

OPEN LETTER

December 15, 2011

(list of signatories updated March 2012)

Robert Zoellick, President, World Bank
Meg Kinnear, Secretary-General, ICSID
V.V. Veeder, Tribunal president
Brigitte Stern, Tribunal member
Guido Santiago Tawil, Tribunal member

The signers of this petition represent 256 international civil society organizations representing hundreds of millions of people. We are writing out of solidarity with the communities of El Salvador that have been working through the democratic process to prevent a proposed cyanide-leach gold mining project, over well-founded fears that it threatens to poison the local communities' environment as well as the country's most important river and source of water.

Rather than complying with the environmental permitting process of El Salvador, Pacific Rim launched an attack under the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Pacific Rim is demanding compensation from the government of El Salvador that could rise to hundreds of millions of dollars. In an abuse of process designed to qualify for jurisdiction under DR-CAFTA, Pacific Rim moved its subsidiary from the Cayman Islands to Nevada in the United States. The case will be decided by a tribunal at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), associated with the World Bank.

Pacific Rim is using ICSID and the investor-state rules in a free trade agreement to subvert a democratic nationwide debate over mining and sustainability in El Salvador. These matters should not be decided by an ICSID arbitration tribunal. In the course of Pacific Rim's intervention in the political affairs of El Salvador, four anti-mining activists have been murdered in the project area.

We stand with these communities and the government of El Salvador in their demand that their domestic governance processes and national sovereignty be respected, and thus that this case be dismissed. We stand on the side of democracy.

Sincerely,

International networks:

1. International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
2. Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y el Caribe (ATALC)
3. Convergencia de Movimientos de los Pueblos de las Américas

4. International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM)
5. International Forum on Globalization
6. Jubileo Sur / Americas
7. Movimiento Mesoamericano contra el Modelo Extractivo Minero (M4)
8. People's Health Movement
9. People's Health Movement in Europe
10. Public Services International

United States:

11. AFL - CIO
12. Alliance for Global Justice
13. American Federation of Teachers
14. American Jewish World Service
15. Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM)
16. Brazilian Immigrant Center
17. Brooklyn for Peace
18. Campaign for Labor Rights
19. Casa El Salvador
20. CEIG Boulder-Communities Engaged in Global Justice
21. Center for International and Environmental Law
22. Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)
23. Citizens Trade Campaign
24. Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
25. Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
26. Communications Workers of America (CWA)
27. Community Service Organization (CSO)
28. Cumberland Countians for Peace & Justice and Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility of United Church of Christ
29. Denver Justice & Peace Committee
30. Department of Sociology and Anthropology, St. Olaf College
31. Doctors for Global Health, USA
32. Due Process of Law Foundation – USA
33. Earth Economics
34. Farm Labor Organizing Committee
35. Food and Water Watch
36. Food First
37. Friends of the Earth
38. Gender Action
39. Global Community Rights Framework Initiative
40. Global Exchange
41. Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
42. Global Justice for Animals and the Environment
43. Global-Local Links Project
44. Grassroots Global Justice
45. Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA
46. Holy Cross International Justice Office
47. Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project
48. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
49. International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
50. International Brotherhood of Teamsters
51. International Labor Rights Forum
52. International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)
53. International Longshoremen's Association
54. Jobs with Justice Massachusetts
55. Jubilee Oregon
56. Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
57. Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State
58. LASC Milwaukee
59. Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA).
60. MAIZ

61. Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice
62. Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network
63. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
64. Maryland Presbyterian Church
65. Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
66. Midwest Coalition against Lethal Mining
67. Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition
68. Mingas NY
69. National Lawyers Guild International Committee
70. New Rules for Global Finance Coalition
71. New York Whale and Dolphin Action League
72. Nicaragua Network
73. NY4whales.org
74. Occupy Wall Street Trade Justice Working Group
75. Office of the Americas
76. Oregon Fair Trade Campaign
77. Oregon New Sanctuary Movement
78. Power in Community Alliances (PICA)
79. Public Citizen
80. Rights Action
81. Salvadoran American National Association (SANA)
82. Saint Louis Inter Faith Committee on Latin America
83. SANIPLAN
84. Service Employees International Union
85. SHARE Foundation - El Salvador
86. Sierra Club
87. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas--Institute Justice Team
88. SOAW Boulder-School of the Americas Watch
89. Sociologists Without Borders
90. Southern California Immigration Coalition (SCIC),
91. Texas Trade Fair Coalition
92. TradeJustice New York Metro
93. TransAfrica Forum
94. United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)
95. United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society
96. United Mine Workers of America (UMWA)
97. United Steelworkers
98. United Steelworkers District 7
99. US Labor Education in the Americas Project (USLEAP)
100. Voices on the Border
101. Washington Ethical Society Global Connections
102. Washington Fair Trade Coalition
103. Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
104. Wetlands Activism Collective
105. Witness for Peace
106. Working Families Win

El Salvador and US-El Salvador Binational Groups:

107. Arlington - Teocinte Sister City Project
108. Asociación de Comunidades para el Desarrollo de Chalatenango (CCR)
109. Asociación de Desarrollo Económico y Social, Santa Marta (ADES)
110. Asociación para el Desarrollo de El Salvador (CRIPDES)
111. Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network
112. Austin - Guajoyo Sister City Project
113. Bangor - Carasque Sister City Project
114. Binghamton-El Charcon Sister City Project
115. Cambridge, MA. El Salvador Sister City Committee
116. Capitulo Salvadoreño de la Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (CPIDHDD),

117. Centro de Estudios y Apoyo Laboral, CEAL
118. Centro de Investigación sobre Inversión y Comercio (CEICOM)
119. Chicago - Cinquera Sister Cities
120. Comité Internacional contra la Explotación Minera
121. El Salvador Sistering Committee
122. Focus Central America, Wichita, KS
123. Friends of Chilama
124. FUDESCA
125. Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación de Derechos (FESPAD)
126. Madison Arcatao Sister City Project
127. Mesa Nacional frente a la Minería Metálica en El Salvador
128. Mesa Permanente por la Justicia Laboral (FESPAD)
129. Movimiento Nacional en Defensa de la Tierra (MOVITIERRA)
130. Movimiento Unificado Francisco Sánchez 1932 (MUFRAS 32)
131. Oberlin in Solidarity with El Salvador (OSES)
132. Red de Acción Ciudadana frente al Libre Comercio frente al Libre Comercio e Inversión Sinti Techan
133. SITRASACOSI
134. UNES, Unidad Ecologica Salvadoreña
135. Watertown-El Salvador Sister City Group

Canada:

136. Breaking the Silence Solidarity Network
137. Canadian Labour Congress
138. Canadian Union of Public Employees
139. Coalition québécoise sur les impacts socio-environnementaux des transnationales en Amérique Latine (Coalition QUISETAL)
140. Comité pour les Droits Humaines en Amérique Latine (CDHAL)
141. Committee to Support Social Development in El Salvador
142. Common Frontiers
143. Conseilleres en Gestion Praxis
144. Council of Canadians
145. International Human Rights Clinic of the University of Quebec at Montreal
146. MiningWatch Canada
147. Partners in Mission Unit, The United Church of Canada
148. Peace and Justice Committee, Grace Mennonite Church
149. Polaris Institute
150. RightOnCanada
151. Rights Action
152. Salvadorian Canadian Association of Ottawa and National Capital Region (ASCORCAN)
153. SalvAide
154. Social Justice Committee of Montreal
155. United Steelworkers Canada Office

Other Countries (alphabetical, by country):

156. DIÁLOGO 2000, Argentina
157. Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (FOCO), Argentina
158. Public Health Association of Australia, Australia
159. Informationsgruppe Lateinamerika – IGLA, Austria
160. 11.11.11, Belgium
161. Broderlijk Delen, Belgium
162. Democracy Center, Bolivia
163. Fundacion Solón, Bolivia
164. Amigos de la Tierra, Brazil
165. Associação de Favelas de São Jose dos Campos - SP - Brasil, Brazil
166. Ecosistemas, Chile
167. Consejo de Defensa de la Patagonia, Chile
168. Asociación Campesina de Desarrollo Sostenible - ASCADES, Colombia
169. Asociación Campesina Huerto Renacer Sucre Cauca, Colombia
170. Asociación Consejo Regional del Pueblo Nasa del Putumayo KWE'SX KXXA'W, Colombia

171. Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Sostenible Perla Amazónica - ADISPA Putumayo, Colombia
172. Asociación de Productores y Procesadores Camino al Futuro - ASPROCAF-Putumayo, Colombia
173. Asociación de Productores y Procesadores Semillas de Paz - ASPROSEPAZ-Putumayo, Colombia
174. Asociación familiar de víctimas de ejecuciones extrajudicial sembradores de paz, Colombia
175. Asociación familias desplazadas del municipio de Argelia Cauca, Colombia
176. Censat Agua Viva - Amigos de la Tierra Colombia, Colombia
177. Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz, Colombia
178. Comunidad de Autodeterminación Vida y Dignidad (CAVIDA), Colombia
179. Comunidad de Vida y Trabajo la Balsita- DABEIBA – Antioquia, Colombia
180. Comunidad Indígena Nonan - Resguardo Santarosa De Guayacan - Valle del Cauca, Colombia
181. Comunidades Indígenas Embera del Resguardo Urada Jiguamiando, Colombia
182. Consejo Comunitario De La Comunidad Negra Del Rio Naya- Valle del Cauca, Colombia
183. Consejos comunitarios asociados en ZH y ZB de Curbaradó y Jiguamiandó, Colombia
184. Escuela de Derechos Humanos Ullucos, Resguardo san Francisco Toribío- Cauca, Colombia
185. Grupo Autoayuda Los Andes Colombia - Alemania, Colombia
186. Grupo de Jóvenes Raíces de Dignidad Perla Amazónica – JURADIPA Asociación Campesina Bienandante Sucre Cauca, Colombia
187. Jóvenes Unidos Por El Bienestar Del Calima Jubca - Valle del Cauca, Colombia
188. Zona de Biodiversidad Buena Vista-Putumayo, Colombia
189. Zona de Biodiversidad El Triunfo-Putumayo, Colombia
190. Zona de Biodiversidad La Gurrera-Putumayo Pueblo Kamëntsä Alto Putumayo Grupo Porvenir, Colombia
191. Zona de Reserva Campesina Perla Amazónica-Putumayo, Colombia
192. Asociación Agroecológica Esther Cayapu – Trujillo, Colombia
193. Asociación Agroecológica Koinonía – Trujillo, Colombia
194. Asociación Agroecológica Asavip - Trujillo, Colombia
195. COECOCEIBA-Amigos de la Tierra, Costa Rica
196. Comisión Nacional de Enlace (CNE), Costa Rica
197. Colectivo Mujeres APE, Ecuador
198. Ecuador Decide, Ecuador
199. Jubileo 2000, Red Ecuador, Ecuador
200. Observatorio de Conflictos Mineros de América Latina (OCMAL), Ecuador
201. ATTAC Finland, Finland
202. France Amerique Latine (FAL), France
203. Asociación de Maestros de Educación Rural de Guatemala, Guatemala
204. Asociación Q'anil, Guatemala
205. Ceiba/Amigos de la Tierra Guatemala, Guatemala
206. Consejo de Investigaciones e Información en Desarrollo CIID, Guatemala
207. Comité Regional Ambientalista, Valle de Siria, Honduras
208. Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras (COPINH), Honduras
209. Movimiento Madre Tierra Honduras, Honduras
210. Humanist Party of Iceland, Iceland
211. ATTAC, Japan, Japan
212. Japan Network on Debt & Poverty (DebtNet), Japan
213. Kamukunji Paralegal Trust (KAPLET), Kenya
214. Alianza Mexicana por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos (AMAP), Mexico
215. Alianza por el Derechos a un Medio Ambiente Sano, Chiapas, Mexico
216. Asociación de Usuarios del Agua de Saltillo AUAS, Mexico
217. Centro de Estudios de la Región Cuicateca, Oaxaca, Mexico
218. Centro Mexicano de Justicia Ambiental (CMJA), Mexico
219. Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C., Mexico
220. Coalición de Organizaciones Mexicanas por el Derecho al Agua (COMDA), Mexico
221. Colectivo Cultural Corazon de Piedra Verde, Mexico
222. Colectivo de artesanos Urbanos manos que Hablan, Mexico
223. Instituto Mexicano de Desarrollo Comunitario (IMDEC), Mexico
224. La Ventana/Oaxaca, Mexico
225. Medio Ambiente y Sociedad A.C., Mexico
226. Movimiento Agrarista Indígena Zapatista MAIZ, Mexico
227. Movimiento Mexicano contra las Represas (MAPDER), Mexico
228. Otros Mundos, A.C./Amigos de la Tierra México, Mexico
229. Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC), Mexico
230. Red Mexicana de Afectados por la Minería (REMA), Mexico

- 231.Revuelta Verde/Marea Creciente, Mexico
- 232.Servicio paz y Justicia De tabasco, Mexico
- 233.Servicios para una Educación Alternativa AC (EDUCA)/ Oaxaca, Mexico
- 234.Union de Comunidades Indigenas de la Zona Norte del Istmo (UCIZONI-Mexico), Mexico
- 235.ASEED Europe, Netherlands
- 236.Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO), Netherlands
- 237.Transnational Institute, Netherlands
- 238.Centro Alexander von Humboldt, Nicaragua
- 239.Movimiento Social Nicaraguense Otro mundo es Posible, Nicaragua
- 240.Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre, Nigeria
- 241.Norwegian Solidarity Committee for Latin America, Norway
- 242.Asociación de Defensa de la Vida, Peru
- 243.Cooperación, Peru
- 244.Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), Phillipines
- 245.Africando, Spain
- 246.Asociación Catalana de Ingeniería sin Fronteras, Spain
- 247.Colectivo El Salvador Elkartasuna, Spain
- 248.Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
- 249.Nousud Cooperación Internacional, Spain
- 250.Plataforma de Solidaridad con Chiapas y Guatemala de Madrid, Spain
- 251.People´s Health Movement (PHM), Sri Lanka
- 252.Sweden - America Latina (SAL), Sweden
- 253.Focus on the Global South, Thailand
- 254.Corner House, UK
- 255.Environmental Network for Central America, UK
- 256.REDES - Amigos de la Tierra, Uruguay

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