



International Network for Economic, Social & Cultural Rights  
Red Internacional para los Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales  
Réseau international pour les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels  
الشبكة العالمية للحقوق الاقتصادية والاجتماعية و الثقافية

30 August, 2012

**TO:**

**Lic. Felipe De Jesús Calderón Hinojosa**, Presidente Constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

**Board**

Mr. Hossam Bahgat  
*Egyptian Initiative for  
Personal Rights, Egypt*

**Lic. Jorge Herrera Caldera**, Gobernador Constitucional Del Estado de Durango  
**Dr. Alejandro Poiré Romero**, Secretario de Gobernación

**CC:**

**Dr. Raúl Plascencia Villanueva**, Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos

**Marisela Morales Ibáñez**, Fiscal General de la República

**Rosalinda Velez Juárez**, Secretaria del Trabajo y Previsión Social Reforma

**Marisela Morales Ibáñez**, Fiscal General de la República

**Lic. Omeheira López Reyna**, Unidad para la Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, SEGOB

**Jaime Fernández Saracho**, Secretario de Gobierno de Durango

**Lic. Felipe de Jesús Martínez Rodarte**, Presidente de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Estado de Durango

**Mtra. Sonia Yadira de la Garza Frago**, Fiscal General del Estado de Durango

**Sr. Javier Hernández**, Representante del Alto Comisionado de la Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos, Oficina México.

**RE: Respect for the Rights of the Ejido La Sierrita and Workers of the Platosa Mine**

The International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net) is the largest global network of organizations and activists devoted to achieving economic, social and environmental justice through human rights. Our membership is comprised of over 230 organizations and individuals from 67 countries.

We write to express our collective concern over recent reports that military and police personnel have dismantled a peaceful protest camp of the Ejido La Sierrita, established near the entry of the La Platosa Mine on their communal land in Durango, Mexico. We also wish to call your attention to reported threats of legal action that were made against members of the Ejido La Sierrita and members of the labor union and workers of the Local 309, in an apparent reprisal for their activities in defense of their rights.

According to reports received the protest camp was established on July 8, 2012, on the communal land of the Ejido La Sierrita, in order to facilitate the peaceful assembly of members of the Ejido who have expressed concerns about the ongoing operation of the

Ms. Julie Cavanaugh-Bill  
*Western Shoshone  
Defense Project—WSDP,  
Newe Sogobia/United  
States*

Ms. Shanthi Dairiam  
*International Women's  
Rights Action Watch -  
Asia-Pacific, Malaysia*

Mr. Legborsi Saro  
Pyagbara  
*Movement for the  
Survival of the Ogoni  
People—MOSOP,  
Nigeria*

Mr. Wilder Sánchez  
Chávez  
*Confederación  
Campesina del Perú—  
CCP, Perú*

Ms. Aye Aye Win  
*Dignity International,  
France*

Chris Grove  
Director  
[cgrove@escr-net.org](mailto:cgrove@escr-net.org)

211 East 43<sup>rd</sup>. St., #906  
New York, New York  
10017  
United States of America  
tel: +1 212.681.1236  
fax: +1 212.681.1241

[www.escr-net.org](http://www.escr-net.org)

La Platosa mine, run by Excellon de Mexico, a subsidiary of Excellon Resources. We have also received serious allegations that Excellon Mexico has not complied with the terms of a land rental agreement that was signed between them and the Ejido in 2008. Our sources in Mexico have further informed us that Excellon Mexico has refused to enter into a negotiation process with representatives of the Ejido, despite repeated efforts by officials of the Mexican government and community members to promote dialogue.

We wish to recall that the Government of Mexico has obligations to respect the right to peaceful assembly for members of the Ejido La Sierrita, as guaranteed by the Constitution of Mexico, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We further wish to underscore the critical responsibility of the Government of Mexico to ensure the protection, safety and freedom of people who have organized in legitimate defense of their human rights, including the above-mentioned members of the Ejido La Sierrita. Finally, we commend the efforts of the Government of Mexico to convene a negotiation between Excellon de Mexico and the members of the Ejido La Sierrita, and we wish to stress that Mexico has an obligation to protect the rights of their citizens from any human rights violations perpetrated in connection with the activities of foreign corporations.

In consequence, we respectfully call upon the Government of Mexico to:

1. Refrain from deploying military personnel to interfere with the rights of the members of Ejido La Sierrita and the Local 309 to peacefully assemble on their communal lands;
2. Guarantee the protection of members of the Ejido La Sierrita and workers of the Local 309 from acts of intimidation, including legal charges in response to their exercise of their right to peaceful assembly;
3. Ensure full respect for the right of workers and Ejido members to free association and assembly; and
4. Continue to promote a peaceful resolution to the current dispute, through dialogue and negotiation.

Finally, we request that you keep us informed of the measures taken to these ends.

Sincerely,



Chris Grove  
Director