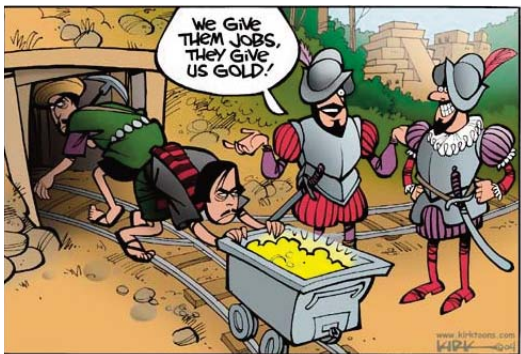


CAFTA's Golden SWINDLE

the ugly truth about Pacific Rim and Commerce Group

North American gold mining companies Pacific Rim and Commerce Group are suing the Salvadoran government for \$177 million, under the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).



EARLY CENTRAL AMERICAN Free Trade Agreement
Cartoon by Kirk Anderson

Chapter 10 of CAFTA, the investor protections provision, allows corporations to sue governments in the name of “profit infringement.”

The Salvadoran government is already deeply in debt due to the economic destruction caused by CAFTA and other free trade policies “encouraged” by the US government.

Pacific Rim is bankrupt. Their financial strategy is to sue El Salvador--an extremely poor nation--to stay in business.

Local Mining Resistance

Salvadoran communities have been organizing for years to keep foreign mines off their lands. They have united to form strong grassroots organizations such as the National Roundtable Against Mining to protect their communities from the environmental devastation and rampant water contamination caused by extractive mining.

“Mining, as such, is incompatible with development and with life. Therefore, it is a national threat.”

– National Roundtable Against Mining



“No material advantage can be compared with the value of human life.”

–Conference of Bishops of the Catholic Church in El Salvador, on Pacific Rim's El Dorado mine

Violence Surrounds El Dorado Mine in San Isidro, Cabañas

A string of bad luck for anti-mining activists? Or is Pacific Rim fighting to the death?

June 18, 2009: Prominent local anti-mining activist Marcelo Rivera is disappeared. His body is found 11 days later in the bottom of a well, with clear signs of torture.

June 27, 2009: Luis Quintanilla, priest and radio host with local progressive station Radio Victoria, escapes an attempted kidnapping by a group of masked and armed assailants.

August 7, 2009: Ramiro Rivera, member of the Environmental Committee of Cabañas, is shot 8 times in the back and miraculously survives.

Join the struggle against these greedy, corporate gold diggers!

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) is taking on Pacific Rim, Commerce Group and CAFTA, and WE NEED YOU! Side by side with the Salvadoran anti-mining movement, we are fighting these outrageous lawsuits and condemning the heinous acts of violence against Salvadoran activists. **Contact your local chapter to join in the fight!**

