

Ref: GUA002

15th April 2014

Dear Mr Dan Kappes - CEO

### **Intimidation of 'La Puya'**

Our organisation, the Latin American Women's Network (Unión Latinoamericana de Mujeres) is extremely concerned with the current large-scale Police presence on the vicinity of the peaceful protest camp 'La Puya', in Guatemala.

On the morning of April 9<sup>th</sup> 2014, a local company contracted by Kappes Cassidy and Associates, Transmac S.A, entered the mine site with heavy machinery and a large contingent of National Civil Police. By 2pm there were about three hundred Police agents, many were dressed in riot gear, lined up outside the entrance of the peaceful camp. Though the machinery was removed on the same day, a large Police presence has remained.

These actions are extremely concerning as neither yourselves, your subcontractor nor state representatives have given reasons as to why the large police contingency has remained present at the camp. Thus they can be interpreted intimidating actions that are provoking confrontation with the population in peaceful resistance. Moreover, this has made many in the camp fear that a forced eviction is planned, even though dialogue meetings are still in process.

It is important to highlight that the local population from San José del Golfo and surrounding communities formed 'La Puya' camp more than two years ago, in response to the serious concerns that they hold over environmental and social impacts from the proposed mining project. Concerns, which they believe have gone unheard.

ULAM will continue to monitor carefully the situation at La Puya.

As the CEO of the mining company Kappes Cassidy and Associates, we call on you to:

- Ensure the safety and the rights of the men, women and children in peaceful resistance;
- Demand an end to intimidation and harassment by police and private security, and form them to respect for human rights;
- Urge respect for the ongoing dialogue and the demands of the people of La Puya



Daniel Rowe  
Regional Representative  
ULAM