

PROCLAMATION IN DEFENSE OF WIRIKUTA

Emitted by the Wixárika People of the three states of Jalisco, Nayarit and Durango represented by the communities of Waut+a - San Sebastián Teponahuatlán and its annex of Tutsipa – of the municipalities of Mezquitic and Bolaños, Jalisco; Tuapurie - Santa Catarina Cuexcomatitlán, municipality of Mezquitic, Jalisco; Tatei Kié – San Andrés Cohamiata, municipality of Mezquitic, Jalisco; Uweni Muyewe – Bancos de San Hipólito municipality of Mezquitic, Durango; and the Wixárika Union of the states of Jalisco, Nayarit and Durango.

RECALLING that the Wixárika People have, since time immemorial, participated in a pilgrimage to the sacred region of Wirikuta, recreating the long path that our ancestors walked during the formation of the world to the place where the sun was born in the semi-desert region of Real de Catorce.

CONSIDERING that our prayer in Wirikuta is for all living beings on this planet to see their lives protected, so that our ancient Wixárika culture be maintained and not disappear, and so that the keys to our wisdom and the candles of life that give sense to our Wixárika identity be renewed.

ANALIZING that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the laws that have been derived to favor the operation of neo-liberal accords between Mexico, the United States and Canada have done nothing but increase the war of extermination against our indigenous communities, through jurisdictional orders such as the Mining Law that have paved the way for our sacred sites in the Desert of Real de Catorce to become the object of 22 concessions granted to the transnational mining company First Majestic Silver, of Canadian origin, totaling 6,326 hectares that encompass our sacred sites.

OBSERVING that the springs where we collect sacred water lay within the basin of the silver veins that would be exploited, thus creating the imminent risk of pollution by cyanide and the drying of large quantities of water that would be used by the mining industry. According to the National Water Commission, the aquifer already has been overexploited and its capacity for recuperation is low.

CONSIDERING that the damage would irreversibly affect 16 population centers belonging to 6 *ejidos* (communal landholdings) in the region that fall within the conceded area, in addition to other various towns and ranches that would experience negative effects on their water sources (drying and contamination), including El Mastranto, San José de Milpitas, Estación Catorce, Santa Cruz de Carretas, Los Catorce, Las Relaciones, El Barranco, El Garabato, Vigas de Coronado, San Juan de Matanzas, among others, totaling approximately 3,500 affected inhabitants.

EVALUATING that the mining Project of First Majestic Silver violates the rights that we have as a recognized group under Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO); violates the established Management Program for the Protected

Ecological Area of Wirikuta that encompasses almost 70% of the mining concession and of which we, the Wixárika People, are part of the Administrative Council; fails to comply with the accords established by the General Law for the Prevention and Management of Dangerous Residues; the disposition of the General Law for the Ecological Balance and Protection of the Environment; the Environmental Law of the state of San Luis Potosí; as well as a sizable quantity of applicable Mexican laws.

ACCORDING to the consensual position of the Wixárika People reached through the analysis of this issue during the General Assembly of the Community of San Sebastián Teponahuaxtlán and its annex of Tuxpan in the municipalities of Mezquitic and Bolaños taken place on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of September of the present year; the General Assembly of Bancos de San Hipólito Mezquitic, Durango taken place on the 4th and 5th of September of this year; the reunions of the Council of Elders in the community of Santa Catarina Cuexcomatitlán taken place on the 5th of September in Las Latas and the 11th and 12th of September, 2010 in Pueblo Nuevo; the reunion of the Interstate Union of Ceremonial Centers taken place in the community of Uweni Muyewe on the 11th and 12th of September, 2010; during the First Forum of Dialogue on Mining in Wirikuta along with the network of the Defense of Wirikuta Tamatsima wa'há taken place in Real de Catorce on the 18th of September, 2010; and the current work assembly to follow up on the PACT OF HAUXA MANAKÁ carried out today in the municipal headquarters of Mezquitic, Jalisco.

WE DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. We manifest our profound rejection to the mining Project of the transnational company First Majestic Silver in the desert of Real de Catorce, being that our sacred sites are a form of patrimony that can not be monetarized and that hold an unquantifiable value for us, our children, our grandchildren and all future generations of Wixárika people.
2. We demand the immediate cancellation of the 22 mining concessions granted to said company and that an indefinite moratorium be instated in order for there to be no more permits expedited for the exploration and extraction in the desert of Real de Catorce nor in any area that is adjacent to our sacred places.
3. We communicate our founded preoccupation for the inhabitants of Wirikuta based on the contamination and drying of the water that they drink, as well as the increase of respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses, cancer related to the poisons that are used in mining and the effect of chemical residues. We invite you to inform yourselves and organize so that you do not have to accept this criminal imposition that would lead to the destruction of your lands and of the landscape that your own grandparents left you and that you will leave for your own children.
4. We demand that the Mexican State immediately implement effective strategies that lead to the improved conditions of the inhabitants of Wirikuta, and that these be proposals in harmony with the environment, and not destructive proposals such

as the mine whereby humble farmers are placed between a rock and hard place being offered work in exchange for the destruction of their patrimony.

5. We respectfully ask that the municipal authorities of Real de Catorce no longer expedite municipal permits for construction or change of land use, being that the General Secretary of the municipality accompanied us during the forum of September 18th in Real de Catorce and was made aware of the opposition to the mine presented by the Wixárika population and numerous local inhabitants.
6. We clarify that we will make use of all necessary resources to stop this devastating mining project, including national and international jurisdictional resources that favor our position as well as acts of peaceful civil resistance if necessary.

SINCERELY

**“For the Integral Revindication of our Wixárika Communities”
From the Municipal Headquarters of Mezquitic, Jalisco
September 23, 2010**

Traditional and Agrarian Authorities of the Wixárika People

By the indigenous community of San Sebastián Teponahuaxtlán and its annex Tuxpan,
municipalities of Mezquitic and Bolaños, Jalisco.

Santiago López Díaz
Traditional Governor of Waut+a

Mauricio Hernández Castañeda
Traditional Governor of Tutsipa

Ramón González López
President of Communal Goods

José Ángel Díaz Serio
President of the Council of Vigilance

By the indigenous community of Santa Catarina Cuexcomatitlán,
Municipality of Mezquitic, Jalisco.

Jaime Carillo Carrillo
Traditional Governor

Juan Ávila De la Cruz
President of Communal Goods

By the indigenous community of Bancos de San Hipólito,
Municipality of Mezquital, Durango.

Santos De la Cruz Carrillo
President of Communal Goods

By the indigenous community of San Andrés Cohamiata,
Municipality of Mezquitic, Jalisco.

Mauricio Montellano De la Cruz
Traditional Governor

By the Wixárika Union of Jalisco, Nayarit and Durango.

Eleuterio De la Cruz Ramírez
President of the Union

Jaime Carrillo López
President of the Council of Vigilance

Witnesses of Honor

Ramón Bañuelos Bonilla
Municipal President of Mezquitic, Jal.

Fredy Medina Sánchez
Municipal President of Huejuquilla el Alto, Jal.

Ing. Guadalupe Flores Flores
State delegate to Jalisco and Colima for the National Commission for the Development of
Indigenous Peoples (CDI)

José de Jesús Navarro Cárdenas
Visitor from the State Commission of Human Rights, Jalisco

Tirzo Navarrete Rodríguez
Director of the CDI, Mezquitic

Roberto López López
Regional Coordinator of the State Indigenous Council