

GUATEMALA

Dirty Gold = Death Threats

RRN letters: February 23, 2005; July 18, 2005; April 14, 2008

RRN members have written several letters to Guatemalan officials regarding the operations of Glamis Gold (now Goldcorp) in San Marcos Department, the NW province that borders Mexico.

Leaders of groups opposing the mining—mainly for environmental reasons—have been routinely targeted with threats and assassinations. In April 2008 we wrote again on behalf of Catholic Bishop Ramazzini who is receiving renewed death threats. Bishop Ramazzini is bishop of the Catholic Diocese of San Marcos and President of the Guatemalan Bishops Conference. During the past few months Bishop Ramazzini has supported rural communities in his diocese in conflicts over land use, environmental issues related to a mining project operated by the Canadian company Goldcorp, and in raising the profile of the human rights of migrants. Bishop Ramazzini remembers April 26, 1998, when gunmen assassinated Bishop Gerardi, who headed the Catholic Church's "Recovery of the Historical Memory" (REMHI) report, *Guatemala: Never Again*, a history of the three decades of human rights violations during the country's civil war.