

# Environmental Human Rights

*IRTF envisions a world where local communities (particularly indigenous and Afro-descendant) are able to assert their right to communal lands and self-determination, especially when outsiders try to impose infrastructure or development projects. Communities are able to define the kind of development they want: economically and environmentally sustainable while maintaining cultural integrity. Their autonomy is respected by governments and corporations. The modern economic view of natural resources as something to be exploited for the sake of development or profit has been replaced with an ethic of people over profit.*

All are welcome to attend our monthly meetings at the IRTF office.

NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY, APR 29, 7-8:30PM**

video and discussion

**Water is more precious than gold.**

Why are multinational mining companies killing environmentalists in El Salvador? Why are they suing the tiny Central American nation for hundreds of millions of dollars? How can we enter into solidarity with people trying to protect their land, their air, their drinking water—their very lives?

## Industrial Degradation

### Goals

- to stop the forcible exploitation of lands and resources for profit.
- to stand with communities (particularly indigenous and Afro-descendant) as they resist exploitation to preserve their lands and resources.

## Cultural Preservation

### Goals

- to stand with communities (particularly indigenous and Afro-descendant) to secure safe space to thrive and carry forward their cultures from generation to generation.
- to stop the repression of communities (particularly indigenous and Afro-descendant) as they organize their lives according to traditional values and ways.
- To support economic ventures that preserve traditional cultures, promote environmental sustainability, and meet local human needs.

**InterReligious Task Force on Central America**  
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IRTF calls together the people of northeast Ohio to walk in solidarity with oppressed peoples of Central America and Colombia to achieve peace, justice, human rights, and systemic transformation through nonviolence.

[www.IRTFcleveland.org](http://www.IRTFcleveland.org)

