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## [International support to a struggle against mining in Thailand](#)

[\(Available in Thai\)](#)

**Organisations, social movements and activists, from 40 countries sent a letter to the Women and Men Human Rights Defenders of Khao Lao Yai-Pha Jun Dai Forest Conservation Group in Northeastern Thailand, expressing their support and solidarity with their struggle to reclaim the land and forests, encroached on by the Thor Silasitthi mining company.**

**They express their support to the community's demand to the Thai authorities to close the mining activities in the area, and they commit to continue monitoring the situation and give visibility to this important community struggle.**

[>>> Download the letter with the signatures here](#)

[>>> ?????????????????????????????????????? \(Thai\)](#)

26 years ago, a quarry mining company Thor Silasitthi Co. started operating inside a forest area in the Dong Mafai Sub District of Nong Bua Lamphu Province. Since then, at least six villages that depend on this forest area for their livelihoods have been bearing the negative impacts of the company's activities. They have lost access to food they used to find in the forest, and face daily explosions in the mining area which causes noise pollution and damage to households due to falling debris. Important archaeological sites are located inside the mining area; according to the new Mining Act from 2017, these should be exempted from mining.

Women play a crucial role in this struggle which is led by a group called **“the women and men human rights defenders (W/HRDs) of Khao Lao Yai-Pha Jun Dai Forest Conservation Group”**.

Knowing that the company's use permit for the mine was going to expire on September 3, 2020, the community group intensified their struggle to reclaim the forest in the past months. Among the demands is a call to the authorities for rehabilitation of the damaged area. Without a positive reply from the government on their demands, and the company attempting to renew its permit, the communities started an occupation.

Guided by traditional rituals and ceremonies, the planting of seedlings of flowers and trees, 300 women and men from the communities have been occupying part of the mining area since 4 September. They declared the mining area a “Community Forest Zone” and called for justice for the four villagers who in the period 1995-1999 were killed in this struggle. Until now, no one has been held responsible or punished for these killings. On September 25, community members occupied another area, the stone mill. The permit for this location expired on September 24. During the mobilization, community activists as well as a human rights activist supporting them have received death threats.

[>>> Download the letter with the signatures here](#)

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>>> ??? (Thai)

**To: The Women and Men Human Rights Defenders (W/HRDs) of Khao Lao Yai-Pha Jun Dai Forest Conservation Group**

We, undersigned organisations, social movements, and activists, from 40 countries from all continents of the world, have learned about your important struggle of reclaiming the land and forests you care for. We understand that the Thor Silasitthi mining company encroached on this land 26 years ago. Many of us are engaged in grassroots struggles against mining and other destructive projects, and have faced similar indifference from government authorities and provocations from companies as you have in your struggle.

First, we want to express our support and solidarity with your struggle to reclaim the land and forest. In particular, we learned about the recent important actions in September by which you have successfully reclaimed the mining zone and the stone mill.

We are impressed by your staying power and that you are engaged in this struggle already for 26 years. In this process of reclaiming your lives, livelihoods, land and homes, you have lost four comrades. We are inspired by the rituals and ceremonies you have celebrated during the occupation actions. These ceremonies demonstrate a profound care and respect for the area and speak to how important these places are for the present and future well-being of your communities.

We stand with you. We join you in demanding from Thai authorities to defend the collective interests of the communities, not the private and profit-driven interests of mining companies. They must attend your demands and close the mining activities in the area. They must ensure the safety and wellbeing of all involved in the recent actions, in particular those who have received death threats. And they must not forget the call for justice for those community activists who were killed in the past. On this matter, too, we stand with you.

Although many of us are far away from Thailand, be sure that we are connected with your struggle. We are committed to continue monitoring closely the situation and give visibility to your struggle through our own communication networks. Your struggle is not only important to ensure your communities' future, but it also encourages the struggles in other countries and regions. You are an example for the world of what a strong movement is about.

You are not alone in your important struggle. May it be victorious soon. It is already a strong and inspiring example for other struggles in Thailand, and for all of us who are in other countries around the world.

In Solidarity, on 30 November, 2020

**Organizations:**

- Aalamaram – India
- Acción Ecológica – Ecuador
- ADECRU – Mozambique
- Amelerions notre Environnement – Democratic Republic of Congo
- Asamblea De Vecinos Por El No A La Mina Esquel – Argentina
- Asociación Conservacionista Yiski – Costa Rica
- Bloque Oscar Alfaro – Bolivia
- Cardamom Hill Research – Switzerland

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CENSAT – Friends of the Earth Colombia – Colombia  
Centro Científico Tropical – Costa Rica  
Cercle Rosa Luxemburg – Switzerland  
Colectivo Voces Ecológicas – Panama  
Community Forest Watch – Nigeria  
Conceverde San Rafael De Heredia – Costa Rica  
Defenders in Dordrecht – Netherlands  
Ecovital – Brazil  
FASE-Espirito Santo – Brazil  
Focus on the Global South – South East Asia  
Fórum Carajás – Brazil  
Forum Ökologie & Papier – Germany  
Friends of the Earth International – International  
Global Forest Coalition – International  
GRAIN – International  
Grupo Guayubira – Uruguay  
ICRA – France  
Impulso Socialista – Colombia  
Indus Development Organisation – Pakistan  
JATAM network - Indonesia  
Justiça Ambiental – Friends of the Earth Mozambique – Mozambique  
M4 - Movimiento Mesoamericano Contra El Modelo Extractivo Minero – Meso America  
Maiouri Nature Guyana – France  
Missão Tabita – Mozambique  
Movus - Movimiento Por Un Uruguay Sustentable – Uruguay  
MST- Movement Of Landless Rural Workers - Espirito Santo – Brazil  
Muyissi Environnement – Gabon  
Nature-D-Congo – Benin  
Payday Men's Network – USA  
Penny – USA  
Pkf Foundation – Switzerland  
Procesos Integrales Para La Autogestión De Los Pueblos – Mexico  
Project Sevana South-East Asia – Thailand  
Proyecto Gran Simio -Spain  
RAPAM – Mexico  
Rede Brasileira de Justiça Ambiental – Brazil  
Refeb – Ivory Coast  
RIAO-RDC – Democratic Republic of Congo  
Salva la Selva – Spain  
Sawit watch – Indonesia  
School of Democratic Economics – Indonesia  
Soralo – Kenya  
Suhode Foundation – Tanzania  
Sustaining the Wild Coast – South Africa  
Synaparcam – Cameroon  
The Corner House – United Kingdom  
TUK Indonesia – Indonesia  
Unión Universal Desarrollo Solidário - Spain  
Wetlands & Birds Korea – South Korea  
World Rainforest Movement (WRM) - International

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**Individuals:**

A.E. van Wyk – South Africa  
Agathe Torti – France  
Alexander Mága – Germany  
Anicet Gervais Kouame – Ivory Coast  
Anne Forget – France  
Annie Avril – France  
Asunción Libertad Torres Gosálves – Spain  
Barbara van Dyck – Belgium  
Benoit le Turcq – Germany  
Bernard David – France  
Brewster Kneen – Canada  
Brian Gibbons – USA  
Carlos Cambra – Panama  
Catherine Roche – France  
Cecilia Castilla Gómez – Spain  
Claudio Sergio Nadal – Argentina  
Cris Vigiano – Brazil  
Dani Sánchez-Vizcaín – Spain  
Danijel Dubižanac - Croatia  
Daniela Oñate – Chile  
Doris Warnstedt – Germany  
Elder Andrade de Paula - Brazil  
Emily Mason – Ireland  
Encarna González – Spain  
Fabienne Oubrayrie – France  
Fernando Antônio Cuervo Cifuentes – Colombia  
Flavia Buceta – Uruguay  
Francisco Serrano – Peru  
Fredrik Larsson – Sweden  
Guillermo Tobón – Colombia  
Henry Sak – Canada  
Hugh Lee – Ireland  
Isa Belinfante – Netherlands  
James Gray – USA  
Jane Sawcer – United Kingdom  
Janice Lemos – Mozambique  
Jean-Michel Amillard – France  
Jesus Antonio Espinosa – Colombia  
Jim Loveland – USA  
Joan Vicenç Lillo – Spain  
John Orbell – United Kingdom  
Jos Martens – Netherlands  
Josefina Paz Besomi – Chile  
Judith Pincemin – France  
Karen Rothschild – Canada  
Kenneth Ruby – USA

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Lydia Culzoni – Argentine  
Luisa Memore – Italia  
Maginel Galt – USA  
Marc Reina – France  
Marta Moschetti - Italy  
Maria Angeles Mauri Espuny – Spain  
Maria Elena Misó – Spain  
Marie Melotte – Canada  
Martine Rouillard – France  
Michael Miller – France  
Michael F. Schmidlehner – Brazil  
Michele Belford – Australia  
Mylene Marchand – France  
Myrim Goldminc – France  
Neus Calvo – Spain  
Pascal Paquin – France  
Patricia Sosa – Mexico  
Paulo Nührich – Brazil  
Peter Saltanis – USA  
Peter Clausing – Germany  
Philippe Favreliere – France  
Philippe Dauibrese – Netherlands  
Ramón Soriano – Spain  
Sara Díaz – Mexico  
Sergio Miguel Silva Chiossoni – Uruguay  
Simon Bailly – France  
Sylvie Dalbin – France  
Tom van Hettema – Netherlands  
Valerie Tomlinson – United Kingdom  
Valérie Couché – France  
Vanessa Apecechea - Uruguay  
Vicky Penalva – Argentine  
Victor Bravo – Argentine  
Victor Kamendrowsky – USA  
Willi Feuerstein – Austria  
Yücel Ça?lar - Turkey