

## **URGENT: Equinox Gold demonstrates racism and discrimination once again by breaking agreements with the Ejido of Carrizalillo**

September 13, 2020

Today, at around 3pm, the Ejido of Carrizalillo in Guerrero shut down the Los Filos mine for a second time in defense of life, dignity and the health of their community after being deceived following preliminary negotiations with the company Equinox Gold. With this most recent hoax, the company insists on maintaining its racist treatment toward the Ejido.

On Friday, September 11, the Ejido had reached an initial agreement with the interim mine manager for Los Filos, Engineer Carlos Almanza Carrillo, to take steps toward a dialogue process that could lead to a new relationship which, if both parts were satisfied, would give rise to a new social cooperation agreement between the Ejido and the company. As a result of this agreement, the company reinitiated operations at the mine on Friday, while the Ejido's resistance camp would remain, and only be lifted should a new agreement be reached that met their expectations.

However, on September 12, in a new act of arrogance, racism and contempt on the part of the company, Vice President of Equinox Gold for Mexico, Peter Burger, sent correspondence to the Ejido disregarding what was agreed to, indicating that negotiations over a new agreement would not take place until the encampment was dismantled. This took place, despite the Ejido's show of good faith in having allowed the company to restart operations.

The Mexican Network of Mining Affected People (REMA by its initials in Spanish) denounce this high-handed move that seeks to make a joke of agreements made with the community. At the same time, it is clear that the Canadian mining company is only interested in continuing to pillage gold and destroy Carrizalillo's territory to continue generating high profits on the international market and to fill the pockets of its shareholders, while the life and health of residents in the area – which depend on the strength that they are able to maintain during the process of negotiations – is without protection and clearly of less importance to the company than anything else.

Similarly, it is important to point out that this plunderer, Equinox Gold, is making a mistake given how its greed blinds it to the constitutionally protected rights of the Ejido of Carrizalillo to decide over their own territory, for which reason the Ejido, once again, has shut down operations at the Los Filos mine.

We are infuriated by this abuse and the scorn that transnational corporations have for the peoples of Mexico and the world in their race to pillage as much as they can from their territories. In this case, we are not surprised by the spirit of colonizer and pillager that drives Equinox Gold in its treatment toward the Ejido and the residents of Carrizalillo.

We will hold Equinox Gold responsible, and particularly Vice President Peter Burger, for any aggression that the population of Carrizalillo suffers, including its agrarian and municipal representatives.

**¡Enough of the racist and neocolonial attitudes of Canadian mining companies!**

**¡Fair treatment for the Ejido of Carrizalillo!**

**¡We want mining companies out of our territories!**

**Mexican Network of Mining Affected People**