

August 2, 2007

Dear Madeleine Albright,

It is with great concern that I write you at this time over the pending award of the International Bridge-Builder Award to Newmont Mining CEO Wayne Murdy during the University of Denver's GSIS Korbel Dinner on August 30th. You are scheduled at this dinner, which honors your father Josef, as the Keynote speaker.

Put simply, this award is a travesty, a disgrace to DU, and dishonors the memory of your father and the principles for which he stood.

Newmont is one of the great rogue corporations of the world, trampling human rights and polluting the environment wherever it has opened mining operations. Today, Newmont hides its activity in remote parts of Indonesia, Peru, and Ghana, conducting operations which would not be tolerated by environmental or civil rights laws in the United States. Newmont operations abroad directly contravene the London Convention and the Law of the Sea prohibitions on the dumping of toxic waste in the world's oceans. By subverting sovereign national and local governmental leaders, Newmont makes a mockery of the law designed to limit corruption of foreign officials, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

In just one mine on Sumbawa, in Indonesia, the Newmont mine, Batu Hijau dumps 120,000 tons of toxic mine waste directly into the sea every day, in direct violation of Indonesian environmental laws. More than ten tons each day is a toxic soup of heavy metal poisons including cadmium, mercury, arsenic, copper, and zinc. Through bioaccumulation these toxic heavy metals enter the food chain and will cause devastating impacts among the fisher peoples of the Indonesian island communities.

This thoughtless disregard of the lives of others is a crime against humanity, not exactly the sort of International Bridge between Colorado and the world deserving honor at the Korbel Dinner.

Please, do not sanction this incredibly ill-considered action by giving the keynote address. Newmont Mining and Wayne Murdy should be censured, not honored. Please ask the GSIS to withdraw this invitation immediately.

Roy Young
Boulder, Colorado