

FRÉTTATILKYNNING FRÁ ORKUAUDLINDIR.IS

ROSS BEATY FORSTJÓRI MAGMA ENERGY CORPORATION

HÓTAR MÁLSÓKN VEGNA VIÐTALS VIÐ BJÖRK Í KANADÍSKU BLAÐI

18. nóvember

Í viðtali kanadíska tímaritsins [MACLEANS](http://www2.macleans.ca) (www2.macleans.ca) við Björk Guðmundsdóttur kom fram, að Björk teldi að fyrirtæki í eigu Ross Beaty hefðu orð á sér fyrir að brjóta lög um mannréttindi og samninga verkalýðsfélaga í Suður-Ameríku.

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Eftir að viðtalið birtist á vef Macleans hafði Ross Beaty samband við blaðið og krafðist leiðréttingar á þessari staðhæfingu Bjarkar, ella myndi hann draga blaðið fyrir dómstóla vegna meiðyrða.

Blaðamaður Macleans, Tom Henheffer, sem tók viðtalið við Björk, valdi þann kost að birta “leiðréttingu” á vefsíðu blaðsins þann 12. nóvember þar sem segir:

“Þann 9. nóvember var birt viðtal við Björk á vefsíðunni þar sem hún heldur því fram að Ross Beaty og Magma Energy Corp. hafi brotið lög í Suður-Ameríku. Þetta er ekki rétt og við biðjum Ross Beaty og fyrirtæki hans afsökunar”.

Hið rétta er að í viðtalinu sagði Björk:

“Companies owned by Ross Beaty have a bad reputation for breaking serious humanitarian and union laws in South America”

Björk nefnir ekki Magma Energy Corporation í þessu samhengi, enda er það fyrirtæki Ross Beaty, Pan American Silver, sem hún vísar til.

Þrátt fyrir að Macleans fékk sendar fjölda ábendinga um greinar þar sem fjallað er um slæmt orðspor Pan American Silver í Suður-Ameríku valdi blaðið að breyta viðtalinu og biðja Ross Beaty afsökunar.

Þetta er enn eitt dæmið um hvernig stórfyrirtæki beita valdi sínu til að hafa áhrif á umræðuna og hóta lögsókn til að að þagga niður opinbera umræðu. Mörg dæmi um slík mál eru rakin á heimasíðu Icelandic Modern Media Initiative (immi.is).

Staðreyndin er sú, að starfsemi Pan American Silver og annarra kanadískra námafyrirtækja í Suður Ameríku hefur verið gagnrýnd víðar og staðhæfing Bjarkar er ekki úr lausu lofti gripin, heldur byggir hún á opinberum heimildum um Pan American Silver og starfsemi fyrirtækisins í Suður Ameríku.

Hótanir Ross Beaty um málssókn breytir þar engu um. Þar sem bæði upprunalega viðtalið við Björk, sem og “leiðrétting” Macleans hafa verið fjarlægð af vef

blaðsins fylgja afrit hér með, sem og afrit af tölvupóstum sem Björk bárust frá Macleans.

Eftirfarndi er listi yfir nokkra tengla á vefsíður þar sem fjallað er um Pan American Silver:

"People could also study the history of Ross Beaty, the man that wants to build Magma Energy to being 'the biggest and best geothermal energy enterprise in the world.' Ross is the founder and chairman of PAN AMERICAN SILVER CORPORATION, which operates metal mines in Bolivia, Mexico and Peru, where mining is done by the book: environmental disasters, human rights violations, low paid labour and union restrictions, to mention but a few of the industry standards."

<http://www.grapevine.is/Home/ReadArticle/Article-Does-Man-Own-Earth>

Hér má lesa grein DV um starfsemi og orðspor Pan American Silver í Suður-Ameríku:

<http://www.dv.is/frettir/2010/7/12/stofnandi-magma-formadur-namufyrirtaekis-i-s-ameriku/?exit=feed>

"For example, a recent study of a Canadian subsidiary, PAN AMERICAN SILVER, operating in the department through a shared-risk contract with the state company COMIBOL (COMIBOL effectively controls about 30% of the project), shows that the company will pay merely 17% taxes and royalties on projected gross sales value over the next 30 years. The taxes going to the municipality where the company is located, one of the poorest in the country, are just over 0.5%. This is straightforward looting. By comparison, in various shared risk contracts in Chile (hardly a socialist haven) taxes and royalties going to all levels of the state amount to up to 51%, whereas, in Peru, it's on the order of 26%."

Sjá nánar hér: http://www.cedla.org/obie/system/files/boletin_OBIE%209.pdf

"The devastation and violence perpetrated by Canadian mining corporations has been documented clearly with links to human rights violations in Guatemala, Peru, Romania, the Philippines, Honduras, Ecuador, Bolivia, Ghana, Suriname, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, India, Indonesia, Zambia and Sudan."

Sjá nánar hér: <http://www.cpcml.ca/Tmld2010/D40057.htm#4>

Both Gold Fields and PAN AMERICAN SILVER have plenty of mine worker deaths on their track records. Here's the [latest from GFI](#), meanwhile the 14 deaths suffered by the PAAS workforce in Peru since 2006 (in many and varied accidents) [are noted here](#).

<http://incakolanews.blogspot.com/2010/10/gold-fields-gfi-and-pan-american-silver.html>

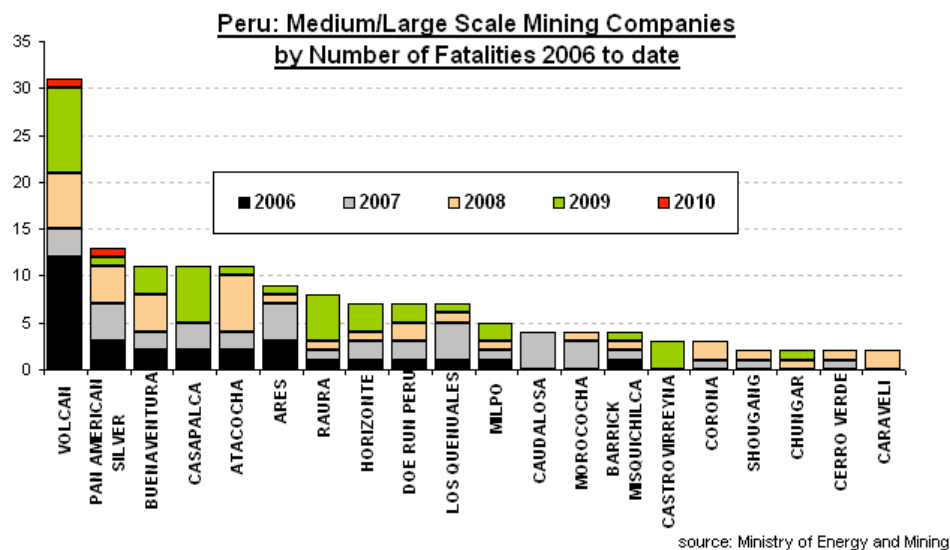
“One problem faced by PAN AMERICAN SILVER was the failure of the old tailings dam. The fugitive tails spilled over an area nearly a kilometre long, including the local river. Not only does reclaiming the spill cost money, a new dam is being built in another location at additional expense”

<http://www.canadianminingjournal.com/issues/story.aspx?aid=1000038560>

“Mining is a positive thing for society and the good players in the industry should be supported, but the modern responsible miners are still offset by those that are using dubious practices to forward their bottom lines. People should ask serious questions of companies such as PAN AMERICAN SILVER, Volcan Buenaventura and any other company with a clear, long-standing track record of neglect towards their workforces.

<http://incakolanews.blogspot.com/2010/02/perus-roll-call-of-shame-reaction.html>

“Next on the roll call of shame comes PAN AMERICAN SILVER which should bring shame upon those up North. This large North American silver company is quoted on both the US and Canadian exchanges, but strangely doesn't make much mention of the thirteen Peruvian deaths at its operations since 2006. This company is a stain on those who talk the good talk about responsible mining practices but can't walk the walk.”



<http://incakolanews.blogspot.com/2010/02/roll-call-of-shame-perus-most-dangerous.html>

http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_7Se7iswAanA/S2uGNFQgOoI/AAAAAAAAKi8/xPBWvuOSoGo/s1600-h/peru_mine_deaths_by_company.gif

From: Krista Williams <krista@sacksco.com>
Subject: **Re: macleans update**
Date: 12. nóvember 2010 17:03:10 GMT+00:00
To: Oddny Eir Aevardsdottir <odnyeir@gmail.com>, Jon Thorisson <jonthorisson@internet.is>,

The shortened article went to print some time ago- it was done before the online piece was even posted unfortunately!

i will send the info to Tom in case he can use it for the online piece.
best,
K

From: James
Subject: **macleans update**
Date: 12. nóvember 2010 16:48:31 GMT+00:00
To: Oddny Eir Aevardsdottir <odnyeir@gmail.com>, Jon Thorisson <jonthorisson@internet.is>,
Cc: Krista Williams <krista@sacksco.com>

hi all... i just spoke to krista and she has just spoken to the journalist, tom. he presented the links we sent to his editor and lawyers, but they have decided to keep the article offline and to issue a retraction for the allegations made. they said that without it being proven in a court of law they could not make the implications about magma's human rights record in south america.

the print version of the article will remain. this is a shorter version of the online article (without the part about south america). this version will then be put online to replace the longer original version which has been taken down.

james x

hi all... had this from tom henheffer who did the interview for canadian press with bjork (for macleans magazine). ross beaty has threatened to sue him over allegations made about mistreating south american workers in the interview. the magazine will have to issue a retraction unless we can substantiate these claims with some sort of further information or evidence. what do we have regarding this and is there anything we can send them to validate the point? james xx