

Public Statement from the Affected Communities about the Danger of Mineral Exploitation in the North of the Department of Chalatenango

To the national government, and especially to the Ministries of the Economy and Environment; to the international community; and to the mining company Martinique S.A. and others

We declare the following:

Being informed about the problems that mineral exploitation generates, projects that are attempts against the life and health of humans due to environmental contamination of rivers and waters; to the contamination of the air with the destruction of the forests, hills, and lands; and because of the social problems that are generated from division, prostitution, vices and sicknesses such as AIDS and others.

Being informed that the offers of betterment are false promises, and surprised that all the benefits will leave the Country; without leaving real benefits for our Communities; aware that they want to take our riches and leave us destruction and problems.

We declare our total and energetic rejection to the introduction of mining projects in our region, declaring that these lands are the fruit that has been left us after twelve years of war suffered in El Salvador because of the great social injustice that reigned here, evidenced by the fact that we as farmers did not have land, amongst other injustices.

These lands are ours due to the blood of the people of Chalatenango and fruits of the peace accords under the land transference program that was achieved through the solidarity of many countries and committees.

If the company continues insisting, ignoring our decision, we reserve the right to take the necessary measures to defend our lands and natural resources, our right to life and the right to life of our future generations.

FOR THE RIGHT TO LIFE
ORGANIZATION AND STRUGGLE

NO TO MINERAL EXPLOITATION

Signed: Association of Communities for the Development of Chalatenango: CCR; Associations for Communal Development (Adescos) of San José Las Flores; San Antonio Los Ranchos; San Isidro; Los Amates; Guarjila; Ignacio Ellacuría; Nueva Trinidad; Carasque; Arcatao; Potrerillos; Nombre de Jesús; Las Vueltas; La Ceiba;
Municipal Councils of: Arcatao; Nueva Trinidad; San Isidro; Nombre de Jesús; San José Las Flores; San Antonio Los Ranchos.
Parish of Arcatao; Nueva Trinidad; Nombre de Jesús; San José Las Flores; Sisters of Assumption; Oblatas of the Sacred Heart.