

Ternium mining company executives threatened defenders before their disappearance:
Aquila community members

A month before their disappearance, community leader Antonio Díaz and lawyer Ricardo Lagunes were threatened by Ternium executives, say community members from Aquila, Michoacán. Last year they also faced persecution for their social and legal struggle, according to the report by Analy Nuño on the website "A donde van los desaparecidos":

Last December 13, during a communal assembly in Aquila, the threat against the defenders took place. The warning by the community members led by Díaz Valencia that they would stop work at the mine if Ternium did not meet their demand for a fair royalty payment for each ton of iron extracted and for the temporary occupation - or rent - of the concessioned land caused annoyance among the company directors who attended the meeting: Rogelio Omaña Romero, manager of Human Resources, Community Relations and Social Development; Diego Ferrari, director of Mining Development, and José Ulises González, head of Community Relations for the company belonging to the Italian-Argentine Techint group and headquartered in Luxembourg.

"Toño Díaz and a group received a threat from the mining company; the manager made it to them in the assembly, he told them that they were going to 'lift them up' at any moment and that they had to submit to the interests of the mining company; when they did not give in, we fear that this is the reason for this (their disappearance)," said a community member who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals.

"We told them that we knew they were paying to 'pick us up' and that this was a death threat; one of us told the government security delegate: 'If anything happens to us, they are to blame'. Afterwards, they didn't want to talk, engineer Ferrari spoke very little, threw the microphone, got up and left", said another community member.

The forced disappearance of the two human rights defenders "confirms the institutional vacuum and the lack of operational capacity of the authorities to act in a scenario of generalised criminality such as the territory of Mexico", affirms the Red TDT. On the other hand, the federal executive privileges the prosperity and protection of private investment in companies, such as the mining sector, regrets the network of human rights organisations in the country.

Translated by the BHRRC

Source:

<https://www.educaoxaca.org/directivos-de-la-minera-ternium-amenazaron-a-defensores-antes-de-su-desaparicion-comuneros-de-aquila/>