

Dear friends,

Below you will find a letter sent to the WB (World Bank) and the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank) by a friend of Rights Action.

Please take the time, yourself, to send your own letter, based on this one, if you like. Please send it by email, fax and mail, to the addresses included below. Please also send your letter to your local media, politicians.

For more information, or if you would like to organize educational events, in your community, related to this issue, contact: Grahame Russell, 416-654-2074 / info@rightsaction.org.

===

September 26, 2004

WORLD BANK & INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Re: Compensation for the victims of the Chixoy Hydro-electric Dam

When are the World Bank (WB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Guatemalan government going to properly compensate the survivors of the village of Rio Negro, and 16 other villages along the Rio Negro, for loss of land, communities, property and family members in 1982? All survivors of the 17 villages affected by the Chixoy Dam must receive full compensation due to being forcibly and brutally displaced, to make way for the Chixoy dam.

Almost 400 Maya Achi men, women, and children from the village of Rio Negro were tortured, raped, and massacred by the Guatemalan Army in 1982, to enable the building of the Chixoy hydroelectric dam. Since the construction of the Chixoy dam, the surviving people from the 17 villages have lived in conditions of poverty and trauma as a result of the loss of lands, communities and loved ones, to make way for the construction of the dam, including the flooding of the dam basin. Every year the situation of dam

affected people worsens, while the Guatemalan National Electrification Company benefits from profits generated off the flooded land which remains property of the Mayan communities.

Days after agreeing in writing, on September 8, 2004, to negotiate compensation and reparations owed to the communities affected by the Chixoy hydroelectric dam project (1975-1985), the government of Guatemala is bringing charges against the leaders of the Coordinadora de Comunidades Afectadas por la Represa Chixoy (Coordinator of Communities Affected by the Chixoy Dam), the very people they signed the agreement with.

This is shameful and shocking and the WB and the IDB must get involved to get the Guatemalan government to drop all charges against these community leaders, and to negotiate, in good faith, the compensation and reparations owed by the WB, IDB and Government to the Chixoy dam affected communities and survivors.

Sincerely,

===

CONTACT ADDRESSES:

-- WORLD BANK

Mr. James D. Wolfensohn
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20433

Attention to:
Minneh M. Kane
[Asst. to the President]
F: 202-522-1677
E: mkane@worldbank.org

Donna Dowsett
Director, Central America Country Management Unit
E: ddowsettcoirol@worldbank.org
T: (202)473-0121
F: (202)676-1464

Carmen Gadala
World Bank External Affairs Officer
E: cgadala@worldbank.org

Mario Marroquin
The World Bank, Guatemala City
E: mmarroquin@worldbank.org

Vice President David de Ferranti
Ddeferranti@worldbank.org

Ms. Neeta Sirur, Country Manager for Guatemala
Nsirur@worldbank.org

Ms Irma Yolanda Avila, civil society and indigenous peoples
specialist, Guatemala Country Office City
iavilaargueta@worldbank.org

-- INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Mr. Enrique Iglesias
President
The Inter-American Development Bank
1300 New York Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20577

Jairo S. nchez
Deputy Manager, Regional Operations - Department II
E: jairos@iadb.org

Peter Bate, Media Liaison
E: peterb@iadb.org

-- GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT

Attorney General
Juan Luis Florido
Fiscalía General del Ministerio P'blico
8a. Avenida 10-67, Zona 1,
CIudad Guatemala, Guatemala
F: 011 502 251 2218
Salutation: Estimado Fiscal General/Dear Sir

Minister of the Interior
Carlos Vielman
Ministro de GobernaciÛn
6a. Avenida 4-64, Zona 4, nivel 3
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
F: 011 502 362 0237

E: ministro@mingob.gob.gt
Salutation: SeÑor Ministro/ Dear Minister

Human Rights Ombudsman
Dr. Sergio Fernando Morales Alvarado
ProcuradurÌa de los Derechos Humanos (PDH)
12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
F: 011 502 238 1734

Ambassador Guillermo Castillo
Embassy of Guatemala
2220 R St. NW
Washington DC 20008
F: 202 745 1908
E: ambassador@guatemala-embassy.org

-- OTHER

Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights and
Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People
Commission on Human Rights
United Nations
Mailing address:
El Colegio de Mexico
Apdo. 20-671
Mexico 01000, D.F.
Mexico
T/f: (52) 55 54 49 30 88
e: rstaven@post.com

===

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.
Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).
Version: 6.0.760 / Virus Database: 509 - Release Date: 9/10/04

Incoming mail is certified Virus Free.
Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).
Version: 6.0.760 / Virus Database: 509 - Release Date: 9/10/04