

First, we take MANHATTAN ...

Before they take PERU



It's a case of globalization gone bad and how the FTAA could make it worse. Farmers in Peru burn an effigy of a Canadian and face down 300 riot police and teargas in their effort to stop Canadians from turning their town and their farms into an open pit mine.

The Vancouver-based mining company Manhattan Minerals is facing enormous pressure to withdraw from the region of Tambogrande, Peru where it plans to build and operate a series of open-pit mines. The problem is above ground, where over 25,000 live and farm in Tambogrande.

What Canadians call an "undeveloped copper and gold deposit" Peruvians call home — and they don't want to be told to move. Opposition to the mine centres on the proposed leveling of an existing town and on concerns over impacts on agricultural production.

Residents of Tambogrande are demanding an end to the mining of their town and calling on Manhattan Minerals to go back to Vancouver. The company that operated six drill rigs right in the streets of Tambogrande is offering to relocate the locals, but this farming community is saying no.

Thousands of local residents have demonstrated and spoken out against the proposed mine. On March 31, one of the most vocal opponents of the mine — mango farmer Godofredo García

Baca — was murdered, and locals question whether his death was related to the conflict.

Manhattan has repeatedly promised to respect the wishes of the local population. The question is, what part of "no" do they not understand?

Activists in Canada are needed to speak out against Vancouver-based Manhattan Minerals. We need to show our solidarity with activists in Tambogrande who are risking arrest and their lives as they protest these Canadians' attempt to destroy their town and their farms.

Projects like Manhattan's are the concrete result of governments throwing their countries open and catering to foreign investment, at any cost. By decreasing what latitude national governments have left, the proposed FTAA can only make a bad situation worse.

If people ask why you oppose the FTAA, tell them about what Canadians are doing in Tambogrande. This is the real effect of globalization.

Tambo Grande.

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You can't buy one at Starbucks...

It's a town.

VIPIRG

**Vancouver Island
Public Interest Research Group**



Student action and research in the public interest. For more info email vipirg@uvic.ca.

The people of Tambogrande are saying NO to Manhattan Minerals!

The people of Tambogrande have clearly said no to being relocated and no to mining in their mango fields. Consider this:

- Currently a petition in the Tambogrande region has collected over 18,000 names saying they're opposed to mining in their region by Manhattan—or anyone else.
- In February, up to 6,000 local residents participated in a mobilization against Manhattan Minerals' proposed mine. The residents erected roadblocks on all routes in and out of the company's base of activities.
- Following the mobilization, about 250 demonstrators took direct action against the mining company. Over two nights they burned the company's offices, equipment and the display homes promoting the proposed relocation. Protestors were met by 300 members of the National Police of Peru who tear gassed the crowd, but were forced to withdraw to the mine camp.

- The murder of a prominent community leader in Tambogrande has heightened fears and tensions in the area. Godofredo García was shot dead and subsequently robbed while driving to his farm on March 31. García was an outspoken critic of mining in the Tambogrande region.
- According to *Canadian Business Magazine*, this is not the first protest. A previous anti-mining



demonstration resulted in US\$1 million in damages to trucks and other gear. Thousands took to the streets and when Peru's minister of energy and mines flew in to talk about the Canadian's project he was stoned by a crowd of 200

angry locals.

- More recently, the business magazine reports that during the town's 217th anniversary celebration an effigy of a Canadian was burned in the town's plaza as people made "anti-Canadian speeches" as "the townsfolk respond to each point with fists raised and angry chants of: 'Agrosi! Mino no!' (Agriculture Yes, Mining No)."
- "We have agriculture here, and we don't want to change it for mining... In Peru, mines have never brought development. They have always brought poverty, hunger, misery and destruction," Ojeda Riofrio for the Front for the Defense of San Lorenzo and Tambogrande.

"If the people of Tambogrande don't want to move, there obviously won't be a mine. Nobody is going to make anybody move here. That's not in the cards."

Graham Clow, the president of Manhattan Minerals promised in the *Globe and Mail's Report on Business* March 27, 2001.

The Catholic Church says No to Canadians mining Tambogrande

- Local bishops Oscar Cantuarias and Daniel Turley requested that "the company Manhattan Sechura immediately leave Tambogrande in order to restore calm and peace among our people."
- Alejandro Silva Reina of the local Catholic Church's human rights wing tells the *Canadian Business Magazine* in March 2001, "If the company doesn't find a way to get residents onside, the church will do whatever it takes to stop the mine—whether that means lobbying in Lima, at the World Bank or in Canada."
- Following the latest protests, Reina is quoted in the *Globe and Mail* as saying, "Overwhelmingly, the people are not in favour of a mine."
- The Church conducted a survey in October 2000 and found that fully 80% of area residents had a negative opinion about Manhattan Minerals in Tambogrande and two-thirds of people felt the biggest problems facing Tambogrande were mining and its side effects.

The Canadian Business Press reports No to Mining of Tambogrande

- "[F]rom the day Manhattan contractors hauled their own test drill rigs into Tambo Grande in mid-1999, the company has encountered deep mistrust and violent opposition." *Canadian Business Magazine*



Scene from the February 27-28 mobilization against Manhattan Minerals.

- *The Globe and Mail* reports: "Two Roman Catholic bishops in the area as well as the regional mayors have said no mine should be built in the town of 16,000."

Even Investors are Disgusted

Manhattan's actions are even alienating investors, if what's being said in investor chatrooms is any indication. "In my 3+ years of holding this stock it has done nothing but flounder," one self-identified investor wrote about Manhattan March 10 on *Stockhouse.ca's 'bullboard.'* "These guys running this show are MICKEY MOUSE." On March 28 another would-be investor had this to say: "Looks like this company is dead on arrival. Thanks to BAD MANAGEMENT!"

Who says YES to Manhattan Minerals?

The disgraced ex-president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, cut the deal with Manhattan Minerals before fleeing the country to exile in November 2000 no longer able to conceal reports of corruption. Over 100 residents have traveled to Lima to demand the government throw out the ex-president's deal with the Canadians. Now, Peru's Minister of Energy and Mines is saying Manhattan's project will take place only if the local community wants it. "The population will have the final decision," says Minister Carlos Herrera in March 2001.

(Sources: "Peruvian mine site a political flash point", *Globe and Mail*, March 27, 2001. "City of Gold", *Canadian Business Magazine*, February 5, 2001. "The Ugly Canadians" www.tv.cbc.ca/national/pgminfo/ugly. "Enardecidos pobladores quemam campamento de empresa minera" *El Comercio Peru*, March 1, 2001. "Activist Killed", *The Georgia Straight* April 6, 2001. "Peru says Tambogrande mine depends on local support", *Dow Jones Newswire*, March 26, 2001.)

Another UGLY Canadian

As Canadian mining companies embrace globalization there is mounting hostility around the world to what are often referred to as the UGLY CANADIAN companies.

In March 2001, business papers in South Africa read "Placer Dome Inc., the UGLY CANADIAN company, has been a source of pain and misery since it acquired 50 per cent of South Deep." The ads are from the national Union of Mineworkers (NUM) who argue the companies are "the destroyers of the union. They are destroyers of the environment and the lives of ordinary people in the southern hemisphere."

The CBC National's special report "The Ugly Canadians" tells of three environmental disasters in three years. All are Canadian mining companies destroying another country's environment. In two of the cases the companies were mining for

gold, using cyanide to extract the gold from the rock. At the Omai mine in Guyana, 3.2 billion litres of cyanide-laced waste burst from the Montreal company Cambior's dam into the local river. Manhattan Minerals plans to use the same cyanide leaching process to extract the gold under Tambogrande.

"If it happened once, it's bad luck. If it happened twice it's a coincidence. When it happens three times, I think you now have to come to the conclusion there's a problem," according to Manford Mallory, who's a mining stock analyst in Toronto.

What you can do

"Our mining industry recognizes the need to develop what I would call a 'social licence' to conduct its activities... I expect our companies to operate to the same high standards abroad as they do in Canada. In other words, when Canadian mining companies work abroad, they must bring their codes of conduct with them." Ralph

Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources, speaking at the 5th Annual Mines Ministries of the Americas Conference, Vancouver, B.C., October 5, 2000

1 Write to Ralph Goodale, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources. Commend him on the high standards he sets for Canadian mining companies operating abroad—and ask for concrete action showing he's willing to back up his statements. Tell him you think it's clear that Manhattan Minerals has no "social license" to operate in Tambogrande. Say that his ministry can't responsibly ignore the actions of a company that is threatening Canada's status, interests, and image as much as the lives and livelihood of local citizens in Peru. (Free Postage)

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2 Vancouver based MANAHATTAN MINERALS must immediately be made to stop its plans to destroy the town of Tambogrande in Peru. Email or write to the President of Manhattan Minerals, Graham Clow, and thank him for his promise to not destroy Tambogrande if people don't want their town destroyed. Tell him to respect the voice of opposition in Peru and your opposition as a Canadian.

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