

**Presentation at National Roundtable on Corporate Social Responsibility
and the Canadian Extractive Sector in Developing Countries
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**Submitted by Werima Mananta, a representative from the Karonsi'e Dongi
indigenous community**

My name is Werima Mananta from Sorowako, South Sulawesi, Indonesia where the Canadian-owned nickel mining Inco has impacted the Karonsi'e Dongi community including land that was taken over arbitrarily by the company. Inco is only taking the rich natural resources in Sorowako and making the Sorowako community poor.

Sorowako is very rich in natural resources, the land is very fertile, the vast forest is home to resources such as rattan, resin, wood, honey and other non-timber products. The lakes are rich in fish. Fishing is a source of livelihood for local people. The lakes are also used for transportation by the local people.

The community makes a living from planting rice, vegetables, and cocoa. Women collect resin and rattan from the forest and sell these products.

This fertile land would come in 1968 under the New Order Regime era, without any discussion with Karonsi'e Dongi indigenous community, Inco came and took over the land and destroyed all that Karonsi'e Dongi people possessed. At that time, we were not on our land because we were refugees because of a conflict that broke out in the 1950s.

In the 1970s, we returned when the situation was safe. We found our village had become a golf course where Inco employees golfed. Our gardens and rice fields were no longer there.

Our ancestral graveyard had become a dormitory for the mine workers with only a portion of the graveyard remaining. This graveyard became evidence that our community existed there.

After the authoritarian New Order Regime era was over, we began returning to our land in the year 2000 to rebuild the Karonsi'e Dongi village. Because all the land was taken over by Inco, we finally built huts along the outskirts of the golf course on abandoned mining land. We have become an audience watching Inco employees play golf on our land. This has caused misery for us.

There are 26 huts now built in the area that house thirty families. Since moving there, we have been terrorized and intimidated. We are told that we are not allowed to stay there because it is not safe and healthy. Even though this area is the site of a planned hotel development by the company.

Our community is separated and not all the Karonsi'e Dongi people are able to return to the village because there is no land to build homes and grow gardens and farm. Our forest has been destroyed. Our source of livelihood has been taken away and we have become poor also because we are not able to get work with the company. Only a few in our community have worked as labourers on temporary contracts.

Our children are not able to go to school because they cannot afford the school fees. The school fees are very expensive.

To feed our families, we, women have planted vegetables and bananas around the huts. We can no longer grow rice because the land has been destroyed.

In 2003, the police and Inco security threatened to burn our huts because we were on “Inco land.” Some of us were brought to the police station, interrogated and threatened with a three month jail sentence.

For more than 37 years that Inco has operated in Sorowako, it has mined Sorowako’s rich natural resources and destroyed the source of our livelihoods. The company has never compensated the Karonsi’e Dongi people. But their reports suggest that all the land problems in Sorowako have been resolved.

Because we are suffering very much and are always intimidated, we have done various actions to demand that our rights be returned to us. University students, the mine workers’ union and NGOs supported our community in the occupation of the Inco office in Makassar from September 14-18, 2005. Liana, a 70 year old Karonsi’e Dongi woman, two university students, a retrenched Inco worker, a representative from the Petea community participated in a three day hunger strike.

The action in Makassar was not successful so on September 28, 2005, we returned to Sorowako and did an action there. We were intimidated and some of us arrested. The company always used the police to make sure we fail in our struggle.

The company causes provocation in the community where members of our community are always in conflict. This strategy is used by the company to ensure that discussions fail and there is no resolution.

The demands of the Karonsi’e Dongi indigenous community to the Canadian government during its time of discussing regulations on Canadian minning companies that operate overseas include:

1. The Canadian government must acknowledge that human rights abuses including abuses against the Karonsi’e Dongi indigenous people have occurred and the government must urge for a just resolution to these abuses.
2. The Canadian government must also ensure that Canadian companies abide by the same regulations in Canada at its operations abroad.
3. The Canadian government must ensure that Canadian companies do not intervene on Indonesian regulations. For example, Inco was successful in lobbying the Indonesian government to amend Indonesia’s 1999 Forestry Act No. 41 that bans open-pit mining in protected forests. The Canadian government must ask that the Indonesian reverse its decision to make amendments to this regulation.
4. The Canadian government must ensure that environments are restored that have been destroyed by Canadian mining companies and that compensation be provided to communities that have incurred losses due to Canadian companies. This compensation must be made in agreement with the local communities.