

Blackfire Exploration, "To: President of the Honourable Congress of the State of Chiapas". June 15, 2009. [translation] Blackfire Complaint to Chiapas Congress.doc

C: PRESIDENT OF THE HONOURABLE  
CONGRESS OF THE STATE OF CHIAPAS

[STAMPED] Received June 15, 2009

General Coordinating Agency for Citizen Relations of the Executive Branch of the State of Chiapas

[Can't see the top of the document – is it directed to all elected members and copied to the president?]

TIME: [Stamped] 11:00 hours  
Tuxla Gutierrez, Chiapas

ARTEMIO AVILA CERVERA, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE LIMITED LIABILITY VARIABLE STOCK CORPORATION "BLACKFIRE EXPLORATION MEXICO", most respectfully present to you:

By means of this document we ask this honourable Congress of Chiapas to kindly intervene given that a group of vandals, encouraged by the mayor of the municipality of Chicomuselo, Chiapas, arguing that the Chiapas State government has failed to undertake promised infrastructure projects, has used violence to take possession of our property used for mining and transporting a mineral known as barite. They are: Roselio Ramírez Roblero, Mario Pérez Ramírez, Mariano Pérez Roblero who this day stand accused before the State Attorney General for Justice for the crimes of conspiracy, incitement to violence, property damage, theft, damage to roadways and illegal detention. In addition, we submit that we have been the object of extortion by the mayor of Chicomuselo who, since the initiation of our operations, has demanded 10,000 pesos a month (ten thousand pesos a month 00/100) in order that, according to him, the *ejido* where the barite we extract is found not take up arms which has generated direct employment for 60 Chiapas residents in addition to indirect jobs. However, the mayor has become increasingly abusive in the manner in which he asks favours of the company, and has requested on various occasions airline tickets to Mexico City for him, his wife and his children and some one of his collaborators; requests that we have granted. But this has reached ridiculous proportions, sirs, as he has asked us for the sum of one hundred thousand pesos for the local fair, of which seventy-five thousand were deposited to the Mayor's personal account in Bancomer and twenty-five thousand in the name of another person who, according to the mayor, was the president of the board of the community fair. Moreover, he also asked us to have the celebrity Niurka perform at the Chicomuselo Fair, and to contract her to have a sexual night with said mayor. Faced with such demands, we decided to grant no more of his requests. As a result, the mayor has begun a smear campaign, allying himself with the local priest against the company and we know that he is encouraging the people who, through violent means, have taken over our company's facilities since June 10<sup>th</sup> this year. Faced with such a situation, we look to you, sirs, to intervene so that foreign investors in Chiapas do not leave our State because of unscrupulous people such as the mayor. We would mention that our company was invited by the Governor through his current Tourism Secretary who travelled to the republic of Canada to extend the invitation and bring a modernization project to Chiapas. Every day that the company is not running its mining operations and transport of barite, which is fundamentally important for Mexico's petroleum sector, it loses approximately 250,000 thousand pesos a month <sup>(sic)</sup>, revenues that are needed to pay the workers' salaries and cover ongoing operating expenses. Given the current situation, we urgently request a resolution of this problem, and if this cannot be achieved through political means, the use of legal measures to ensure that the

rule of law prevails in Chiapas. We have filed the corresponding complaint to this end and we ask you to kindly direct instructions to the State Attorney General of Justice; and that he apply the appropriate legal procedures and request an order as soon as possible to end the takeover of our company's mining facilities that this day are under the control of pseudo leaders. Attached to document is proof of the extortion carried out against our company by the aforementioned mayor of Chicomuselo. This has led us to ask that a political process be undertaken to remove him from office.