

JOINING HANDS NETWORK OF PERU

CAMPAIGN COMMISSION OF IMPACT ON LA OROYA

“In the fight against the Doe Run company we have the support of the people” says the director of mining.

The Secretary General of the Union of Miners and Metal Workers of La Oroya, Mr Roiberto Guzmán, noted in an interview with the Joining Hands Network "We have confidence, full confidence that the people will support us, not only will this be the struggle of the workers but of all the people of La Oroya Yauli "this is about the forced vacations that the company wants to impose on 1800 workers from its metallurgical plant.



What is the current status of the conflict generated by the Doe Run Company and its employees?

“We are workers and we find ourselves disconcerted and surprised by the attitude of our employer, in this case the Doe Run company Peru, which for years has always been violating the rights of its workers, especially their acquired rights. There are countless cutbacks they have been pursuing to impose on us with regards to this external world crisis story. For example, the company wanted to implement starting today, the temporary suspension of 1800 workers and maintain the plant with an average of 650 workers. Those 1800 workers that today were going to take to the streets, yesterday April 15th held a large rally, went out and protested against the company in the presence of the population of La Oroya, which included some active forces and popular organizations and unions that exist. The company should reflect a bit since as of now it still intends to return anew next week and want to suspend the jobs of these 1800 workers. It worries us because this will have a social impact on the economic movement in the region.

Apparently there is no reason why the Doe Run Company should need to do this since the mining companies have given them a credit of \$100 million in concentrates and endorsed a cash loan of \$75 million right?

This is true and it is public knowledge, but unfortunately the creditors no longer wish to deliver the concentrate, none of the concentrate has entered the smelter in La Oroya, and because of this, operations have been halted.

And faced with this situation what will the miners and metallurgical workers do?

"We are conducting interviews on the governmental level so that once and for all this can be clarified, and as a result we have an invitation from the government, Mr Huaroc, who has asked for a meeting on Monday with the prime minister and headed by our regional president. I hope that this point is addressed there in some manner with clarity, because that is the expectation of the workers. Also, tomorrow at the Ministry of Energy and Mines we have a meeting of all the unions of Doe Run along with the block of the Junin Region congressman.

¿And if the company persists in forcing 1800 of its workforce to take vacation time, what will you do?

"Well we have already determined in the joint majority assembly that we are going to take to the streets and will be forced to cut off traffic on the main highway until they listen to us, and I think that the government already knows that when we take these forceful measures we always follow through and that if they persist we will have to carry out a sacrificial march to the city of Lima.

And, what is the attitude of the people of La Oroya with respect to this conflict?

"I want to state clearly that in this rally we have been accompanied by our provincial mayor of Yauli La Oroya, the active organizations of La Oroya, the Committee of Women, and the merchants. They are all involved in this matter since it is an economic movement that is being generated and having an affect here in La Oroya, in the central region. We trust in them and have complete trust in the people to support us, not only will it be a fight for the workers rather a joint fight of the people of Yauli La Oroya".

Interview conducted April 16th in La Oroya.

Nelson Figueroa

El Día del Pueblo

Joining Hands Network Perú.