

GOLD MINING IN THE PHILIPPINES



When Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over the presidency of the Philippines in 2001, she brought with her an economic plan that included gold mining as a key to the development of the country. Unfortunately, in pursuing her plan, she never consulted with the people living in areas rich with gold.

Calgary-based company TVI Pacific operates a gold mine on the ancestral land of the Subanon people, in the Southern province of Mindanao. The local Indigenous community has never given their consent to the mine and today many of their sacred sites, including an altar on Mount Canatuan, have been destroyed in the company's quest for gold.

The arrival of the company has also increased the military presence in the region, according to the local people. Paramilitary forces employed by the company but supported by the Philippine military have threatened and assaulted villagers opposed to the mine. TVI's operations have resulted in the displacement of community members, environmental degradation and the loss of livelihood for small-scale gold producers.

TVI is making good profits while leaving behind contamination and destruction.

Facts

- ❖ 60% of the world's exploration and mining companies are listed on Canadian stock markets.
- ❖ The Canadian government has loaned approximately \$120 million dollars to Canadian companies for their activities in the Philippines.
- ❖ Canada works closely with the Philippines on issues of national security. Throughout 2007-8, Canada provided 4 training sessions to police forces throughout South East Asia, including one in the Philippines.

Take Action

DON'T TRADE HUMAN RIGHTS FOR GOLD.

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