

Rights Action forwards this link to an important CBC Radio report about ...

CANADIAN NICKEL MINING COMPANIES OPERATING IN GUATEMALA: 50 YEARS OF FORCED EVICTIONS AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING ASSASSINATIONS AND GANG RAPES

September 26, 2011 CBC radio report "Unfinished Business":

<http://www.cbc.ca/video/news/audioplayer.html?clipid=2141604355>

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS"

The CBC writes:

Two weeks ago there was an election in the small Central American country of Guatemala. It was dubbed the oligarchs vs. the narco traffickers. In the weeks leading up to the vote, armoured-car rentals went up by 70%; candidates were gunned down; more than 40 people were killed and no one was particularly surprised.

This is the background against which Canadian mining companies have been doing business for the past 50 years, right through the 36 year-long civil war, a war that killed two hundred thousand people, most of them indigenous Mayans.

For the most part, today's violence revolves around the drug cartels and the mines.

Now, the anti-mining forces are fighting back in a new way. Guatemalans are launching law suits in Canadian courts against Canadian mining companies. The latest is a multi million dollar claim against HudBay Minerals filed by [Klippensteins law firm, in Toronto, on behalf of] 11 Mayan women allegedly raped when they were cleared off the land 4 years ago. The law suits are a new tactic in an old war - a war over land: the government and the mining companies on one side, the Mayans and human rights workers on the other.

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BACKGROUND:

- 10-MINUTE FILM ABOUT SOME OF THE FORCED EVICTIONS:
<http://rightsaction.org/video/elestor/index.htm>
- 5-MINUTE FILM - TESTIMONY OF ROSA ELBIRA, one of the gang rape survivors from Lote Ocho: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSGuDk4cnz4>

FUNDS NEEDED:

-1- To help fund legal work on these two lawsuits, & for more information about the cases, contact:

Klippensteins Barristers & Solicitors

Murray Klippenstein, murray.klippenstein@klippensteins.ca

Cory Wanless, cory.wanless@klippensteins.ca

-2- To fund the mining-harmed Mayan Qeqchi communities & their efforts to achieve justice, make tax-deductible check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887

CANADA: 552 - 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS: <http://rightsaction.org/contributions.htm> (Credit card donations can be done anonymously)

FOR DONATION OF STOCK: contact info@rightsaction.org. (Stock donations can be done anonymously – have your stockbroker contact info@rightsaction.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, ENGLISH & ESPANOL:

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- To get on-off Rights Action's listserv: www.rightsaction.org
- Follow Rights Action on Facebook: www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org