

Mining as fuel for war, is the title and main theme for this issue of The Broken Rifle. War Resisters' International works against war profiteering, supporting local nonviolent campaigns against these corporations. Most of the campaigns that we have worked together with are campaigns targeting well known war profiteers – the arms traders and service suppliers to the military. In this issue we want to take a next step and start to look closer to the connections that the mining industry has with the globalisation of militarism.

WRI sees a need to link the struggles of local communities against the mining industry with the anti-war movement. As you will read in the articles in this issue, the mining industry plays an important role in fuelling local conflicts – especially in Africa as documented in the article by Jan Van Criekeing – but also the minerals extracted are vital in weapons manufacture, as noted by Felix Padel in his article about aluminium.

This BR also introduces us to one of the main themes of the seminar WRI is planning in India, 27-30 December 2008: “Linking local livelihood struggles and global militarism”. The seminar will bring together campaigners and researchers from all over the world to analyse the role of states and multinational corporations in depriving local communities of their sources of livelihood. We aim to learn from the experience of nonviolent resistance at various levels – from the community to the global.

Javier Gárate

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During the last weeks of November and during most of December of 2007 a state of emergency (militarization of the zone) was declared in the Province of Orellana in the Amazon region of Ecuador, due specifically to the actions of the inhabitants of the Dayuma settlement who have raise up in protest because of the situation of abandonment on the part of the Ecuadorian government.

This militarization and repression has lead to various arrests and unlawful entry into homes of the residents, violating their Human Rights, only because they demanded that their basic needs be met.

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In the province, one can find well-established state and transnational oil companies such as