



Tell Condor Gold to stop harassing families who don't want industrial mining in Mina la India, Nicaragua.

We, the below signed organizations, would like to express our outrage at the actions of Condor Gold, a UK-based mining company attempting to open an open pit mine in the community of Santa Cruz de la India in Leon, Nicaragua.

Seven community leaders from the municipality of Santa Rosa del Peñon, in the province of Leon, Nicaragua, are currently facing charges of aggravated damages brought forward by representatives of La India Gold SA, a subsidiary of UK based Condor Gold.

According to the company's allegations, the leaders in question destroyed company property during a protest in the community of Santa Cruz de la India on May 27th. However, members of Santa Cruz de la India Communal Movement, a group that has emerged as the main local opposition to Condor Gold's La India mining project, argue that employees of the company were trespassing on community owned land that was illegally granted for exploration. Community members also expressed concerns about the risks the eventual excavations would pose for families living in the surrounding area.

The actions of the company represent the latest escalation against members of a community movement that since 2011 has denounced attempts by Condor Gold to set up operations at La India Mine despite relentless opposition from more than 300 families who will face displacement should the project proceed.

A letter released by the leaders of the movement in early June denounced the company's intimidation campaign to force local families to concede their property titles to give way to exploration activities. They blame the company for generating divisions in the community, spreading false information about the benefits of mining, working in complicity with local authorities to deny access to public services such as electricity, water, and credit to those who oppose the mine, and for promoting the criminalization of public protest.

The Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights, CENIDH, has expressed concerns about the actions of the company and the anomalies in the case proceedings at the local court. These include the admission of fabricated charges, the disproportionate sentencing in relation to the alleged crime, and lack of due process. "These legal actions amount to the criminalization of the exercise of human rights such as the right to protest, freedom of expression, and the defense of the territory" states a publication released by CENIDH in early June.

As civil society organizations that are concerned about the impacts of mining, we want to

express our solidarity with the families affected by the actions of Condor Gold and join the Santa Cruz de la India Communal movement in demanding that:

The company:

- Immediately withdraws the false accusations made against community leaders Norlan Ulises Laguna Sánchez, Miguel Ángel Laguna Sánchez, Rafael Ángel Penado Salazar, Bernardo Laguna Vega, Juan Mauricio Rugama Mesa, Olman Onel Salazar Umanzor, and José Denis Flores Valverde.
- Take measures to address the damage already done to the local public infrastructure.
- Desist in its intentions to exploit La India Mina.

The Nicaraguan government:

- Dismiss the case brought forward against the seven community leaders in the municipality of Santa Rosa del Peñón.
- Cancel the exploration concessions granted to Condor Gold SA and La India Gold S.A.
- Ensure compliance with the Nicaraguan Constitution and other laws to bring peace and security of the people of Mina la India.
- Execute public works in order to guarantee access to a clean, potable water for the community

We call on all organizations and social movements to join in this demand by signing the petition form below.

NO A LA MINERIA, SI A LA VIDA!

Supporting organizations:

Catapa / Belgium
Christian Initiative Romero (CIR) / Germany
CEHPRODEC / Honduras
Centro Humboldt / Nicaragua
Colectivo Madre Selva / Guatemala
CRIPDES / El Salvador
FEMNET / Germany
FDCL / Germany
GegenStrömung / Germany
INKOTA-netzwerk e.V. / Germany
London Mining Network / United Kingdom
Ongd AFRICANDO / Spain
Red Familiares Migrantes Managua / Nicaragua
Salva la Selva / Spain