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Letters

## We want a green future for Rosia Montana

Tuesday June 27, 2006

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We are Romanian artists who deal, almost every day of our life, with the act of creation. In Rosia Montana, there are local people who want to create; to give birth to their aspirations (Redgrave centre stage in a campaign to halt Romanian gold mine that has split village, June 23). During communism, these local people didn't have the opportunity to choose the way they want to live. Now they have the chance to take their lives into their own hands. In contrast, Gabriel Resources' mine proposal is not about creation, it is about destruction. That's why it intends to impose it upon the community and that's why it buys ads to shut up critics.

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We are among those who have gathered around Rosia Montana to protect it. We refuse to be silenced and are determined to save this community which has existed for

almost 2,000 years and which, together with its rich cultural heritage, has the will to last for many more. Support for this cause, be it from Robert Redford or Vanessa Redgrave, is important to all of us. It shows courage, integrity and solidarity. Just imagine if right under Stonehenge "investors" would find gold? Would you accept its destruction? We guess not, so why should we?

**Mihnea Blidariu**

**Horia-Roman Patapievici**

**Tania Radu**

**And 44 others**

Cluj Napoca, Romania

Rosia Montana is the oldest documented mining settlement in Romania (about 1870 years old). It is renowned for its Roman and Dacian archeological remains. In Rosia Montana, there are hundreds of traditional houses, a mining museum, 36 old houses from the 14th century and an archaeological reservation - all of them representing strong roots of our history and civilisation.

The open-cast mining project will last 16 years and it doesn't solve the problems of jobs and environment in the area. Instead it will create pollution and destruction, more than 2,000 people will be relocated, five churches and four cemeteries will be destroyed, and an entire ecosystem will vanish. We don't want this kind of investment. We want a green future for our children. "We are the gold" is written on my favorite T-shirt.

**Sorana Olaru Zainescu**

Cluj Napoca, Romania

Your article on resistance against open-air gold-mining in Romania is most welcome. Gabriel Resources, for the sake of a few Canadian shareholders, risks cyanide poisoning of not only Rosia Montana but of major rivers both in Romania and Hungary. This has already happened once a few years ago, due to "unexpected weather conditions" and could happen at any time in the future.

Romania is already one of the most environmentally degraded countries in Europe - we don't need another major pollutant in the area fuelled by sheer greed and company profit.

**George Gomori**

Cambridge

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