

Ana Maria Alvarado

Ana Maria Alvarado lives in Cerro de San Pedro, an historic town in Central Mexico. It's where her grandparents lived, and where she hopes to raise her children.

When Canadian mining company Metallica Resources Inc. (now called New Gold Inc.) arrived in 1995 promising jobs and wealth to the community, Ana Maria and her community were willing to listen. But when they learned that the impacts of the proposed open-pit gold mine would threaten their historic town, displace people from their homes, and contaminate the local water supply, they said “no way!”

Ana Maria helped organize her community to challenge development of the mine and protect Cerro de San Pedro. Although the community has the law on their side, the company has ignored national courts and legislation, and has forged ahead, taking advantage of the weak Mexican legal system.

Ana Maria is a very brave woman. She has travelled to Canada to try and convince the Canadian government to help halt the mine. She wants the government to hold Canadian companies accountable. She will not rest until the rights of her community and the environment are respected above the short-term profits of mining companies.

Facts

- ❖ Mexico changed its constitution to allow the break up of communal land prior to entering the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- ❖ Today, there are 700 concessions for open pit mining in Mexico.
- ❖ 60% of the world's exploration and mining companies are listed on Canadian stock exchanges, collecting investment from Canadians for their projects overseas.

Take Action

DON'T TRADE HUMAN RIGHTS FOR CORPORATE PROFITS.

Canadian companies must not take part in activities linked to human rights violations. The Canadian government should work to ensure that Canadian mining companies are held accountable for their activities overseas and that they respect international human rights and environmental standards.

For more information, please visit our website at

www.kairoscanada.org