



Press Release

No to the Cerro del Gallo Mining Project in the Cradle of Independence

The **Canadian company Argonaut Gold** intends to exploit its **Cerro del Gallo Project** in the immediate vicinity of the **Cradle of Independence**. If realized, the project would encompass a **total area of more than 20,000 hectares (494,210.763 acres)** and the **extracted minerals would be benefited with sodium cyanide by means of the heap leach technique** that usually causes **serious damage to the health** of the nearby populations as well as the **use and contamination of large amounts of water**.

In the **context of overexploitation, depletion and geological pollution of the "Aquifer of the Independencia"**, the **hoarding of large volumes of underground water concessions by companies** and the **acute shortage for the inhabitants of rural communities**, the **canadian mining company Argonaut Gold** intends to start operations of its Cerro del Gallo Project, located in the territory of the community of San Antón de las Minas, a few kilometers south of the City of Dolores Hidalgo.

The **Project** is located within the **Cuenca de la Independencia**, a territory so named because it forms part of a **single subterranean Aquifer, as has been demonstrated** by studies carried out since 1998 by the **Center of Geosciences of the UNAM** (National Autonomous University of Mexico), although the Guanajuato state Water Commission does not recognize like this. **This Aquifer covers the territory of seven municipalities** in the north of Guanajuato, from **San Felipe, Dolores Hidalgo, San Diego de la Unión, San Luis de la Paz, Doctor Mora, San José Iturbide and San Miguel de Allende**. The **overexploitation of the Aquifer is so serious that water is being taken beyond the limits of sustainable extraction**; this is verified with the **wells** that exist in the region that reach between **400 and 700 meters deep**. The water extracted at those depths, contains an **excess of chemical elements such as arsenic and fluoride**, which are **highly harmful to the health of the entire population**.

If the **Cerro del Gallo Mining Project** begins to operate, **the risks for the inhabitants would multiplied exponentially** as it would immediately generate **serious effects on the ecological balance of the area**, as indeed it is happening in all **open pit mines that are in the national territory**, as it had happened every time; **in addition the extracting of large quantities of water**, which is already insufficient for human consumption and activities of the peasant families, **it would wipe out a complete hill, as happened with the emblematic Cerro de San Pedro, in San Luis**

Potosí, leaving in its place a **huge crater**; In addition, the **process of cyanization** of the enormous amounts of material extracted, with the purpose of separating minerals, **would generate very serious effects of pollution affecting all types of life.**

For these reasons, the **inhabitants of the communities near the Cerro del Gallo Project have expressed their absolute rejection to the mining of Argonaut Gold**, since it would lead to the **violation of their human rights**, the **involuntary displacement of many inhabitants**, **negatively impact their economy**, and **compromise the quality of life of the families in the present and in the future.** Given this conviction, **the communities themselves demand Municipal Government of Dolores Hidalgo that does not grant any type of permits and / or authorizations** to the **Argonaut Gold company** for its **Cerro del Gallo Project.**

July 8, 2019

**Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato
CRADLE OF INDEPENDENCE OF MEXICO**

ATTENTIVELY

Communities Opposed to the Cerro del Gallo Mining Project

**SANTA BARBARA | CERRITO DE GUADALUPE | LA COLMENA | EL DURAZNO
| PALACIO DE ABAJO | EL POTRERO DE GUADALUPE | SAN JOSÉ DE LA
CAMPANA | SAN JOSÉ DE LA PALMA | EL LLANITO | LA VENTILLA | SAN
ISIDRO EL SISOTE | SAN MARCOS | PURISIMA DE CEBOLLETAS | CABAÑA
DE SAN JERÓNIMO | LA TINAJA**

**HERMANDAD DE LA CUENCA DE LA INDEPENDENCIA
ACCIÓN COLECTIVA SOCIOAMBIENTAL, A.C.
RED MEXICANA DE AFECTADAS/OS POR LA MINERÍA**