

285 individuals and national and international organizations send solidarity message to La Puya on its 8th Anniversary of peaceful resistance to transnational mining in its territory.

The Americas/Europe

March 8, 2020

On March 2nd, the Peaceful Resistance 'La Puya' celebrates eight years of struggle against the El Tambor/Progreso VII Derivada gold mining project in the municipalities of San José de Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc. This project is owned by Nevada-based Kappes, Cassidy & Associates (KCA) whose Guatemalan subsidiary is Exploraciones Mineras de Guatemala (EXMINGUA).

For eight years, your struggle has been an example and an inspiration to many human rights defenders in Guatemala and around the world!

Confronted with an illegal mining project on your territory – which does not have the community's consent nor a construction license – and that puts your water and environment in danger... you responded with a peaceful encampment known as "La Puya" with a community of Maya Indigenous people and mestizo neighbours. Confronted with the efforts of police and riot police to evict you... you responded with peaceful resistance; with masses, ceremonies, cultural activities, and 24-hour shifts, maintaining the encampment day after day for eight years. Confronted with insults, lies, intimidation, threats, criminalization and brutal attacks with tear gas, blows, and bullets... you responded with song, prayer, unity and dignity. Confronted with a state that refuses to hear you or to understand your concerns, your reasons, your demands and that has supported the company and all of its irregularities... you responded with organization, information and legal action.

And now, after achieving the suspension of the mine in the courts and, despite the company being under investigation in Guatemala or illegal exploitation of natural resources, KCA has brought international litigation against the Guatemalan state for US\$350 million dollars or 2.7 billion quetzales. Confronted with so much greed... you continue to be present, denouncing this injustice and seeking the common good.

Despite being weary and despite many tears and much pain... you have never given up! You never stopped resisting with your faith, ideals and non-violence!

You have defended land, water, health and the well-being of your families and communities. You have defended self-determination and life itself. This flame of hope that has remained lit for eight years speaks to us of dignity, strength and love for Mother Earth. It is the greatest tool we have to save the earth from pillage and the horrendous greed of big business and transnational capital.

As global citizens, we send our greetings to recognize and thank you deeply for your struggle, your dignity, and your resistance. You help to make this planet a healthier place to live and give us a dignified example to follow. We are with you! Your struggle is our struggle.

Long live the peaceful and legitimate resistance La Puya!
Long live the women, men, youth, and children in the communities of San José de Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc!

With admiration,

Acción Colectiva Socioambiental, A.C.
Amicus Foundation
Asociación B'elejeb' Tz'i'
Asociación Bufete Jurídico Popular de Rabinal
Asociación Civil no Lucrativa para el Desarrollo Custodios d3l Bosque
Asociación Comunitaria para el Desarrollo - SERJUS
Asociación de Guatemaltecos sin Fronteras DMV
Asociación Qachuu Aloom
BC CASA/Cafe Justicia Canada
Bios Iguana A.C.
Bufete Jurídico de los Derechos Humanos
Bufete Justicia para los Pueblos
Bufete Para Pueblos Indígenas
Business and Human Rights Resource Center
Cabildo por las Mujeres de Cuenca
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos (CALDH)
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America
Christian Peacemaker Teams
Colectiva Actoras de Cambio
Colectivo CASA
Colectivo Vida Independiente de Guatemala
Colectivo Voces Ecológicas COVEC
Comisión Internacional de Juristas
Comité Campesino del Altiplano CCDA
Committee for Human Rights in Latin America (CDHAL)
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)

Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras COPINH

Consejo de pueblos Wuhxtaj

Consejo Tiyat Tlali

Coordinadora de Organizaciones Populares del Aguán COPA

COPA Honduras

Denver Justice and Peace Committee

Earthworks

Ecologistas Extremadura

Elders for Environmental Justice

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Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación (ERIC)

Estonian Forest Aid (Eesti Metsa Abiks)

Festivales Solidarios

Franciscan Action Network

FRENTE POPULAR EN DEFENSA DEL SOCONUSCO

Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland

Fundación Guillermo Toriello

Fundación San Alonso Rodríguez (FSAR)

Geocomunes

GHRC-USA

Global Exchange

Global Justice Rebellion UK

Guatemala Community Network, Toronto, Canada.

Hijos por la Identidad y la Justicia contra el Olvido y el Silencio H.I.J.O.S. Guatemala

Iglesias Hermanas

Institute for Policy Studies - Global Economy Program

Iximulew 2030

JASS (Just Associates)

Jpic latino parroquia San Camilo

Justicia Ya

Latin America Task Force of Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice

M4 - Movimiento mesoamericano en contra del modelo minero

Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network

Mesa Territorial Foro del Agua Morazan El Salvador

Migrant Roots Media

mines,minerals & PEOPLE

Mining Injustice Solidarity Network
Mining Justice Action Committee
MiningWatch Canada
Mojomayas
Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia
MOVIMIENTO ECOLOGISTA DE MUJERES DEL SUR
Movimiento Nacional Ambientalista Frente a la Minería Industrial
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OCMAL
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Oregon State University
Plataforma Agraria
Plataforma Salvemos la Montaña de Cáceres
Procesos Integrales para la Autogestión de los Pueblos
Red de Educadoras y Educadores Populares de Guatemala, Red K´at
Red Guatemala-Suiza de Berna
Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales.
Red Mexicana de Afectadas y Afectados por la Minería (REMA)
Rights Action
Sisters of Mercy of the America's
SOA WATCH
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The Gaia Foundation
The Human Rights Defenders Project
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Unión Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas (UNAMG)
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Voces y Manos
Voluntariado Internacional en Intag
Washington Ethical Society
Yasunidos Guapondelig - Ecuador

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