

January 29, 2025

Dear President Bukele,

The undersigned 297 organizations from 44 countries and territories join the call by social movement organizations in El Salvador that you keep mining out of El Salvador and that your Attorney General drop the charges against the five water defenders set to face a second trial on February 3 after having been found innocent of all charges in October 2024.

We have witnessed the destructive impacts of mining all over the world, and we understand that El Salvador faces multiple challenges and environmental threats that would be exacerbated by the reintroduction of mining. Mining would increase El Salvador's risk of environmental contamination, human rights violations, and public health concerns.

**We note the following:**

- The new mining law passed on December 23, 2024 centralizes the decision making in the hands of the executive. It ignores international best practices, like requiring mining companies to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment for project approval. It does not provide for open and transparent information on mining activities, nor does it require consultation and consent of the communities that will be impacted. Worst of all, it leaves the high cost of mining closures and environmental remediation in the hands of the state while freeing mining corporations from any responsibility for environmental crimes;
- El Salvador's previous 2017 mining law that prohibited all metals mining was passed unanimously in the legislature, and almost four-fifths of Salvadorans opposed mining in a 2015 UCA poll. A new UCA poll in December 2024 found that 61 percent of Salvadorans oppose mining;
- Within El Salvador, the Archbishop of San Salvador, José Luis Escobar Alas, along with 600 priests, a wide range of environmental and social movement organizations, and many in the communities that would be affected by mining, have come out in opposition to new mining;
- Mining is inherently unsustainable: it is destructive to the environment, its potential contributions to human well-being are unequal, and any short-term benefits are insignificant compared to the long-term social and economic damage it inevitably inflicts. El Salvador cannot mine its way to clean water, healthy communities and sustainable livelihoods; and
- There are 15 strong reasons Why El Salvador Rejected Toxic Gold Mining in 2017, and Why it Not Restart Mining Now [available here](#).

On the five water defenders that your government arrested on January 11, 2023, we call on your Attorney General to drop all the charges, and **we note the following:**

- In October 2024, a three-person court in Sensuntepeque ruled to acquit the five on all charges. The ruling was based on the fact that the Attorney General could not establish the existence of a crime. Then, in December 2024, an appeals court [threw out the innocent verdict](#) and announced that the five would be retried on February 3, despite of the fact that no new evidence can be introduced.

We support environmental and social civil society organizations in El Salvador that call on you and your government to implement an environmental agenda focused on restoring a critical environmental balance and promoting long-term sustainability in consultation with communities, social organizations, and other experts and leaders, and to show your full support for El Salvador's historic legislation to protect water and promote healthy communities.

## **Africa**

### **Egypto**

Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)

### **Kenya**

Muungano wa wanavijiji federation Kenya

### **Nigeria**

African Indigenous Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development (AIFES)

### **Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe People's Land Rights Movement

## **Asia**

### **Cambodia**

Equitable Cambodia

### **China**

Blue Dalian

### **India**

IT for Change

Lok Shakti Abhiyan

mines, minerals & PEOPLE

The Future We Need

### **Indonesia**

KRuHA

Mining Advocacy Network/JATAM

World Student Christian Federation Asia Pacific Region

### **Japan**

Pacific Asia Resource Center (PARC)

## **Malaysia**

Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia)  
Third World Network

## **Pakistan**

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum  
Rajunri kath

## **The Philippines**

Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM)  
Asia Young Indigenous Peoples Network  
Bai Indigenous Women's Network  
Center for Environmental Concerns - Philippines  
Ecumenical Bishops Forum  
Focus on the Global South  
Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL)  
Kabataan para sa Tribung Pilipino (KATRIBU)  
Katribu Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas  
LILAK (Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights)  
National Council of Churches in the Philippines  
Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc.  
SIKLAB Philippine Indigenous Youth Network

## **Sri Lanka**

National Fisheries Solidarity Movement

## **Central America and the Caribbean**

### **Costa Rica**

Casa Javorai  
Comunidad "Brisa Fresca"  
PRESERVE PLANET  
Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana  
Departamento Ecueménico de Investigaciones – DEI

### **Dominican Republic**

Coalición Ambiental del Noroeste (COANOR)

### **El Salvador**

Alianza Centroamericana frente a la Minería (ACAFREMIN)  
Alianza Nacional Contra la Privatización del Agua  
AMAES  
Asociación de Mujeres Ambientalistas de El Salvador  
Asociación Nuevo Amanecer de El Salvador  
Asociación para el Desarrollo Económico Social (ADES Santa Marta)  
Colectivo Alejandria

Colectivo Micelio Suburbano  
Foro del Agua  
Iglesias Históricas de El Salvador  
Mesa por el Derecho a Defender Derechos  
Mesa Nacional Frente a la Minería  
Movimiento Ecofeminista de El Salvador  
Movimiento Político Reverdes  
Movimiento Universitario de Pensamiento Crítico  
Red Interfacultades para la Investigación Social  
Revolución Comunista  
Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS)

### **Guatemala**

Conferencia de Iglesias Evangélicas de Guatemala CIEDEG  
Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas  
Consejo del Pueblo Maya CPO

### **Haiti**

Plateforme Haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Aletmatif (PAPDA)

### **Honduras**

COPA  
Laudato Si Honduras  
Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña, OFRANEH  
Plataforma Internacional contra la impunidad

### **Panama**

Alianza para la Conservación y el Desarrollo (ACD)  
Asociación ADOPTA Bosque  
Centro de Incidencia Ambiental de Panamá  
Colectivo Bayano  
Colectivo Voces Ecológicas COVEC  
Colectivo YAESYA  
Espacio Encuentro de Mujeres  
Federación de Trabajadores del Agua Potable y Alcantarillado del Peru - FENTAP  
Fundación para el Desarrollo Integral, Comunitario y Conservación de Ecosistemas en Panamá (FUNDICCEP)  
Fundación Pro Eco Azuero  
Fundación para la Protección del Mar Pro-Mar  
Guardianes de Río Cobre  
Red Nacional en Defensa del Agua de Panamá

### **Europe**

**Austria**

Guatemala Solidarität Österreich

Informationsgruppe Lateinamerika (IGLA)

KOO -Co-ordination office of the Austrian Bishops' Conference for International Development and Mission

Südwind, Austria

**Basque Country**

A Planeta

Lumaltik Herriak

**France**

International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL)

Romain Champalaune Photography

**Germany**

Adveniat e.V.

Flüchtlingshilfe Mittelamerika e. V.

HonsurasDelegation

Iniciativa Cristiana Romero Initiative (ICR)

INKOTA

Kaffeekampagne El Salvador

Oficina Ecumenica por la Paz y la Justicia

PowerShift

terre des hommes Deutschland e.V.

Ventana al Sur

Welthaus Bielefeld e.V.

**Hungary**

Protect the Future Association / Védegylet Egyesület

**Italy**

FLC CGIL Trade Union

**The Netherlands**

Transnational Institute

**Navarra**

Colectivo El Salvador Elkartasuna

**Northern Ireland**

Save Our Sperrins (SOS)

**Portugal**

Academia Cidadã

**Spain**

CooperAcció

Fundación Tantí  
OMAL-Paz con Dignidad  
Ongd AFRICANDO  
REDS-Red de solidaridad para la transformación social

### **Sweeden**

IM Swedish development partner

### **United Kingdom**

Earth Thrive (Reino Unido / Serbia)  
Friends of Santa Marta  
London Mining Network

### **North America**

#### **Canada**

Acción Ciudadana Salvadoreña en Montreal - Contra la Minería  
Americas Policy Group / Groupe d'orientation politique pour les Amériques (APG/GOPA)  
Amnesty International Okanagan  
Asociación Salvadoreña Canadiense de Mujeres (ASCADEM)  
Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network (ARSN)  
BC Federation of Post-Secondary Educators (FPSE) Human Rights & International Solidarity Committee (HRISC)  
Canadian Foreign Policy Institute  
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)  
Canadian Union of Public Employees Ontario  
CDCES Centre de Développement Casa El Salvador  
Central Okanagan United Church  
Codevelopment Canada  
Comité para los derechos Humanos en America Latina (CDHAL)  
Common Frontiers  
Development and Peace - Caritas Canada  
Friends of the Earth Canada  
Grandmothers Advocacy Network  
Guelph/Wellington Coalition for Social Justice  
Inter Pares  
International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) Canada  
Jesuit Refugee and Migrant Service  
Journal des Alternatives  
Justice and Outreach Committee of Dublin Street United Church  
Kairos: faithful action for justice  
Laboratoire interdisciplinaire d'études latino-américaines (LIELA), UQÀM  
Latin American Canadian Solidarity Association  
Le Centre Oblat  
Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network (BTS)  
Mining Injustice Solidarity Network

Mining Justice Action Committee  
Mining Justice Alliance  
MiningWatch Canada  
Montreal for a World BEYOND War  
NB Media Co-op  
Okanagan Climate H7b  
Organisation Québécoise de Solidarité Internationale pour les Droits humains  
Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Ottawa Quakers (Canada)  
People's Health Movement - Canada  
Regroupement pour la Responsabilité Sociale des Entreprises  
Salvadoran Canadian Association (ASALCA)  
Salvadorian Canadian Association of Ottawa and National Capital Region (ASCORCAN)  
SOS El Salvador  
Student Christian Movement Canada  
The United Church of Canada  
United Church of Canada East, Eco-Justice Working Group  
United for Mining Justice  
Victoria Central America Support Committee  
Water Watchers

### **Mexico**

Grupo de investigación transversal sobre biopolítica y necropolítica UACM  
Red Mexicana de Afectadas/os por la Minería (REMA)  
Bienestar cicacalco  
Bios Iguana A.C.  
CartoCrítica, A.C.  
Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas  
Centro de Estudios de la Región Cuicateca CEREC-Oaxaca  
Colectivo de espiritualidades por la paz  
Cooperativa Banmacondo  
eclectomeiroland  
Comité de Solidaridad con El Salvador en México  
Espacio Migrante A.C.  
Frente Popular en Defensa del Soconusco  
GeoComunes  
La Boca Nostra  
Observatorio de Derechos Humanos de los Pueblos  
Otros Mundos Chiapas  
Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales  
Red de Información y Acción Ambiental de Veracruz

### **United States**

350.org US  
Alameda County Green Party  
Allende Program in Social Medicine

Alliance for Social and Economic Justice  
Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine  
Amazon Watch  
American Friends Service Committee  
Arlington Teosinte Sister City Project  
Bangor-Carasque Sister City Committee  
Batani Foundation (USA/Russia)  
Cambridge United for Justice with Peace  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
Center for Interdisciplinary Environmental Justice  
Centro Presente  
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)  
Clean Power Coalition of Southeast Wisconsin  
Colectivo de Psicología para la Abolición y Liberación  
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)  
Cultural Survival  
Denver Justice and Peace Committee  
Doctors for Global Health  
Doctors for Global Health Mexico  
Earth Ministry Team - First Church, UCC, Amherst, MA  
Earthworks  
Environmental Defender Law Center  
Equipo de Trabajo Feminista (Global South outreach)  
Global Labor Justice  
Great Basin Resource Watch  
GreenRoots  
Grupo primero de abril  
Haiti Action Committee  
Honor The Earth  
Human Agenda  
Inclusive Development International  
Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project  
Instituto Calan por la Justicia Transterritorial (CATRA)  
International Rivers  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
Latin America Caribbean Working Group of Mass Peace Action  
Latin America Task Force of Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice  
Latin America Working Group  
Loretto Community Latin America/Caribbean Committee  
Loretto Link  
Madison-Rafah Sister City Project  
Malach Consulting  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
Oxfam America  
Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (USA/Guatemala)  
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee



Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.), Office of Public Witness  
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator  
Ralph E Ogden Foundation, Inc.  
Rights Action (USA/Canada)  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
Rochester Committee on Latin America  
Romero Interfaith Center  
Seattle Revolutionary Socialists  
Servicios EcuMénicos para Reconciliación y Reconstrucción  
Silver Valley Community Resource Center  
SIRGE Coalition  
Sister Parish of Decorah, Iowa USA  
Sister Parish of First United Methodist & Decorah UCC Churches  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
Sisters of Saint Francis Rochester Minnesota (USA/Colombia)  
SOAWatch  
Solidarity  
Solidarity - Bay Area  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Community  
Task Force on the Americas  
Temple of Understanding  
Union Salvadoreña  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hidalgo County Texas  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Unite North Metro Denver  
Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition  
US Policy Team of US- El Salvador Sister Cities  
US-El Salvador Sister Cities  
Voices on the Border  
Washington Ethical Society  
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)  
West Burke Unitarian Universalist Church  
Wisconsin Resources Protection Council

### **South America**

#### **Argentina**

Diálogo 2000 - Jubileo Sur Argentina  
Sumak Kawsay asociación civil  
Asamblea Jachal No Se Toca

#### **Bolivia**

Fundación Abril

#### **Brasil**

Instituto Cordilheira

## **Chile**

Coordinadora Ambiental Farfana  
Fundación Chile Sustentable  
Movimiento por el Agua y los Territorios- MAT  
Observatorio de la Escuela de las Américas SOAW-Chile  
Corporación parque para penco

## **Colombia**

Centro Ecuménico Popular para América Latina de Comunicaciones (CEPALC)  
Coalición de Movimientos y Organizaciones Sociales de Colombia - Comosoc -  
Mesa Ecuménica por la Paz - MEP -  
AFAVIT Asociación Víctimas Trujillo  
Asociación Conpazcol

## **Ecuador**

Acción Ecológica  
Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM)  
La Colectiva  
Organización comunitaria de mujeres en resistencia sinchi warmi Río Blanca

## **Oceania**

### **Australia**

Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network  
Philippines Australia Union Link  
Regional Trade union human rights /share holder group

### **New Zealand**

Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki

## **Regional/International**

American Association of Jurists  
Blue Planet Project  
CEJIL (Center for Justice and International Law)  
Local Futures  
Nación Salvadoreña en el Exterior  
Pax Christi Internacional  
Plataforma de Acuerdos Público Comunitarios  
Protection International Mesoamérica  
Red Europea de Comités Oscar Romero (SICSAL-Europa)  
SICSAL, Servicio Internacional de Solidaridad Cristiana con América Latina - Oscar Romero  
International  
Yes to Life, No to Mining