

# An open letter to our new neighbor Vanessa Redgrave

From the community of Rosia Montana, Romania

Last week, you came to a Romanian film festival to speak out against a proposed mining project in our village. You were even given a symbol – a gift of 1 square meter of land – to become a “property owner” in our village.

### As a new neighbor, we ask you:

How can you argue that you know what’s better for us when you don’t know the profound reality for our village?

When you condemn the mining profession, without any other viable alternatives for long and average term development, you condemn our future.

### You said you did it to save our environment:

But our village is polluted now, from almost 2000 years of poor mining practices. A new and modern mine will actually help make our streams and rivers cleaner. A powerful economy means a healthy environment; poverty means misery!

### You argue that you want to save our village:

But we have 70% unemployment. No full-time doctor. No regular running water. Only wood to burn for heat in the winter. If the mining project doesn’t start as soon as possible, the inhabitants have to start wandering, looking for a new chance of survival. We don’t think that this is the salvation for Rosia Montana!

We have always been a mining community. We want the chance to decide what will keep our village alive, and create a future for our village and our children.

Ms. Redgrave, if you help a small group of outsiders stop the new mine, without having any connection with our community, they’ll leave our village and go on to the next battle against development. You will have your 1 meter of land in our village – and your fine home in London.

- Where will we go?
- How will we live?
- How will we keep our village alive?
- What will we answer to our children when they ask us for food?

We don’t have friends in mass-media.

We do not have power in international capitals.

We have only our village.

We support the investment for the mine rehabilitation for Rosia Montana and we will fight, so that mass-media and the protesters from the European capitals will understand the reality.

Miss Redgrave, Please hear our community’s voice!

Pro Rosia Montana ... **From the People of Rosia Montana**

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on behalf of the people of Rosia Montana.