



THE NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

MERIDIAN

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APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION FROM THE MINERS OF ROȘIA MONTANĂ, ROMANIA

FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK, AND AGAINST THE FOREIGN NGO'S WHO PROMISE US NOTHING BUT A FUTURE OF POVERTY AND POLLUTION

WE, THE MINERS UNIONS OF ROSIA MONTANA, ROMANIA, petition the International Labour Organisation for solidarity and support, against the campaign of foreign NGOs who seek to deprive us of our right to work and provide for our families.

WHEREAS under the Ceaușescu regime the practice of mining in Romania was dangerous and unsafe for workers and the environment and workers did not have the right to form free trade unions and elect their own union leaders,

WHEREAS since the fall of the Ceaușescu regime, the transition to a market economy and the opening of Romania's markets has led to dramatic increases in unemployment in many industries, in particular mining;

WHEREAS Romania's entry into the European Union has forced many new requirements on Romania,

WHEREAS operating the mine using dangerous and outdated mining practices which harmed workers' health and severely polluted the surrounding environment

WHEREAS the old state mining company and the company Minvest S.A.were dependent on state subsidies which are now illegal for Romania to give,

WHEREAS the old state mining company and the company Minvest S.A. have both closed, leaving many workers without work,

WHEREAS the current unemployment rate in the commune of Roşia Montană is over 70%,

WHEREAS Romania is the poorest country in the European Union and should have the right to develop its own resources to become equal to its European partners,

WHEREAS the world needs more gold for industrial and other purposes to keep workers in other industries gainfully employed,

WHEREAS the new private company RMGC has pledged to bring valuable resources to the people of Roşia Montana by opening a mine in our town,

WHEREAS this will result in \$2.5 billion US dollars of economic development for Romania,

WHEREAS the fields around Roşia Montană may be the largest undeveloped gold fields in Europe,

WHEREAS the new mine will release less cyanide from its operations than is required by European law and will meet the most stringent EU standards from its first day,

WHEREAS RMGC has pledged to conduct all its activities in Roşia Montană in full accordance with all Romanian and European laws and to the highest international standards and best practices, including the International Cyanide Management Code developed in response to the Baia Mare disaster,

WHEREAS the modern mining done by RMGC will cleanup the environmental remnants of past mining practices,

WHEREAS RMGC has further pledged to preserve our mining heritage dating back to the time of Dacia for future generations and to build an industrial heritage centre in Roşia Montană,

WHEREAS RMGC has further pledged to work with the people of Roşia Montană to ensure that we have the prospect of jobs once mining has closed and to build us new housing to replace old houses that will be displaced by the mine,

WHEREAS RMGC and its investors have cooperated fully with us at all stages of planning the mine until now and have conducted extensive public consultation and have complied with all standards for environmental review,

WHEREAS the process of environmental review is being unfairly disrupted by the actions and attitudes of foreign NGOs that care nothing for the real people of Roşia Montană who have no work,

WHEREAS foreign NGOs are unfairly and deliberately interfering in the process of environmental review, trying to force the government to delay the approval of the plan and trying to stop us from working in the mine while offering nothing in its place,

WHEREAS these foreign NGOs, who claim to act for the good of our village, are spreading lies about our village and the attitude of the workers of Roşia Montană towards opening the mine,

WHEREAS the foreign NGOs who complain about the new mine in Roşia Montană have not offered a single euro for the repair of our environment or our village,

WHEREAS only with the private company's investment will the environmental cleanup that we need to live healthy lives in our village take place,

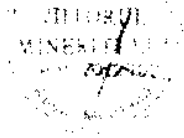
WHEREAS given the poor state of our environment, our living conditions, and our roads, only mining offers us the hope of productive work,

THEREFORE we call upon workers in other countries to join us in solidarity for our right to work and our right to feed our families. We call upon the International Labour Organisation to stand

with us in our struggle for work and to respect our choice as workers to work in the mine that RMGC wants to build. We appeal to the International Labour Organisation for vindication of our rights! We appeal for the right of our country to develop its natural resources, including its mineral resources, without interference from foreign NGOs that do not care about the people of Roşia Montană or the people of Romania!

In solidarity,

UNION SIGNATORIES



***The National Trade Union Confederation MERIDIAN
Ion POPESCU, President***

***“Viitorul Mineritului” (The Future of Mining) Trade Union, Rosia
Montana, Alba County
Cristian Albu, President***

***“Cuprul” (Copper) Trade Union, Abrud City, Alba County
Viorel Hutuleac, President***

***National Mining Central Office
Ion Popescu, President***

Bucharest, 22th of March, 2007