

C U S J

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

A national faith-based organization founded in support of Unitarian values

P.O. Box 40011, Ottawa, ON, K1V 0W8

President, Katharine Im-Jenkins
president.cusj@gmail.com

Mr. Thomas C. Shrake,
President and CEO,
Pacific Rim Mining Corporation,
#1050 - 625 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC,
Canada V6C 2T6

April 19, 2010

Dear Mr Shrake;

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice has written to you before regarding our concerns about Pacific Rim's El Dorado gold mining project in El Salvador. We have continued to follow developments in the region. It appears that both the local communities and the Government of El Salvador consider this project environmentally, socially and economically undesirable. At this particular time, we are writing to you again because we are disturbed by the recent assassinations of anti-mining activists, Marcelo Rivera, Ramiro Rivera, Felícita Echevarría and Dora Alicia Sorto Recinos, and by the death threats received by outspoken opponents of mining, such as the staff of Radio Victoria. We have heard that many local residents believe that this wave of violence is a result of Pacific Rim's presence in the Cabañas region.

We urge the Pacific Rim Board of Directors to recognize the social conflict that the proposed mine is causing and:

- Instead of trying to force the government of El Salvador to your point of view with a law suit, meet with that government in a spirit of collaboration and try to resolve your differences to the satisfaction of all parties. The opinions of a sovereign government are to be respected, and the risks to the environment for the people of El Salvador are both serious and critically important to the vitality of both the human and the natural communities.
- Respect the right of a sovereign government to refuse your development until they are completely satisfied it is safe.
- Given all the efforts you promise to be making to protect against water pollution and environmental damage from cyanide, investigate why children and cattle are already dying in the area and what problems your activities may be causing.

RE: Concerns about assassinations of protestors:

- Cooperate fully with the official investigations surrounding the murders of Dora Alicia Sorto Recinos, Felícita Echevarría, Ramiro Rivera and Marcelo Rivera, providing full disclosure about all monetary transactions you have conducted with community members and local government officials. Show that you fully support legitimate and legal processes and that you do not condone illegal processes in conflict resolution.

The behaviour of Canadian companies abroad represents Canadians and reflects on Canadian values in the world. We look to our Corporate citizens to set a high standard in how we treat people in foreign countries and how we respect the environment in other lands. We look forward to hearing what actions your company will take to improve your relations with the community of El Salvador.

Sincerely,

Katharine Im-Jenkins
President
CUSJ

Cc Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Peter Van Loan, Minister of International Trade
Peter Kent, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas)
Christian Paradis, Minister of Natural Resources
Peter Julian, MP for Burnaby-New Westminster (author of Bill C-354)
John McKay, MP Scarborough-Guildwood (author of Bill C-300)