

<p>via fax: 011 502 2221 4423 Lic. Álvaro Colom President of the Republic</p>	<p>via fax: 011 502 2411 9326 Lic. María Encarnación Mejía de Contreras Interim Attorney General of Guatemala</p>	<p>via fax: 011 502 7760 8087 Lic. Rudy Castillo Ramirez Human Rights Office of San Marcos, Guatemala</p>
<p>via fax: 011 502 2424 1717 Dr. Sergio Fernanco Morales Alvarado Human Rights Ombudsman, Guatemala</p>	<p>via fax: 011 502 2334 0119 Sra. Ruth del Valle President of Presidential Commission for Human Rights, Guatemala</p>	

July 14, 2010

Dear Madams and Sirs:

We applaud President Colom's announcement on June 25 that, in accordance with a resolution by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Guatemalan government would suspend operations of the Goldcorp Marlin Mine in Sipacapa and San Miguel Ixtahuacán in San Marcos Department because of evidence that it causes harm to people's health and the environment. However, we continue to be deeply concerned about the continued targeting of human rights defenders for their work in defense of and promotion of human rights related to the mine.

We have faxed several letters of concern and protest to Guatemalan officials since the mining operations began with a \$45 million loan to Canadian-based Glamis Gold from the World Bank in 2005. Goldcorp acquired Marlin when bought Glamis Gold in 2006. Local residents' concerns about the impacts are: environmental (deforestation, water poisoning from cyanide, air contamination), human health (respiratory problems, skin disease, hair loss, eye problems) and social (community division and social breakdown). Protesters have also suffered direct repression.

On July 7, **Teodora Antonia Hernández Cinto** of San José Nueva Esperanza, a neighborhood of Ágel, San Miguel Ixtahuacán, was shot in the head by two young men who entered her house under false pretenses. She is part of the resistance movement in defense of indigenous rights, including land and water rights, against the Marlin Mine and the violent aggressions committed by the Montana subsidiary of Goldcorp (cf our letter of June 24, 2009). She has been threatened several times for her participation in this movement. At 11:30pm that night, shots were fired in Ágel near the houses of community members known to be in solidarity with Teodora.

On July 2 at 4:30 pm, as **Juan Méndez** was walking along the road from San Antonio to the Marlin Mine, a Pérez Transports truck labeled "Special" crossed from the other side of the road and tried to hit him. Juan Méndez, well-known for his opposition to the Marlin Mine, escaped by climbing up an embankment.

On July 5 at 6:30 pm, the **two daughters of Gregoria Crisanta Pérez**, a well-known organizer and activist, were walking home from school in the village of Ágel when a car, identified as a Montana/Goldcorp company vehicle, crossed to their side of the road with the intent of hitting them.

These incidents are clear evidence that immediate protection is needed for defenders in San Miguel Ixtahuacán, and all of Guatemala, who continue to promote and defend human rights. Therefore, **we strongly urge you to:**

- guarantee the safety of community members defending their land by opposing the Marlin Mine;
- comply with the precautionary measures prescribed by the IACHR to protect communities defending their rights;
- carry out a thorough and timely investigation of the incidents described above and bring those responsible to justice.
- hold Montana/Goldcorp responsible for any acts of intimidation, threats, and assassinations ordered by or carried out by company employees.
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Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: San Marcos, Attorney General's Office ~ via email
 Francisco Villagran de Leon, Guatemalan Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202-745-1908
 Stephen McFarland, US Ambassador to Guatemala ~ via fax: 011-502-2334-8477
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ via fax: 202-458-3992
 Brett Hamsak, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
 GHRC / USA ~ via fax: 202-526-4611
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

GHRC/7/9/10_Guatemala

The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: