

Rodrigo Barbosa, President and Chief Executive Officer

William Monti Reed, Honduras mine manager

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Free Edwin Espinal and political prisoners in Honduras

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<https://freedwinespinallibertad.blogspot.com/>
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Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)

To support community organizations (like Azacualpa Environmental Committee) in Honduras and Guatemala, working for community development, the environment, human rights and justice, and for fundamental change from the local to global levels, 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

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