The International Women and Mining Network pays tributes to the brave women who have protected the lands, waters, forests, livelihoods and eco-systems of their ancestral homelands wherever physical destruction, constitutional violations and human rights violations have been practised by mining companies all over the world. It is these women whose voices should be heard, celebrated and respected for their contribution to natural resource protection and management and to the framework of sustainable development that comes from their traditional science and wisdom.

Here we pay our tributes to a few of these inspiring women and provide just a glimpse into the catastrophic corporate behaviour on human life and eco-systems that transnational mining companies are committing.

We salute the DongriaKhond women who have stood bravely confronting the state and corporate forces in protecting the forests and hills of Orissa, India

We bow our heads in respect to the courage shown by the martyrs to corporate induced crime and militarisation which have led to the extra judicial killings and repression of indigenous women like

* JuvyCapion from Mindanao province of the Philippines who was two months pregnant and killed along with her two minor sons
* JacqelinSakiwatBuli-e of the Kankanaey indigenous community from Mankayan province of the Philippines who is leading her indigenous community to protect their lands against the severe repression by company and state military forces
* AletaBaun, Molo indigenous woman leader and winner of the Goldman Environmental Prize for 2013 from Nusa TenggarraTimur province of Indonesia, for her courageous fight to protect her community and sacred mountains from being ravaged by mining operations
* WerimaMananta, indigenous woman leader of the Karonsi’eDongi community who fought relentlessly for the justice of her people of South Sulawesi, Indonesia against the injustices of the PT Vale Inco and lost her life as a result of the high pressures and intimidation faced by her.
* Marilyn Sampawan of the Pala’wan indigenous community of Bataraza municipality in the Philippines has been raising her voice against the destructive practices and legal violations of Rio Tuba Mining Company and leading the women to represent their problems to the government and human rights institutions.
* Maxima AcuneChaupe is courageously defending her land from encroachment by Yanacochacompany and National Police that is backing the mine in Peru. The company has been trying to falsely grab her land and evict her and several other families through using their influence with the Peruvian police forces.
* Yolanda Oqueli’ faces threats to life, vandalism, shooting and intimidation for speaking out in support of her communities in San Jose del Golfo’, Gautemala against the US backed local mining company,Kappes, Cassidy & Associates of the El Tambor project.

They are but a few of our thousands of other sisters braving their lives to protect Mother Earth against the plunder of minerals by the global mining industry through violation of national laws and international human rights agreements and standards. These are the truly inspiring women of Mother Earth.

Some cases of violations by mining companies they are fighting are given below: (it is only a small testimony to the several other violations across the globe by the extractive industry and its associates.

| Sl no | Name of the Company  | Country | Mineral | Community affected |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Vedanta | Lanjigarh, Orissa, India | Bauxite | DongriaKhond indigenous women strongly oppose mining in their land, forests, sacred hills and diverse natural resources-company has given false information, permissions and legal cases pending-community leaders, activists complain of human rights violations-indigenous women participated unanimously to vote against the mining in the Gram Sabhas (Village Council meetings) conducted by government as per Supreme Court orders  |
| 2 | Oz Minerals, Australia | Cambodia  | Gold | Women from indigenous community and artisanal miners displaced and lose livelihoods; women express fear of safety and security due to heavy vehicular movement of mining trucks, road accidents, pollution, destruction of public services like roads, water systems; company facing  corruption charges (OECD report) |
| 3 | CRCC Tongguan/EcuaCorriente SA | Mirador mining project, Southern Amazon, Ecuador | copper | Shuar Indigenous Community displaced from ancestral homes by Mirador project where company is using fraudulent practices of land purchase. It violates the Ecuadorian constitution and law on protection of nature and human rights. Indigenous women affected protest against the violation of the free, prior and informed consent and consultation by the company and on destruction of their environment by largescale copper mining. Rosa Ware, a Shuar indigenous woman of 91 years, speaks of the forced evictions leaving them in extreme poverty, stigmatization and criminalisation of indigenous leaders and activists exposing the violations of the company.  |
| 4 | Sepon mine-Previously Oxiana, now owned by Oz Minerals, Australia | Lao PDR, Vilabouly district | Gold & Copper | Ethnic minority women displaced and protesting against evictions; multiple forced relocation due to river pollution from use of chemicals by company; women complain of poor record of compensation; of traditional livelihoods destroyed, with no cash to purchase food or water especially due to contamination of River Koh; natural forest degenerated; neither State nor company have responded satisfactorily despite women representing their problems |
| 5 | Tampakan Copper-Gold project, Saggitarius Mines Inc backed by Glencore Xstrata | Mindanao, South Cotabata province, Philippines | Copper-Gold | Blaan indigenous women negatively affected by displacement, loss of crops, forest lands, water; human rights violations through militarization backed by mining company agents-extra judicial killing of JuvyCapion who was two months pregnant and her two sons by suspected military agents in October 2012 |
| 6 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company (LCMC) | Benguet province, Mankayan municipality, Philippines | Gold | Kankanaey and Ibaloi indigenous women complain of adverse impacts on their livelihood, landslides, privatisation of water bodies by mining companies with Abra River heavily silted; loss of aquatic life; unfair labour practices and violation of laws, violation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); repression by company security forces, state armed forces, state police on affected communities through illegal detention, intimidation, encroachments. |
| 7 | PT KaryaAsta Alam | Nusa Tenggara, Timor Province, Indonesia | Marble | Indigenous Molo women protesting against their land, forest and sacred mountain being destroyed by marble mining by PT KAA which has violated EIA stipulations, causing landslides, water pollution, crop failure. AletaBuan, indigenous Molo woman representing her community was injured and intimidated by company sponsored agents.  |
| 8 | PT Vale Indonesia/PT Inco | South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia | Nickel | Indigenous KaronsieDonge women negatively affected and protesting against company violations-lands bull-dozed, cashew and other plantations destroyed, ecological destruction to Matano fresh water lake eco-system; largescale deforestation, destruction of local livelihood based on forest, rattan, medicinal herbs; women complain of rape, forced prostitution, contract marriages with mining employees; WerimaMananta, the Molo Women leader fighting for their land and sacred hills lost her life due to health problems resulting from prolonged negotiations with the company, intimidation, and suffered a stroke during a meeting with PT Inco. No solution for indigenous people’s land and livelihoods destroyed by company so far provided by PT Inco-people continue to protest bravely despite pressure  |
| 9  | Rio Tuba Mining Corporation/Coral Bay Nickle Corporation | Pa’lawan Province, Philippines | Nickel | Pa’lawan ancestral lands, agriculture, forests destroyed by nickel mining; company received environmental clearance despite serious irregularities and damages; mining caused loss of agricultural lands, mangroves and hunting grounds, leading to flash floods, serious health problems, loss of livelihood, ecological resources highly reduced; compensation, employment promised is only marginally met; company fraudulently obtained free, prior, informed consent of indigenous people; legal cases pending; indigenous people’s demands for fair implementation of laws being manipulated through company ‘s power of influencing government decisions-the Pa’lawan people are opposed to this fraudulence  |
| 10 | Glencore Xstrata | BoliviaArgentina ColumbiaPeru | Coal,Copper, Zinc | **In Bolivia**, water and air pollution are threatening the health and livelihood of local communities. **In Argentina**, three lawsuits against Glencore Xstrata are under way, two for environmental damage and the other for smuggling and defrauding the Argentine State. 200 people who protested against company violations facing false charges. **In Colombia**, the company faces nine disciplinary proceedings before the National Environmental Licensing Authority and is also responsible for the involuntary resettlement (displacement) of more than 600 families. In 2012, **in Peru**, three people died and 45 were injured during the crackdown on protests against the Xstrata Tintaya mine. |
| 11 | Canadian-based Belo Sun Mining for its Volta Grande project | Para state, Brazil | Gold | The proposed gold mining by Belo Sun Mining along the Big Bend (Volta Grande) of the Xingu River where Jurunaindigenous people are protesting against the environmental and social impacts that the project brings. Indigenous women call for a process of free, prior and informed consultations and consent among local indigenous peoples. The recent judicial order to suspend environmental licenses to the company until the full impacts on social and environmental impacts are assessed considering the serious negative implications of the project and the false claims of the company that all laws and regulations are being respected stand in contradiction.  |
| 12 | Yanacocha/Newmont Mining Corporation, Minas Buenaventura, the World Bank | Yanacocha mine, Tragadaro Grande, Sorochuco district, Cajamarca province, Peru | Gold, Copper | MáximaAcuneChaupe, an indigenous woman from Tragadaro Grande and several other families are threatened by eviction from the lands by the Yanacocha company which is using fraudulent means to grab their lands.The company has been using its influence over the Special National Police of Peru to intimidate and evict the communities. Maxima and her family were beaten and their cattle killed for complaining against the highhandedness of the company.Opposition to the project is strong with communities struggling to raise awareness of the vast changes that the project will bring to the landscape, environment and most importantly water resources. If it goes ahead, the proposed mine will destroy four mountain-top lakes. It will turn two into tailing ponds for waste, and the other two would be drained for exploitation. |
| 13 | EXMINGUA/Radius Gold (Canada) | El Tambor project, San Jose del Golfo& San Pedro Ayampic, Gautemala | Gold, Silver | The El Tambor project by the Canadian backed EXMINGUA has been reported to be responsible for the killing of activist Mr.Santos Fidel AjauSuret and the continued threats to the life of Yolanda Oqueli’a human rights defender, through using the power of military personnel, speaks of serious human rights violations.Without seeking the free, prior and informed consultation and consent of indigenous people, the company threatens to destroy their land, water bodies and is using repressive measures against the community opposing this destruction. |
| 14 | Vale Mozambique and Rio Tinto | Mozambique | Coal | Vale and Rio Tinto have received licences to mine 24,000 ha and 4,560ha respectively in the Moatize district of the Tete province.The communities of Catemeand Mualadzi have been forcibly relocated from their lands starting in 2009.The lands received in compensation are small and infertile, HIV infection levels have increased and particularly impact women, and the vastly increased distances of towns from the resettlement areas have negatively impacted on the small businesses of women. In 2012, hundreds of women from the resettlement areas staged a protest – blocking the railway line transporting coal and the entry of officials to the offices of the mining companies. The Mozambican government deployed a ‘rapid intervention task force’ who assaulted and injured the protesters.  |
| 15 | Anglo Platinum | South Africa | Platinum | Since 2001, the communities of the Mapela district in the northern Limpopo province have been cumulatively dispossessed by Anglo Platinum mining activities. Many thousands of Mapela residents have been forcibly relocated to compensatory lands, often of inferior quality, incomparable extent, and located many kilometres from their place of residence. Land loss, combined with the extensive pollution of water supplies, has undermined this once vibrant food producing area and impacted food sovereignty. Over the years, Mapela residents, with women playing a leading role, have campaigned for their rights and demanded just compensation for their losses. The women of Mapela, alongside their men, have defied removal orders and refused to vacate their homesteads. They have disregarded the mining company's fences and reclaimed their lands by ploughing and planting.  |
| 16 | AngloGold Ashanti | Ghana | Gold | The Concerned Farmers Association brought a legal case against the AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem Mine to demand compensation for the destruction of their properties. In addition, the community has mobilised to hold the company accountable for the pollution of local watersheds, and hassuccessfully traced sources of chemical seepage into their streams from the tailings produced by the Iduapriem Mine. The community has marched through the district capital of Tarkwa to present a petition about their problems to the District Chief Executive and has also spoken extensively to media outlets about the impacts of AngloGold’s mine on their community. Women have been at the forefront of this resistance. |
| 17 | Anjin Investments, Mbada Diamonds, Marange Resources, Diamond Mining Corporations and Jinan Investments | Zimbabwe | Diamonds | In January 2009, in partnership with companies mining diamonds in Marange, the Government of Zimbabwe announced its plans to resettle 4321 Marange families to the 12,000 ha ArdaTransau(relocation) Farm. Since then hundreds of families have been moved resulting in interrupted education, poor access to health care, inappropriate housing and very importantly lands of smaller size and inferior quality thereby negatively impacting food sovereignty. Because of women’s responsibilities for social reproduction most of these burdens fall upon them. |