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PRESS RELEASE

August 9th

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Claretians of the Americas and the Caribbean and Churches and Mining Network promote webinar in memory of Pedro Casaldáliga

The congregation of Claretian Missionaries of the Americas and the Caribbean and the Churches and Mining Network promote the Mining Divestment Campaign as a concrete possibility to respond coherently to the struggles of indigenous peoples for their lives and territories.

Indigenous peoples in Latin America are threatened by extractive projects that covet their territories. On August 9, the International Day of Indigenous Peoples is commemorated as an exercise of memory, justice and resistance for so many peoples who struggle and demand their right to exist. One day before (August 8, 2020) the prophet Pedro Casaldáliga, one of the main defenders of the indigenous, riparian and rural workers, passed away. In this symbolic framework, from the Church, an urgent and necessary reflection is proposed, which truly and coherently contributes to the struggles of the original peoples of America and the World, massacred, persecuted and threatened. In fervent memory of Pedro Casaldáliga, Claretian bishop, who together with other bishops and religious, founded the Indigenous Missionary Council (Cimi) in 1972 and the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) in 1975. The Solidarity and Mission team of the Claretians of the Americas and the Caribbean - SOMICLA and the Churches and Mining Network, are inviting to the webinar "Firing the memory of Pedro Casaldáliga: in subversive resistance and audacious hope".

The event will address different perspectives for the active and consistent participation of the church in these processes: pastoral, legal and missionary. **The appointment is on Monday, August 9, at 6:30pm in Colombia, via FB: Iglesias y Minería and the page [somicla.org](https://www.somicla.org).**

In the framework of this convocation, the province of the Claretians of America and the Caribbean will ratify its firm commitment to the defense of the indigenous peoples, peasants, Afros and so many communities that live impacted by the mining activity, signing its adhesion ([Read the letter](#)) to the Mining Divestment Campaign and reaffirming in this way the defense of Human Rights, the accompaniment to the most vulnerable groups, and placing itself firmly in the search for an evangelical economic model, which promotes justice, dignity and the common good.

SOMICLA and the Churches and Mining Network have joined together to strengthen their work for integral ecology, the defense of Mother Earth and life and promote an ethical look at the ways in



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which faith organizations, religious congregations, churches manage their finances, to ensure ethical consistency and recognize concrete ways and practices of transformation within our churches, towards Samaritan, just and hopeful economies.

The Divestment in Mining campaign seeks to accompany faith-based organizations in their commitment to just and ethical finances, providing advice, technical tools, concrete alternatives and possibilities to join in to achieve transformation within our churches (divestinmining.org).

SERVICE:

What: Webinar " Firing the memory of Pedro Casaldáliga: in subversive resistance and audacious hope".

When: August 9, International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Where: ZOOM meeting

Register: <https://forms.gle/uCV3zqiH7LUstCiS7>