

via fax: 011 502 2239 0090 Estimado Sr. Otto Pérez Molina President of the Republic of Guatemala	via fax: 011 502 2413 8658 Sr. Mauricio López Bonilla Minister of the Interior of Guatemala
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November 23, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are distressed over death threats to **two nonviolent anti-mining protesters** in San José Del Golfo municipality, Department of Guatemala. On the morning of November 13, several hundred members of the Northern Front of the Metropolitan Area (FRENAM) were participating in an ongoing demonstration to blockade the entrance to the El Tambor mining site, which covers parts of the municipalities of San José del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc. Seventy people, identifying themselves as pro-mining, approached them, insulted them, pushed them and threw water at them.

After several hours, the Human Rights Ombudsman and the Presidential Commission for Human Rights arrived to monitor the situation, negotiated with the two groups and set a distance of five meters between them.

Two of the anti-mining activists left for home on a motorbike about 4pm. When they arrived in San José del Golfo a half hour later, they were threatened by a man standing in the street, brandishing a machete and shouting “. . . I’m going to kill you.” He drove after them for several blocks until the two anti-mining activists got away.

El Tambor mine is a local wholly-owned subsidiary of Kappes, Cassidy and Associates (based in Reno, NV), which bought it from Radius Gold of Canada in August 2012. The incident described above is the latest attack on environmentalists who have maintained a protest outside the entrance to the mine since March 2012, claiming that it will pollute the water supply and that local communities were not consulted about its potential impact. On June 13, Yolanda Oqueli, a leader of FRENAM was shot while driving home from the protest at El Tambor (cf our letter of June 26 2012).

In 2011 The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples noted that, “[c]urrently in Guatemala, the business activities under way in the traditional territories of the indigenous peoples have generated a highly unstable atmosphere of social conflict, which is having a serious impact on the rights of the indigenous people and threatening the country’s governance and economic development.”

Therefore we **strongly urge that you:**

- conduct a thorough and prompt investigation into the threats made, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- provide protection to those threatened, if requested.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: UDEFEGUA ~ via email
Francisco Villagran de Leon, Guatemalan Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 745 1908
Arnold A. Chacon, US Ambassador to Guatemala ~ via fax: 011-502-2331-2348
Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ via fax: (202)458-3992
Siobhan Sheils, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email
US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

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