

## **'On the Road for Justice' speaking tour brings attention to Canada's role in Guatemala mining conflict**

March 2014

Tahoe Resources' Escobal silver project in the municipality of San Rafael Las Flores, southeastern Guatemala, is the subject of local opposition and ongoing legal processes. Community leaders have faced repression, criminalization and violence for their efforts to promote community consultation processes. Despite the conflict - or perhaps because of it -, Tahoe has rushed to put the mine into operation even before establishing reliable mineral reserves. It reportedly put its underground mine into operation in January 2014.

- **Tahoe lacks a social license for the mine.**
  - To date, fourteen referenda have been held in which tens of thousands of people in the five municipalities closest to the project have voted against the Escobal mine given their concerns over actual and potential environmental and social impacts.
- **The Escobal project has led to violence and criminalization.**
  - The company's former security manager, an ex-military official from Peru Alberto Rotondo, is currently under arrest awaiting trial for allegedly ordering security guards to fire at protesters outside the mine on April 27, 2013.
  - Since September 2012, some 70 people have been slapped with unfounded criminal charges and have had to endure legal processes causing them distress and hardship. Several spent months in jail.
- **Guatemalan regulators failed to address residents' complaints prior to granting Tahoe's exploitation license, putting the license in doubt.**
  - The Guatemalan Ministry of Energy and Mines dismissed some 250 formal community complaints without a proper hearing shortly before granting Tahoe's exploitation license on April 3, 2013.
  - In July 2013, the plaintiffs appealed the dismissal of a complaint and won, putting the validity of the license in doubt. A final decision from Guatemala's Constitutional Court is expected soon.
- **Tahoe - given its close relationship to Goldcorp - knows better than to proceed without community consent and in the midst of violent repression.**
  - Goldcorp holds 40% of Tahoe's shares.
  - Six of eight of Tahoe's directors are current or former Goldcorp executives, including Tahoe founder and CEO, Kevin McArthur, who was CEO of Glamis Gold and Goldcorp until 2008.
  - Goldcorp's Marlin mine in Guatemala has been the subject of repeated international human rights declarations calling for suspension of the mine and raising concern over impacts on community health, the environment and right to self-determination of neighboring Maya Mam Indigenous communities.

Tahoe Resources Inc. is a silver exploration and development company registered in British Columbia, Canada with headquarters in Nevada, US. Escobal is its only project.

**For more information:**

[www.miningwatch.ca](http://www.miningwatch.ca); [nisgua.org](http://nisgua.org); <http://www.breakingthesilenceblog.com/>