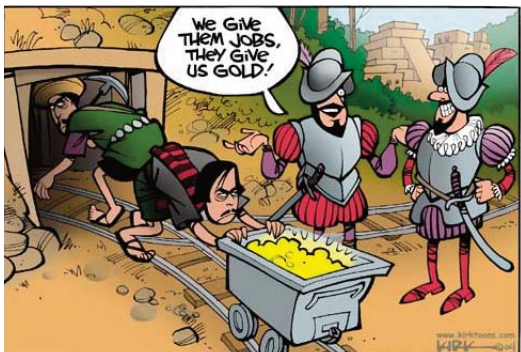


CAFTA's Golden SWINDLE

the ugly truth about Pacific Rim and Commerce Group

North American gold mining companies Pacific Rim and Commerce Group are suing the Salvadoran government for \$177 million, under the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).



EARLY CENTRAL AMERICAN Free Trade Agreement
Cartoon by Kirk Anderson

Chapter 10 of CAFTA, the investor protections provision, allows corporations to sue governments in the name of "profit infringement."

The Salvadoran government is already deeply in debt due to the economic destruction caused by CAFTA and other free trade policies "encouraged" by the US government. Pacific Rim is nearly bankrupt, having never received any permit to extract gold in El Salvador. Their financial strategy is to sue El Salvador--an extremely poor nation--to stay in business.

Local Mining Resistance

Salvadoran communities have been organizing for years to keep foreign mines out of their lands. They have united to form strong grassroots organizations such as the National Coalition Against Metallic Mining to protect their communities from the environmental devastation and rampant water contamination caused by extractive mining.

"Mining, as such, is incompatible with development and with life. Therefore, it is a national threat."

— National Coalition Against Mining



"No material advantage can be compared with the value of human life."

—Conference of Bishops of the Catholic Church in El Salvador, on Pacific Rim's El Dorado mine

Violence Surrounds El Dorado Mine in Cabañas

A string of bad luck for anti-mining activists? Or is Pacific Rim fighting to the death?

June 18, 2009: Prominent local anti-mining activist Marcelo Rivera is disappeared. His body is found 11 days later in the bottom of a well, with clear signs of torture.

December 20, 2009: Ramiro Rivera, vice-president of the Environmental Committee of Cabañas is gunned down in front of his daughter, despite being under 24-hour police protection since being shot eight times in August. His neighbor Felicita Echeverría was also killed in the attack.

December 26, 2009: Dora Alicia Sorto Recinos, member of the same Environmental Committee, was killed while doing laundry in a stream by her house. She was eight months pregnant and carrying her two year old child.

Death threats against community leaders, the staff at Radio Victoria and Father Luis Quintanilla continue.

Join the struggle against these greedy, corporate gold diggers!

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) has joined the struggle against Pacific Rim, Commerce Group and CAFTA, and WE NEED YOU! Side by side with the Salvadoran anti-mining movement, we are fighting these outrageous lawsuits and condemning the heinous acts of violence against Salvadoran activists. **Contact your local chapter to join the struggle!**

