

InterReligious Task Force on Central America

3606 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 tel: 216.961.0003 fax: 216.961.0002 e-mail: irtf@igc.org

Via fax: (604) 696-3001 **Kevin McArthur**Goldcorp President and CEO

August 13, 2007

Dear Mr. McArthur:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, are extremely concerned for the safety and health of the mostly indigenous residents of **Sipacapa and San Miguel Ixtahuacan communities in San Marcos Department, Guatemala, affected by Goldcorp's mining activities**. We have become increasingly alarmed at your company's failure to take into account concerns of these local communities in the development of the mine and by reports of environmental damage, damaged homes, violence, and intimidation against the local communities by your company.

We are especially concerned by the possibility that Goldcorp will release a manufactured lake full of tailings from the cyanide chemical processing plant into the Cuilco River in western Guatemala, which flows downstream through Huehuetenango and into Mexico.

Our concern about Goldcorp's dangerous disposal of water from the tailings pond is based on the company's track record. In 2005, Goldcorp Inc. pleaded guilty to violating the Ontario Water Resources Act in the Ontario Court of Justice in Red Lake, for, among other charges, having discharged 110,000 cubic meters of tailings effluent to Bruce Channel of Red Lake without submitting a start-up report as required in the conditions of their Certificate of Approval.

In at least three previous letters to Glamis Gold (now known as Goldcorp), the World Bank (which funds the Goldcorp mine in San Marcos and other mining projects), and Guatemalan officials, we have urged protection for the communities surrounding mining operations, implementation of a moratorium on all mining permits until independent reviews are conducted, and investigations into the murders of local residents who protested the mines (see letters Feb 24 2005, April 11 2005, April 21 2005).

We are writing today to insist that you terminate your plans to release water from the tailings pond until an independent study, which includes the full participation of the local community and national and international environmental and human rights groups, can be completed, verifying that the water is safe to release.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai Coordinator

CC: Rights Action ~ via fax

Canadian Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development \sim via email

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns ~ via fax

President Robert B. Zoellick, World Bank ~ via fax

Jane Armitage, WB Country Director, Central America ~ via fax

Ambassador Jose Guillermo Castillo, Guatemalan Ambassador to the US ~ via fax

Ambassador James Derham, US Ambassador to Guatemala ~ via fax

Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk Officer, US State Departement ~ via fax

Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States ~ via fax

U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich ~ via email

 $U.S.\ Representatives\ Gillmor,\ Kaptur,\ Kucinich,\ LaTourette,\ Regula,\ Ryan,\ Sutton,\ Tubbs\ Jones \\ \sim via\ email$

Rights Action 8/07 Guatemala