

## OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK IN DEFENSE OF EL SALVADOR

Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President  
World Bank Group  
1818, H Street NW  
Washington, DC, 20433, USA

The signers of this petition are 297 international and national civil society organizations. We are writing out of solidarity with the communities of El Salvador that have been working through the democratic process to prevent a proposed cyanide-leach gold mining project, over well- founded risks that it will poison the local communities' environment as well as the country's most important river and source of water.

Rather than complying with the environmental permitting process of El Salvador, the Canadian company Pacific Rim launched an attack under the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). While that approach was rejected for lack of jurisdiction, Pacific Rim was still allowed to continue the arbitration based on an outdated investment law that has since been amended by the Salvadoran General Assembly. On that basis, the case remains before the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Pacific Rim is demanding \$301 million US dollars in compensation from the government of El Salvador or to provide it with an operating permit in spite of the huge risks to the country's water supply.

Pacific Rim is using ICSID to subvert a democratic nationwide debate over mining and environmental health in El Salvador. When it comes to such issues, local democratic institutions should prevail, not foreign corporations seeking to exploit natural resources.

These matters should not be decided by the World Banks' investor state arbitration tribunal or any other foreign tribunal. To make things worse, in the course of Pacific Rim's intervention in the political affairs of El Salvador, four anti-mining activists have been murdered in the project area.

We urge you to review the role of the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and to determine if it supports the Bank's mission of ending poverty and promoting responsible and sustainable economic development.

We urge you to undertake this review through an open process with public hearings and the ability for mining affected communities and their allies to present evidence of the harm done by corporations using the investor - state arbitration process to undermine the public interest laws and regulatory structures in countries of the Global South.

We stand with the people of El Salvador in their demand that their domestic governance processes and national sovereignty be respected. The Pacific Rim ICSID arbitration is a direct assault against democratic

governance. We stand on the side of democracy.

Sincerely,

CC Meg Kinnear, Secretary-General, ICSID  
V.V. Veeder, Tribunal President  
Brigitte Stern, Tribunal Member  
Guido Santiago Tawil, Tribunal Member

**AUSTRALIA**

1. Australian Manufacturing Workers Union
2. Catholic Religious Australia
3. Central American Pastoral House
4. Communist Party of Australia WA Branch
5. Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes in NSW
6. Conservation Council of Western Australia
7. Foro Social Latinoamericano Sydney
8. Jesuit Social Services
9. Jubilee Australia
10. MADGE Australia Inc
11. Maritime Union of Australia
12. Maritime Union of Australia-Victorian Branch
13. National Tertiary Education Union
14. Oxfam Australia
15. Salvadoran Club
16. SEARCH Foundation
17. Sisters of Charity
18. SJ Around the Bay
19. Socialist Alliance (Australia)
20. The Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network
21. The International Grail Justice and Trade Agreements Network
22. Victorian Trades Hall Council

**CANADA**

23. Americas Policy Group
24. Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network
25. BTS-Breaking the Silence
26. Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights
27. Canadians for Mining Awareness Peterborough
28. CAMES – Canadians Against Mining in El Salvador
29. Caring Rehab Ltd
30. CDHAL-Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine

31. CEBES-Martires de El Salvador
32. CODESES-Comité para El Desarrollo de El Salvador
33. Common Frontiers
34. Consejo Científico de Salvadoreños en el Mundo
35. Crescent United Church
36. Cuba Edmonton Solidarity Committee
37. CUPE - Canadian Union of Public Employees
38. CUPE 3903
39. CUPE Ontario
40. CUPW-Canadian Union of Postal Workers
41. El Pulgarcito de América Folklore Dance Group
42. Foundation Oscar A Romero Canada
43. FutureWatch EDEP
44. Global Exchange
45. Greater Victoria Seniors Association
46. Humbercrest United Church
47. IFPOR- International Festival of Poetry of Resistance
48. Jesuit refugee and migrant service
49. KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
50. Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network
51. Latin-American Collective/Cafe Rebelde
52. LatinoSoy Radio Program 96.1FM
53. Mapuche Nation support Committee, Edmonton
54. Memoria Viva Society of Edmonton
55. Mining Injustice Solidarity Network
56. Mining Justice Action Committee
57. Mining Justice Action Committee (BC)
58. Mining Justice Alliance
59. Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA)
60. NJT Edmonton
61. OCHU-Ontario Council of Hospital Unions
62. Peoples' Health Movement, Canada
63. Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local Union 488
64. Polaris Institute
65. PUCHKA Peru
66. Quisetel - Coalition québécoise sur les impacts socio-environnementaux des transnationales en Amérique latine
67. RightOnCanada
68. Rights Action
69. RRSE, Regroupement pour la responsabilité sociale des entreprises

70. SALVAIDE
71. Salvadorean Canadian Association
72. Servicios Internacionales Cristianos de Solidaridad con America Latina Oscar Romero
73. SMAK (Sustainable Mining Alliance of the Kootenay's)
74. Social Justice Committee of Montreal
75. Solidarity Notes Labour Choir
76. SOS EL SALVADOR
77. St. Barnabas Anglican Church
78. Taddle Creek Connection
79. The United Church of Canada
80. Torbela
81. Toronto Haiti Action Committee
82. Toronto, Women for a Just and Healthy Planet
83. UBC Social Justice Centre
84. USW-United Steelworkers
85. VIVAECO
86. Wirikuta Vancouver Alliance

#### **EL SALVADOR**

87. ALSACOOP - Alternativa Salvadoreña de Cooperativas
88. ASAFOCAIS
89. Asociación Ambiental la Maraña
90. Asociación Madre Cria El Salvador
91. Asociación de estudiantes de Trabajo Social (AETSUES)
92. ADISPA - Asociación de Desarrollo Indígena Salvadoreña de los Pueblos Ancestrales
93. CRIPDES - Asociación para el Desarrollo de El Salvador
94. CRIPDES - CCR
95. ADES -Asociación de Desarrollo Económico Social Santa Marta
96. Asociación Catalana d'Enginyeria sense Fronteres
97. CEICOM-Centro de Investigaciones de Comercio
98. CESTA/FOE El Salvador
99. COFOA -Comunidades de Fe Organizadas para la Acción
100. Colectivo de Estudio de Pensamiento Crítico
101. CONAMAS
102. Consejo Coordinador Nacional Indígena Salvadoreño
103. CONSALCOOP Confederación Salvadoreña de Cooperativas-El Salvador
104. Consejo Feminista
105. CORDES- Comité Para el Desarrollo Rural de El Salvador
106. CRISPAZ
107. FER

108. Fundación Cristosal
109. FESPAD -Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho
110. Fundación REDES
111. Fundación Río Lempa
112. Fundademis
113. Instituto Católico San Francisco de Asís
114. Juxvida
115. Justicia, Paz e Integridad de la Creación.
116. Conferencia de Religiosas y Religiosos de El Salvador
117. JPIC-OFM de El Salvador
118. Mesa Nacional frente a la Minería Metálica
119. Movimiento Social Estamos con voz
120. Movimiento Salvadoreño de Mujeres
121. MUFRAS 32 -Movimiento Unificado Francisco Sánchez
122. Patria Exacta
123. Plataforma Social del Pueblo Cuscatlán
124. Red Activista – El Salvador
125. Red de Ambientalistas Comunitarios de El Salvador
126. UNES - Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña

#### **LATIN AMERICA**

127. ACPH Honduras(HN)
128. Alianza Mexicana por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos (MX)
129. AMERG-Asociación de Maestros de Educación Rural de Guatemala(GT)
130. Amigos de la Naturaleza en el Mundo, A.C.(MX)
131. ARCA(CR)
132. Asamblea Popular por el Agua(AR)
133. Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad(CR)
134. Asociación Regional Centroamericana para el Agua y el Ambiente(CR)
135. Bios Iguana A.C.(MX)
136. Centro de Reflexión y Acción Laboral(MX)
137. Centro Humboldt(NI)
138. CIP Americas Program(MX)
139. Coalición de Organizaciones Mexicanas por el Derecho al Agua
140. CTC\_VZLA -Coalición de Tendencia Clasista (VN)
141. Coalición Nacional de Redes Ambientales de Honduras(HN)
142. Colectivo Casa(BO)
143. Comité Ambiental Valle de Siria(HN)
144. COMSA(MX)
145. COPINH -Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras(HN)

146. Consejo del Pueblo Huista-Wuxtaj(GT)
147. CooperAcción(PE)
148. Crónicas del Despojo(CO)
149. CSMM -Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos Segundo Montes Mozo S.J.(EC)
150. Democracia y Territorio(MX)
151. Democracy Center(BL)
152. Departamento JPIC Obispado de Copiapo(EC)
153. Diálogo 2000 - Jubileo Sur Argentina(AR)
154. FANCA(CR)
155. FIAN México(MX)
156. Grito de los Excluidos Continental(BR)
157. Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de Honduras(HN)
158. Instituto Mexicano para el Desarrollo Comunitario(MX)
159. JPIC Nicaragua(NI)
160. Justicia para la Naturaleza(CR)
161. Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Solidarity Network(GT)
162. Misioneras Cordi-Marianas(MX)
163. Misioneros Claretianos(Colombia)
164. Misioneros Claretianos(Honduras)
165. MNIGR(HN)
166. MACEM-Movimiento Ambiental Contra las Exploraciones y Concesiones Mineras(NI)
167. Movimiento Mesoamericano contra el Modelo extractivo Minero(MX)
168. Movimiento Social Nicaragüense "Otro Mundo es Posible"
169. Network for Justice in Global Investment(BL)
170. OLCA Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales
171. Otros Mundos AC/Amigos de la Tierra México(MX)
172. Otros Mundos Colombia(CL)
173. PETARE INSURGENTE(VN)
174. PIAP(MX)
175. PIDHDD - Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo(EC)
176. Red de Coordinación en Biodiversidad(CR)
177. Red Ecológica, Social y Agropecuaria de Veraguas(PA)
178. RMALC - Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio(MX)
179. REMA- Red Mexicana de Afectados por la Minería (MX)
180. REDES-Amigos de la Tierra (FoE) Uruguay(UR)
181. S.O.S. HUASCO(CL)
182. Sector de Trabajadores Adherentes a la Sexta(MX)
183. Sister Parish Center(GT)
184. Unión Campesina Panameña(PA)
185. Unión Latinoamericana de Mujeres(PR)

186. Universidad de la Tierra en Puebla(MX)

**UNITED STATES**

- 187. AFL-CIO
- 188. American Association of Jurists
- 189. American Jewish World Service
- 190. Amnesty International Las Cruces NM
- 191. Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project
- 192. Asociación Q'anil
- 193. Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests
- 194. Austin-Guajoyo Sister City Project
- 195. Boulder Chapter Global Solutions
- 196. Cambridge United for Justice with Peace
- 197. Cambridge-Las Flores Sister City Project
- 198. Center for Alternative Mining Development Policy
- 199. Centro Latino Cuzcatlan
- 200. Chicago-Cinquera Sister Cities
- 201. CIEL - Center for International Environmental Law
- 202. CISPES-Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador
- 203. Citizens Trade Campaign
- 204. Climate Crisis Coalition of the Twin Cities, Minnesota
- 205. Colombia Support Network
- 206. Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
- 207. Conference of Major Superiors of Men
- 208. CRISPAZ - Christians for Peace in El Salvador
- 209. Cultural Survival
- 210. Decorah (IA) United Methodist Sister Parish
- 211. Denver Justice & Peace Committee
- 212. Doctors for Global Health
- 213. Earthworks
- 214. Family Farm Defenders
- 215. FOCUS Central America/Wichita
- 216. Food & Water Watch
- 217. Foundation Cristosal
- 218. Friends of the Earth US
- 219. Global Connections. Washington Ethical Society
- 220. Grassroots International
- 221. Grupo Cajola
- 222. Guatemala Human Rights Commission
- 223. Immanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, NY

224. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
225. International League for Peace and Freedom
226. International Labor Rights Forum
227. International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
228. InterReligious Task Force on Central America
229. IPS-Institute for Policy Studies - Global Economy Program
230. Jóvenes en Acción Política
231. JPIC Claretianos América
232. JPIC Office, Franciscan Friars, Holy Name Province, New York, NY
233. Latin America Task Force, Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice
234. Liberating Red Earth
235. Life Weavings, LLC
236. Madison Arcatao Sister City Project
237. MAPC
238. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
239. Medical Mission Sisters Alliance for Justice
240. Midwest Coalition against Lethal Mining
241. Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
242. Midwest Environmental Advocates
243. Mingas-NY
244. MOFGA/El Salvador Sistering Committee
245. NASW
246. National Lawyers Guild
247. Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility of United Church of Christ
248. Office of the Americas
249. OXFAM America
250. Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
251. Paulist Center of Boston Staff and Pastoral Council
252. Pilgrim Prayer & Healing Ministries
253. Power in Community Alliances(PICA)
254. Presbyterian Mission Agency
255. Public Citizen
256. SANIPLAN
257. SHARE El Salvador
258. SHARE Foundation
259. Sierra Club
260. Sister Parish of First United Methodist Church, Decorah IA
261. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team
262. St. Camillus Catholic Church
263. St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Central America

264. St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington, VT
265. Texas Fair Trade Coalition
266. The Midwest Coalition Against Lethal Mining
267. U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities
268. United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)
269. Washington Ethical Society/GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
270. WOLA – Washington Office on Latin America
271. Watertown-El Salvador Sister City Committee
272. Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church Climate Action Team
273. Witness for Peace
274. Witness for Peace Northwest

## **WORLD**

275. ABC'éditions(France)
276. Bretton Woods Project(England)
277. Carbon Verde Solutions(Spain)
278. CNCD-11.11.11(Belgium)
279. Colectivo El Salvador Elkartasuna(Spain)
280. Comité Solidaridad San Atanasio-Madrid(Spain)
281. CRI-Christian Romero Initiative(Germany)
282. Environmental Network for Central America(England)
283. GMB Trade Union(England)
284. IGLA -Information Group on Latin America (Austria)
285. International Association of Health Policy in Europe(Greece)
286. ITUC - International Trade Union Confederation (International)
287. Jubilee Debt Campaign(England)
288. Kaffeekampagne El Salvador(Denmark)
289. KRUHA Indonesia(Indonesia)
290. Latin American Mining Monitoring Programme(England)
291. Misioneras de la Institución Claretiana(Spain)
292. ONG AFRICANDO(Senegal)
293. OXFAM(International)
294. Plataforma de Solidaridad con Chiapas y Guatemala de Madrid(Spain)
295. Plataforma Salvemos Cabana (Galicia, Spain)
296. Re:Common(Italy)
297. Socialist Party of Switzerland(Switzerland)
298. Stichting Bakens Verzet (NGO Another Way)(Netherlands)
299. TEA-KOR(Korea)
300. Transnational Institute(Netherlands)
301. Urgewald(Denmark)

302. XminY(Netherlands)