

# Currents

food&waterwatch

## News from Food & Water Watch's Water for All Campaign

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[www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)

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### Bolivia Stands Up to the World Bank – You Can Help!

Last month, the government of Bolivia took a bold step and withdrew from the World Bank's undemocratic court for investment disputes. ICSID, or the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, is an undemocratic institution that allows the world's largest corporations to sue poor countries for millions of dollars.

You can show your support for Bolivia's bold decision to put people over profits by sending an email right now

to World Bank officials. Simply visit: [www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/Alerts/bolivia-world-bank](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/Alerts/bolivia-world-bank)

By sending an email to the World Bank, you will be joining dozens of organizations around the world, like Food & Water Watch, Global Exchange, and the World Development Movement, who have joined in support of Bolivia's withdrawal from ICSID.

Bolivia is the poorest nation in South America, and yet is one of the most resource-rich: a quixotic legacy of more than 500 years of colonial exploitation. This legacy continued into the 1990s when the World Bank orchestrated a contract for Bechtel, the U.S. engineering corporation, to operate the water system in city of Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Within weeks of taking over the water system, Bechtel raised rates as high as

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### Endorse the Campaign to Protect America's Water

The 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clean Water Act is coming up this October, but not every community has the cash to live up to the vision in that act - clean water for everybody. We're working to make sure our government invests in all communities.

You probably know that America has some of the safest tap water in the world but many communities operate water systems that were built before World War I. The EPA estimates that there is a shortfall of more than \$22 billion per year between the funds available for upgrading our pipes and treatment plants and what we need to keep our water safe for people and the environment.

We can solve this problem by creating a dedicated source of public funding so that communities across America can keep their water clean, safe, and affordable. We have



trust funds for highways and airports, and there's growing momentum to create a trust fund for clean water. We're calling it the campaign to Protect America's Water.

We're reaching out to Members of Congress, and asking them to support this fund, but we need your help! Representatives need to know that people back home support a clean water trust fund too.

You can help! Your organization can endorse the campaign to Protect America's Water at [www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/americaswater/take-action](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/americaswater/take-action)

[americaswater/take-action](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/americaswater/take-action)

Individuals can help too, by signing the petition to protect America's water at [www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/americaswater](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/americaswater)



Want to subscribe to our Water for All e-mail list? It's a great way to stay informed with information, updates, and action alerts regarding water privatization. To subscribe to this list email [water@fwwatch.org](mailto:water@fwwatch.org) along with the words "subscribe Water for All" in the subject line.

## One Week 'til the U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta



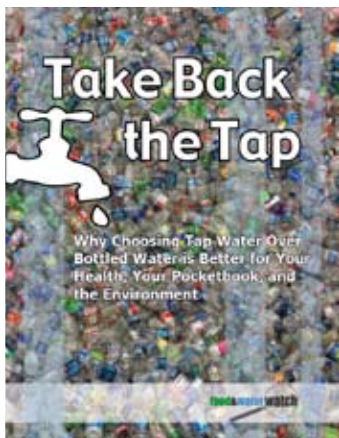
It's not too late to join thousands of activists, artists, students and educators at the first ever U.S. Social Forum, June 26-July 1 in Atlanta, GA. Food & Water Watch has worked with our allies to organize more than a dozen social forum programs specifically related to water issues. And what better setting to challenge corporate control of our water than in Atlanta, site of the largest failed privatization scheme in the United States, and home to water-guzzling Coca-Cola?

Thinking of coming to Atlanta? Email Victoria at [vkaplan\(at\)fwwatch.org](mailto:vkaplan(at)fwwatch.org) to let us know you'll be there. We'll have workshops, roundtable discussions, movie screenings, cultural activities, and more. Keep an eye out for workshops like "Water for People not for Profit: Grassroots Activists Tell Their Victory Stories" and "Blue October: Planning an International Month of Action." And stop by the Right to Water tent to connect with activists and campaigns from around the country.

For more information on the US Social Forum, visit [www.ussf2007.org](http://www.ussf2007.org).

### Coming Soon: "Take Back the Tap"

Stay tuned for "Take Back the Tap," a new Food & Water Watch report on why choosing tap water over bottled water is better for your health, your pocketbook, and the environment. The report, due out at the end of June, outlines the economic, health, and environmental problems with bottled water and explains why a better approach to ensuring safe drinking water is to guarantee adequate investment in public water systems.



### Bolivia, continued from page 1

200%, forcing poor families to choose between water and food. Citizens organized mass protests, leading the government to end the contract. Bechtel sued the government of Bolivia for \$25 million dollars, despite having invested only \$1 million in the water system. The court ruled in Bolivia's favor, but the government believes that the cards are stacked against poor countries, leading to the decision to withdraw from the World Bank's investment court. For more background, read Food & Water Watch's new report, Challenging Corporate Investor Rule, at [www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/pubs/reports/corporate-investor-rule](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/pubs/reports/corporate-investor-rule)



A woman protests Bechtel's privatization of water in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The case ultimately ended up in ICSID arbitration.

### Tune In to Food & Water Watch's New Podcast

Sit back and tune in for the debut issue of the new Food & Water Watch audio podcast!

Each week, the Food & Water Watch podcast will bring you highlights in the fight against corporate control of our food and water. You will find news briefs, interviews with Food & Water Watch staff, and updates on grassroots efforts around the world to ensure that food is local, sustainable, humane and chemical-free, and water is safe, affordable and publicly controlled.

To listen to the first issue of our podcast, go to [www.foodandwaterwatch.org/blog](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/blog)

Spread the word to your friends and family!



! Become a member of Food & Water Watch at: [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)



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