



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 Juarez, Secretaria del Trabajo y Prevision 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
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Mr. Legborsi Saro
Pyagbara
*Movement for the
Survival of the Ogoni
People—MOSOP,
Nigeria*

Mr. Wilder Sánchez
Chávez
*Confederación
Campesina del Perú—
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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