

## **Berlin Declaration 2005 – Stop irresponsible gold mining**

**Five years after the Berlin Declaration on cyanide-based gold mining, civil society organisations from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Peru, Romania and the USA repeat their call on governments and mining companies to respect human rights and to stop ongoing human rights violations, irresponsible mining practices and environmental destruction:**

We expect multinational companies to abide by and promote the rule of law and human rights in countries where they invest. We expect them to respect community rights and to stop all forms of intimidation and coercion.

We call on the governments of the countries where these companies are headquartered – first of all Australia, Canada, South Africa and the USA – to hold mining companies responsible for human rights violations in other countries. This should include legal action under criminal law as well as ensuring adequate compensation of the victims.

We call on governments world-wide to establish, respect and enforce the right to free prior informed consent for all communities potentially affected by mining, including their right to reject a project. This consent needs to be sought prior to securing exploration permits.

We call on governments to protect the right to water of communities affected by mining and to stop the destruction of water bodies caused by the diversion and damming of rivers, excessive use of water (in many cases subsidized by the absence of or low water tariffs for commercial use), frequent and long-term acid drainage as well as spillages of cyanide and cyanide laden waste.

We call on governments to implement and enforce legislation which minimizes physical and economic displacement of communities and which guarantees displaced people a level of compensation which will sustainably improve their livelihood and access to land and water.

We call on governments to make companies responsible for the damage they cause to the environment and social systems. Under international human rights law governments are obliged to protect the right to social security and the right to health. Governments have to regulate mining activities accordingly. This should include obligatory and comprehensive risk insurance extending also to long-term environmental damages years after a project has closed.

We call on governments to stop the redistribution of income from the poorest segments of society to the rich of the globalised world. True cost accounting has to become the condition for all mining activities.

There is nothing more precious than life. We call on governments to put people before profits. To this end, we shall continue to remind governments of their obligations under international human rights law and agreements on environmental protection.

Berlin, September 18th, 2005

Signed by:

Alburnus Maior (Romania)  
Defensa y Conservacion Ecologica de Intag (DECOIN) (Ecuador)  
EARTHWORKS (USA)  
ECOVIDA - Association for environmental defense of Cajamarca (Peru)  
Förderkreis Cajamarca e. V. Herzogenaurach (Germany)  
FoodFirst Information & Action Network (FIAN) – Belgium  
FoodFirst Information & Action Network e.V. (FIAN) – Germany  
FoodFirst Information & Action Network (FIAN) – Ghana  
Informationsstelle Peru (Germany)

Mining Advocacy Network (JATAM) (Indonesia)  
MiningWatch Canada  
MISEREOR - German Catholic Bishops' Organization for Development Cooperation (Germany)  
Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales (OLCA) (Chile)  
Pazifik-Netzwerk e.V. (Germany)  
Rainforest Information Centre, Lismore NSW (Australia)  
Rettet den Regenwald e. V. (Germany)  
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Wassa Association of Communities affected by Mining (Ghana)  
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