

Here is the translation of the video "Que Pasa en Tocoa"? What is happening in Tocoa?

In 2012 the Montaña de Botadero was declared as a National Park with the intention of conserving biodiversity and its rich ecosystem

70% of this park is in the municipality of Tocoa, which is in the Department of Colon.

In 2013, the National Congress reduced the size of the park and facilitated the opening of the park to mining industries.

As a consequence, ENCOMINE company, which is today called Pinares Investments, received a license to exploit the area.

Why did the National Congress reduce the size of the Montana de Botaderos National Park?
WHY did INHGEOMIN authorize the mining exploitation of a protected zone?

In less than a year, in 2014, the Administration of Evaluation and Environmental Control (which belongs to the Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment of Honduras) declared that the mining project was NOT FEASIBLE and it recommended that the license that had been given be revoked. But the mining activity continued.

Why did authorities not revoke the permit given to the mining company as was recommended by the DECA?

In June of 2018 13 communities of Tocoa denounced the scarcity and the contamination of their water and the San Pedro and Guapinol Rivers. The people took over the Municipal Building to demand that the municipality be free of mining, but their demands were denied.

Why did the municipality of Tocoa not listen to the people of the Town Hall meeting [cabildo abierto] to free the municipality of mining?

August 1st, as a method of pressure to resolve the mining conflict, the community set up an encampment called "Encampment for Life in Defense of the Water" in the community of Guapinol.

September 13th, a court for cases that are considered to be highly dangerous, issued an order for the capture of 18 people [environmentalists is the word in the image] in the encampment for crimes of appropriation and damages to the company and the Honduran state.

Why are the environmentalists criminalized and processes in courts of "extreme danger"?

On October 28th, more than 1000 members of the Honduras security forces violently evicted people from the Guapinol encampment

2 days after the eviction, communities took over the CA-13 highway, and demand the cancellation of the mining projects. But once again, they are violently removed. This time, there were more people wounded and 2 members of the security forces were killed. Since then, the zone has become a militarize zone and, for safety reasons, more than 20 community-leaders and their families have had to relocate.

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