

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, President and CEO Goldcorp Inc. Vancuver, B.C. V6C 2X8

March 26, 2008

Dear Mr. McArthur:

We are outraged that Goldcorp's Marlin Mine is planning to discharge liquid waste that is a by-product of gold extraction in San Miguel Ixtahuacán, San Marcos Department, Guatemala. This waste contains metal residue that can contaminate the the Tzalá River, which flows into the Cuilco River, which, in turn, flows into the Grijalva River that reaches as far as Mexico. The forest near the mine has already been contaminated by cyanide that is carried by the wind and burns the leaves on the trees.

We are most alarmed because the exact content of these waste materials is unknown. Many local communities use the water in the rivers contaminated by this waste, which means that the health of thousands of people is affected.

Montana Exploradora [Goldcorp's wholly owned subsidiary], had agreed to adhere to the law that states that no discharge can be made without authorization from the Department of the Environment after analysis of the quality of the water and the level of metal residues it contains.

On March 13, a technical commission made up of high-level civil servants from the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) tried to enter the Marlin Mine to take samples of the water in various parts of the Tzalá River. MARN had given prior notice of its visit through its legal representative. However, MARN was unable to take water samples because they were abusively blocked from entering the property by an American employee responsible for Montana's environment file.

We **urgently request** that you order suspension of operations of the Marlin Project until the Technical Commission under Dr. Luis Ferraté, accompanied by a Justice of the Peace and the Police, be permitted to enter the mining installations to monitor the quality of water.

In letters we have written over the past three years we have expressed our concern about the operations of Goldcorp (formerly Glamis Gold) in Central America. In our letter to you on August 13, 2007, we specifically urged you to terminate your plans to release water from the tailings pond until an independent study assuring the safety of the water is completed. **Please give us an update on that study.**

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Brian J. Stefan Szittai Coordinator

cc: Ambassador Jose Guillermo Castillo, Guatemalan Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 745 1908
Ambassador James Derham, US Ambassador to Guatemala ~ via fax: 011-502-2334-8477
Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202-458-3992
Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Kaptur, Kucinich, Latta, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

RightsAction 3/24 Guatemala

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