

Ian Austin, President and CEO
Skye Resources Nickel Mining Company
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Dear Mr. Ian Austin,

I condemn the recent evictions of 483 Maya Q'eq'ché families in El Estor, Guatemala, carried out by the Guatemala Nickel Company (CGN), a subsidiary of Skye Resources Nickel Mining Company. I recently learned of the evictions of La Unión, La Pisa, La Revolución, and La Paz that took place on January 8 and 9, 2007 due to a dispute over land. I am deeply troubled that CGN – Skye Resources contracted employees used a show of force and aggression against the communities and burned 18 houses to the ground. CGN-Skye Resources has violated the human rights of the families and has not adhered to international standards in executing evictions. This is unacceptable.

I understand that CGN technically owns the land that the communities are occupying. Nevertheless, the lands have been unused and unproductive for decades and are the ancestral lands of the families. Moreover, the families were coaxed and forced off those lands during the 1960s and are only searching for land to use for subsistence agriculture, in order to survive. Now they have nothing.

I denounce the manner in which CGN contracted employees and the Guatemalan government carried out the evictions, violently expelling several families from their homes - leaving them with minimal possessions and no where to go. Furthermore, I demand that Skye Resources implement an investigative team to identify the contracted CGN employees responsible for burning 18 homes, and require that you aid Guatemalan authorities in bringing them to justice. Moreover, due to the force used by CGN employees, I urge you to compensate the affected communities for or repair the damage caused to their homes and possessions. In the same token, I demand that CGN and the Guatemalan government terminate all evictions and begin to negotiate with expelled families over the disputed land and reach a compromised and just solution for all involved parties. Finally, if future evictions are to be carried out, I require that you ensure that international standards are adhered to – in particular that no excessive force or intimidation is used.

I remind you that the rest of the international community concerned about human rights and I are watching. We are in solidarity with victims of human rights abuses and will not stand by in silence or inaction. I urge you to comply with the aforementioned requests so that CGN and Skye Resources remains in good standing with consumers, investors, and the international community.

With grave concern,