

Conflict and State's role: The case of Porgera, Papua New Guinea

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**Its a view of Porgera
mining and its
communities**

IMPACTS OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES IN PORGERA

I. Socio Economic

- Losing land had caused the inhabitants to switch from subsistence farming to poverty induced activities in order to bring food on the table
- Improper and insufficient royalty payments had led to shortage and wants

IMPACTS OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES IN PORGERA

II. Environmental

- Discharge of toxic substances are exposed to human causing immediate illness and death or future defects
- Earth moving activities and dumpings are causing land slips and flooding that a displacing villages causing deaths and injuries to indigenous people of Porgera

IMPACTS OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES IN PORGERA

III. Human Rights

* Individual or collective socio-economical and cultural rights is slim in Porgera where the state and the mining company are over ruling the situation in their wish.

IV. Cultural Rights

Indigenous peoples of Porgera solely depend on interaction and interrelationship within their ethnic circle to sustain livelihood in terms of security , peace and well being. However this way of life is disturbed by land displacement caused by the mine.

CONCERNS RAISED BY THE PEOPLE OF PORGERA

I. Claims/Submissions/Reports

- locally it was submitted to the Mine Manager
- Nationally it was submitted to the National Government
- Internationally it was submitted to the owner and president of the company

II. Alliance

- to set a network and alliance was formed locally, nationally and internationally with organisations pursuing objectives

III. Protest/Meetings/Awareness

With the greater network of alliance we protest against Barrick in its home country in Canada in May and attended Barricks AGM to present our complain

STATES BEHAVIOR IN PORGERA

The role of the states is to protect its peoples from exploitation. However, the state seems to protect the mining company and its people because:

- the findings of socio-economical, environmental and human rights report done by an independent investigation team commissioned by the state is not made public
- there is no care for the land owners consent
- state is supplying police to enforce security at the mine site
- state is changing laws to cover up from litigations
- state is proposing a state of emergency in Porgera next month. This will certainly suppress the land owners from speaking their rights

THE EXTRACTING INDUSTRY (BARRICKS) BEHAVIOR

The extracting industry should operate within certain permits and comply to ethical conduct in a harmonious relationship with the indigenous peoples. However, the mining company seem to deliberately breach its codes of conducts and bribe the authorities in order to:

- avoid mining inspection
- Mine by force such as
 - shoot to kill trespassers and obstructors
 - arbitrary and detain or harass trespassers and obstructors
- Implementing divide and rule tactic by using personnels within the community

RESOLUTIONS

The only way to protect the indigenous people of Porgera is to monitor and warn the mining company and the state to comply to human rights laws. I personally propose:

i. a decentralization of the UN Commission for Human Rights by establishing its agents in the mining communities. This office may be controlled from the UN base office to enforce the human rights laws. This new office may consist of one or two human rights experts plus the local defenders. The office may:

- uphold the freedom of Liberty
 - uphold human rights
 - monitor the state and the Industry's conduct
 - Inspect jails, hospitals, industries, etc.
- monitor the police and securities' conduct

RESOLUTIONS

II. UN to set up a group of specialist to observe and advice in mining contract negotiation between state, extractive industries and the indigenous land owner in every new minings in the worlds for a fair deal in compliance to human rights concepts.



Gibson Unbi was shot dead by the Porgera mining security for trespassing only.



Porgera landowners protesting in New York in an alliance with the mining watch Canada



**Porgera landowners
protesting in
Toronto**