

# RIGHT THE WRONG

Nearly one out of every three of us lives in poverty.

In a world as rich as ours, many of us still go hungry or don't have clean water.

Many of us can't claim our human rights.

**That's wrong.**

**And together we aim to do what's right.**

Join us:

[oxfamamerica.org](http://oxfamamerica.org)



**OXFAM**  
America

# Land and Food Justice

Laura Hurtado

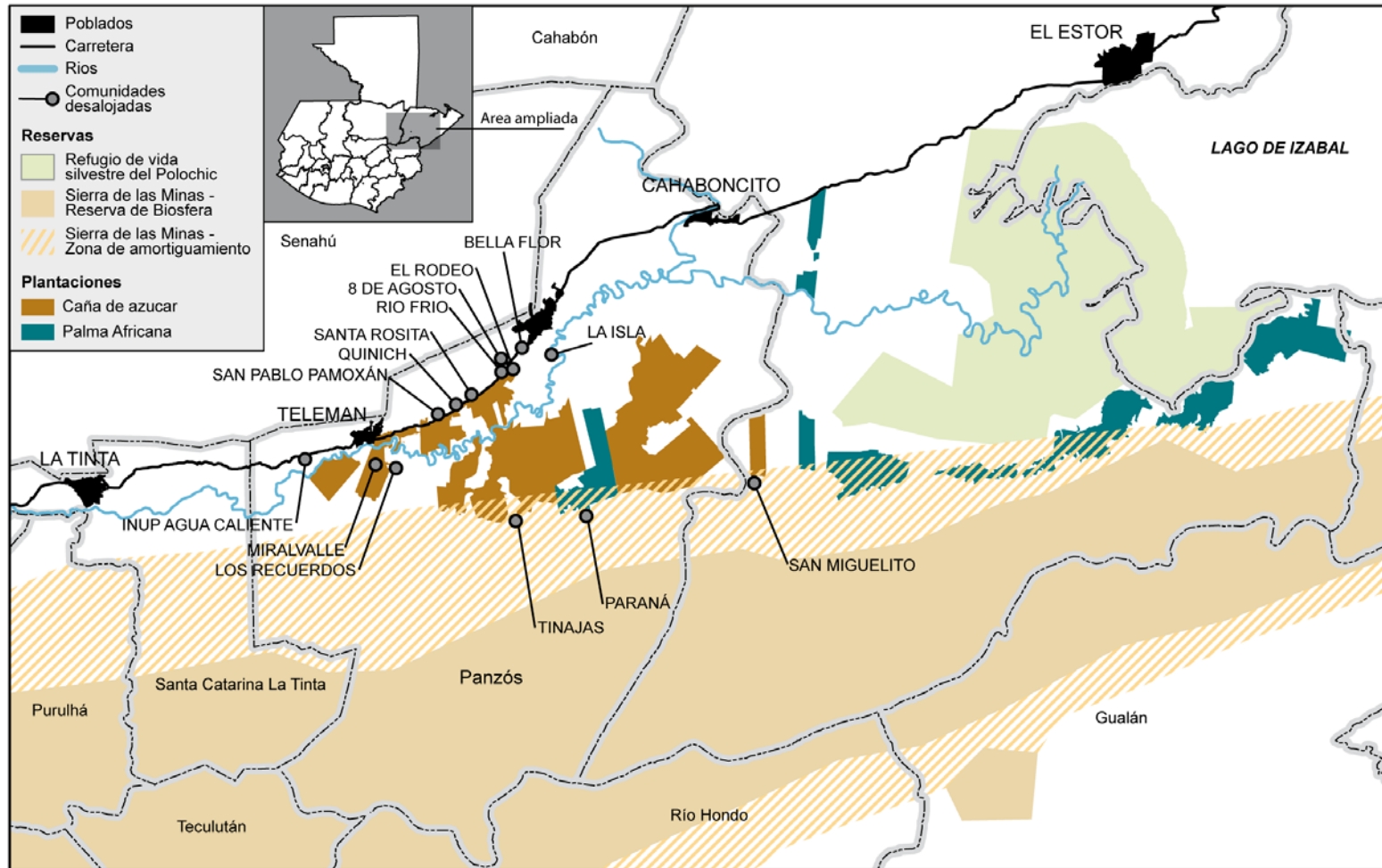
Ecumenical Advocacy Days

April 2013

# Production of agrofuels entail land grabbing and eviction of peasants



# Polochic Valley



# Evictions



**Polochic Valley:**  
March 2012,  
14 communities Maya Q'eqchi'  
were evicted from their lands

“Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security”



“Everyone has the right to freedom of movement”



“Everyone has the right to a  
standard of living ...  
including food”



... and housing.”



“Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance.”



“Everyone has the right to an effective remedy...”





# Precautionary Security Measures Ordered by the IACHR



OXFAM is addressing the Guatemalan Government to comply his compromise of giving land to the evicted Q'eqchi' communities



**DESALOJOS VIOLENTOS  
EN EL VALLE DEL POLOCHIC**

**769 FAMILIAS  
ABANDONADAS**

**ROMPE CON ESTA INJUSTICIA**

¡Firma y solidarízate con El Polochic!

Lideran esta campaña:



**CRĚCE**



**OXFAM**

| Apoyan esta campaña:



**FONGI**  
GUATEMALA



# **Land and food Justice: Managing our Natural Resources to End Hunger and Achieve Justice Around the World :- Impact of Mining in Ghana**

By Augustine Niber

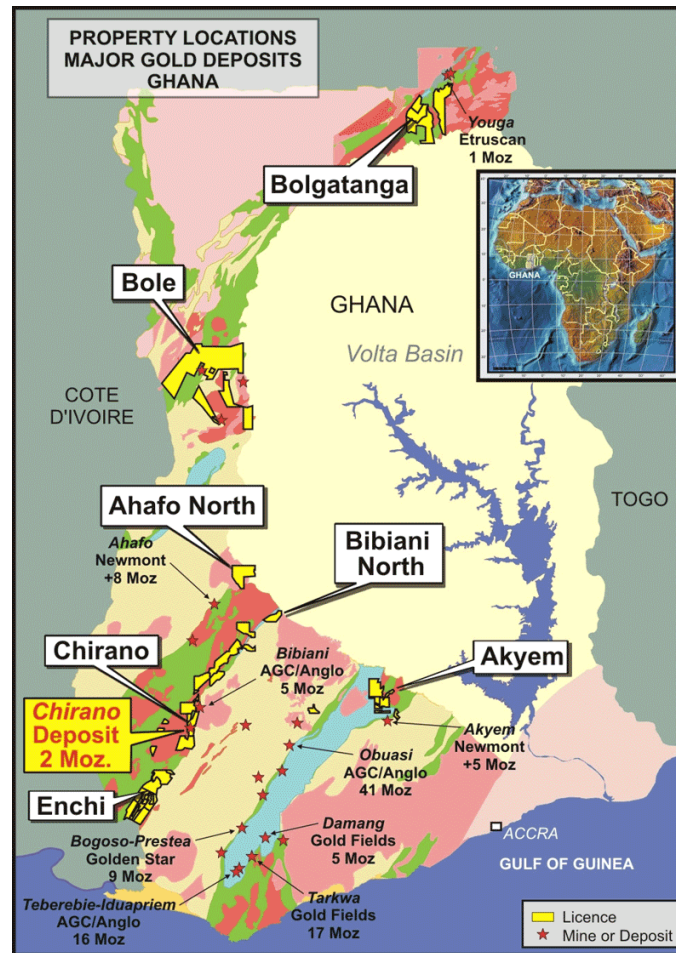
Center for Public Interest Law

CEPIL

# Introduction

- All minerals in Ghana are vested in the President in trust for the people. Government has power to grant mining leases.
- There are three kinds of land ownership in Ghana:
  - private
  - Communal lands
  - Government lands.
- Mining concessions predominantly granted on private and communal lands without affected communities and persons taking part in the decision to grant their lands as mining concessions
- Mining companies hold about 30% of the country's land surface area in mining concessions

# Ghana Map in showing mining concessions



# Surface Mining

- Method of gold extraction being surface, open cast mining.
- Surface mining (open pit) removes vegetation and soils, interrupts ecosystem service flows, and results in inevitable and often permanent farmland loss.

# Displacement of Farmers in Mining concessions.

- Food-producing areas, as well as forest reserves which regulate the micro climate of Ghana's food baskets, are given to mining companies for mining operations, without a critical assessment of its implications on food security. For example surface mining in Ghana is taking place in food production areas such as Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Western and Eastern Regions of the country.
- Open-pit surface mines requires the relocation of villages near mining sites.
  - Newmont Ahafo mine alone displaced about 20,000 farmers in the first and second phases of the mine in Kenyasi and over 9,000 farmers in the Akyem mine.
  - Goldfields Ghana Ltd displaced a total of 30,000 farmers in 5 years in Tarkwa.
  - In the Tarkwa area about 4935.3 ha farmland (45% of all farmland within mining concessions) have been converted to pit



# Degraded farmlands in Tarkwa



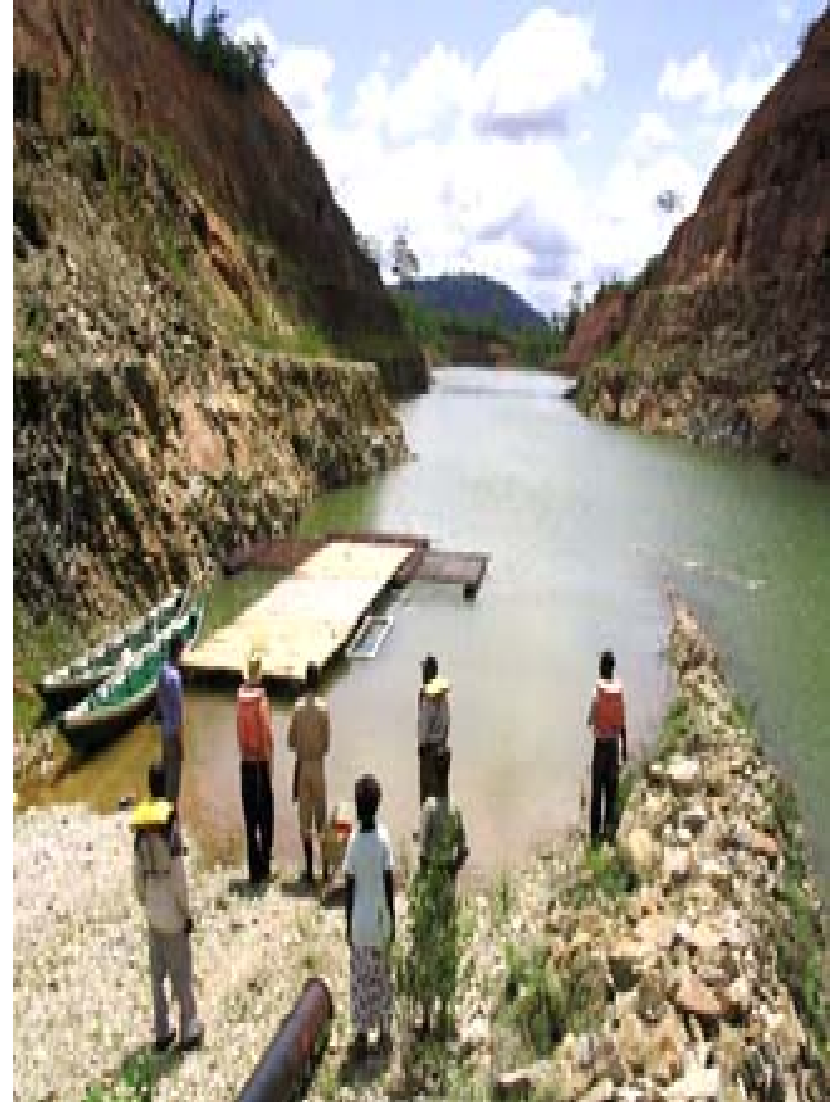
# A Farm at Teberebie filled with mine rock waste



# A palm plantation given out for mining



# Abandoned mine pits /trenches



# Pollution

- Surface Mining activities also frequently result in toxic waste that causes water pollution and health problems.
- 75 per cent of major rivers in the country, which hitherto did not need serious treatment, were now unsafe as a result of rigorous mining activities.
- 147 of the 160 streams and rivers in the Obuasi mining area as well as about 117 rivers and streams in Tarkwa were all highly polluted as a result of mining activities.

- Large areas of land in Obuasi previously used for cultivation are believed to have been contaminated through gold mining activities and toxic water pollution. A research conducted by TWN-Africa indicates serious poisoning of local crops in areas of historic gold mining activity, with high levels of mercury, zinc and arsenic found in local 'Obuasi oranges'.
- The cultivation of fruit and vegetables – such as local crops, including oranges on polluted land poses a risk to peoples' health and prevents them from selling their produce in local markets.

# Tailings Dam



# Acid mine drainage



# Spillage of Cyanide

- There frequent cyanide spillage in mining concession: -Goldfields Ghana Ltd 2001; Golden Star Resources 2003 & 2004, Newmont's Ahafo mine 2009.
- These spills contaminated local water supplies and killed a large number of fishes raising serious concerns regarding food security in nearby villages and possibly the nation as a whole because the regions where the spills occurred is recognized as Ghana's foodbasket

# Dead fish in Dumasi



## *Pollution of water bodies through Cyanide spillages*





# Relocation of Yayaso Community

- **An 80 year old, Opanin Kwadwo Boahene, Oman Abusuapanin of Yayaso had this to say;**

“All night, I stay awake. I cannot believe what I am hearing. They want us to remove our souls so they can put the effect of the degradation of our soils in their place. It is agonizing. To add insult to injury, Newmont has destroyed cocoa farms that feed the community, most people have had their farms bulldozed. Maame Akosua Apedua and

James Nkansah were going to harvest their cocoa. When they arrived in their various farms, bulldozers were at work. Their entire livelihood had gone. It took a lot of counseling to get them regain their health,” “Now they say we should leave our town and settle in another community. We have nothing to eat. They have destroyed our farms. What are we going to feed on in another community?”

- We don,t have anything to eat <http://www.ghanatoghana.com/don%E2%80%99t-eat/>

# Police at Yayaso to evict the community



# Conclusion

- The need for community participation in decision making.
- Seeking the free prior informed consent of communities before grant of mining concessions and through out the operations of the mines.



# Thank You





# Water is more precious than gold

Speaker.

Sandra Carolina Ascencio

Franciscana

[dcarol.ascen@yahoo.es](mailto:dcarol.ascen@yahoo.es)

[www.esnomineria.blogspot.com](http://www.esnomineria.blogspot.com)



# Who we are?





Mesa Nacional Frente a la Minería Metálica / Es No Minería is on Facebook.

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Community Organization

Organización social contra la minería metálica en El Salvador.

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622

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PacRim busca una indemnización de  
Traducido del comuni  
de la compañía por e

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Mesa Nacional Frente a la Minería Metálica / Es No Minería shared a link via Vero Torres.

12 hours ago

### Analizan medidas cautelares por mina

[www.laprensagrafica.com](http://www.laprensagrafica.com)

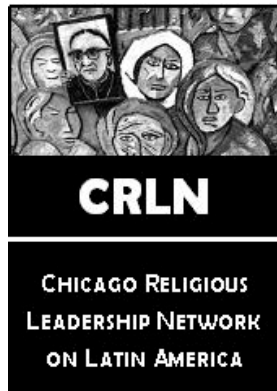
Serían presentadas ante la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos por la PDDH contra los estados salvadoreño y guatemalteco.

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# WHAT DO WE WANT?



# Some of our Allies and Friends



**Madison  
Arcatao Sister  
City Project  
(MASCP)**



**MiningWatch Canada  
Mines Alertes**

Suite 556, 258 City Centre Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1R 6K7  
tel. (613) 569-2429 — fax (613) 569-9749 — info@miningwatch.ca — www.miningwatch.ca



**Wisconsin Network  
for Peace and Justice**

*...working toward the creation of a sustainable  
world, free from violence and injustice...*

**Cambridge Sister Cities**

I joined this struggle for the dignity of people and the defense of the water and the land

**Por la Dignidad  
De los Pueblos**



**SI A LA VIDA  
NO A LAS MINAS**

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# At God's Table: Food Justice for a Healthy World



# WHY DO WE OPPOSE METALLIC MINING?



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Small country and lack of land.
- High population density
- Deforestation.



- Overuse of water.
- Chemical contamination of water sources, soil and the atmosphere.
- Complete lack of bio-diversity.

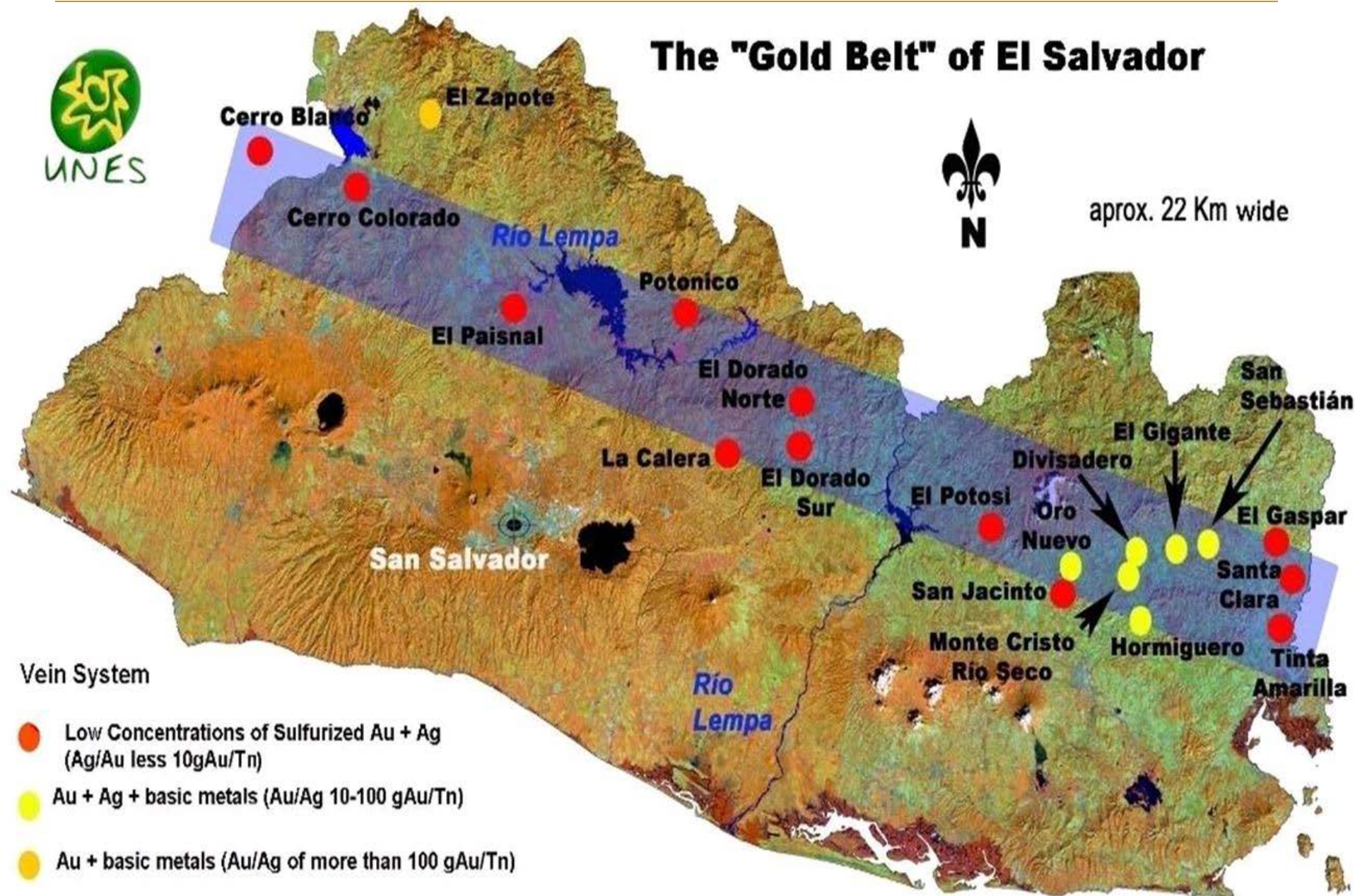




# The "Gold Belt" of El Salvador



aprox. 22 Km wide



## SOCIAL IMPACTS

- Human Rights violations
- Violence
- Poverty
- A breakdown in the social fabric
- Unjust economic policies
- Impunidad



**Marcelo Rivera**  
**18 de Junio del 2009**



**Ramiro Rivera**  
**20 Diciembre 2009**



**Dora Alicia Sorto**  
**26 de Diciembre 2009**

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# **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

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# MINING COMPANIES SUE EL SALVADOR

## Pacific Rim:

- Based in Vancouver, BC, Canada
- Suing for **\$315** million
- Claiming lost investment and lost future profits



# MINING COMPANIES SUE EI SALVADOR

## Commerce Group

- Based in Milwaukee, WI
- Suing for **\$100** million
- Claiming lost investments and demanding the right to re-open their mine



# WHAT ARE WE STRUGGLING AGAINST IN EL SALVADOR?

- 69 proposed projects, according the Ministry of Economy
- To the north, 41 mining projects in Honduras
- To the Northeast, 7 mining projects in Guatemala, among them Cerro Blanco



# PERSPECTIVES FOR OUR STRUGGLE

- Approval for a mining ban
- Confront the law suits
- An end to impunity
- Ensure that mining in Guatemala and Honduras does not affect us.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT