



Why Support CIEL? Reason # 1: Because communities have a right to say “no” to mining.

Imagine: a Canadian company plans to open a mine in El Salvador, but the government denies a permit when an environmental review exposes threats to local communities. Counting on cozy relationships with officials to solve the problem, the company assumes this is just a minor road block. **In this case, though, a popular movement stands up and says “No”—not just to this mine, but to mining itself as part of the country’s future.** And, in a milestone for democracy, the government sets up a national process to decide whether mining is right for El Salvador. The company responds by suing under international trade rules, seeking to compel the country to pay millions in lost profits for choosing to protect its environment and its people.

Sadly, the story is true. And it’s the kind we hear every day. CIEL uses its legal expertise to help communities like this fight for their rights. Please donate today to support this important work.

Having come so far in their struggle for a healthy environment, the Salvadoran movement refused to give up. But when the debate moved from El Salvador to Washington, they needed legal help to fight back. **And that’s where CIEL came in.**

This is the kind of work CIEL seeks out and it is where we excel. Corporate exploitation of the environment at communities’ expense is all too ordinary: it happens all over the world. But when a company moves into the international arena—by seeking World Bank funding, exploiting trade agreements or simply skirting the law—then CIEL becomes extraordinary. We bring our international legal expertise, our passion for justice and our commitment to the environment to the aid of those too often ignored in our globalized world.

We gained standing as a friend of the court and filed a brief on behalf of the groups opposed to mining, highlighting how the company was abusing international trade rules to undermine democracy. And people across the region and beyond are watching this unprecedented case.

In El Salvador, Guatemala, and throughout Latin America, communities are fighting back against mining practices that ruin their lands and poison their waters. CIEL is bringing its brilliant legal strategies to support their cause and help bring an end to destructive mining and the human rights abuses that too often come with it.

It's just one way we use the power of law to protect the environment, promote human rights and ensure a just and sustainable world. Your gift to CIEL is an investment in creating that world.

Please donate today and help CIEL defend the right to a healthy planet.

Sincerely,

Carroll Muffett
President

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