

**WHITE WASHING AND COVERING UP FOR GENOCIDE:
Former President Bill Clinton to give a “special recognition”
to “genocidal” general, now President Otto Perez Molina of
Guatemala**

Rights Action public letter, September 23, 2012

EMERGENCY LETTER WRITING AND LEAFLETING NEEDED:

Do not let former President Bill Clinton whitewash the image of former “genocidal” general, now president Otto Perez Molina of Guatemala

WHEN: 10AM, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24

WHERE: 44th St. and First Ave in New York City

Former “genocidal” General Otto Perez Molina, now the President of Guatemala, will be in New York City on Monday the 24 of September 2012. He plans to attend a conference at the United Nations, where he will address security issues as well as his new “anti-hunger” campaign.

President Bill Clinton will give Perez Molina special recognition at the event.

We are all for food initiatives in Guatemala, where the majority of the Mayans have starved since the coming of the “Conquistadors” 500 years ago. However, Otto Perez Molina was a high ranking military officer stationed in the Ixil triangle (Quiche department, Guatemala) during the worst of the US-backed State repression and genocide of the 1970s and 1980s. Molina received some of this training at the Pentagon’s “School of the Americas”. He is alleged to have been a paid CIA asset during the worse years of genocide and repression.

In 1999, the UN Truth Commission found that Guatemala's State repression – killing and disappearing over 250,000 people – amounted to genocide in at least 4 Mayan regions of the country. The Ixil region was one the four regions.

The Mayan survivors of genocide, massacres, torture and disappearances remember Perez Molina only too well. There is also clear evidence that Perez Molina was directly responsible for the torture and murder of Efraim Bamaca (wife of American attorney Jennifer Harbury) and countless others while serving as Director of the feared Intelligence Division in 1992.

In short, he is a war criminal. (To paraphrase and misquote from an earlier time: "He may be a genocidal general son-of-a-bitch, but he is our genocidal general son-of-a-bitch.)

He was elected president of Guatemala due to the endemic impunity and corruption, due to the on-going fear, and to the grim fact that most Mayans cannot vote.

Below, please read a letter to Clinton for further information. We cannot permit the United States government to help a war criminal (who was fully backed and supported by the US) whitewash his image and deny and bury the past. Too many people in Guatemala are still searching for their dead, let alone for a measure of justice.

PROTEST CLINTON'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

1. Please post your comments asap on the web page for President Bill Clinton:

- <http://www.facebook.com/billclinton>
- <http://www.clintonfoundation.org/forms/contact-thank-you.html>

To our friends in the US, send copies of this information, plus your own short letter, to your own Member of Congress and Senator, and to the White House:

- WHITE HOUSE: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/>, 202-456-1111, Comment Line: 202-456-1414
- CONGRESS: Go to <http://www.house.gov/> to get info for your member of Congress, and call: 202-224-3121
- SENATE: Go to <http://www.senate.gov/> to get contact for your Senator, and call: 202-224-3121

2. Do you live in or near NYC? If so, please help pass out pamphlets in front of the UN, Monday September 24, 10am. We will convene at 44th St and First Avenue.

3. Follow us on twitter, “surleriver”, for updates on our actions tomorrow.

LETTER OF PROTEST

Re: “Special recognition” for “genocidal” General Otto Perez Molina of Guatemala

Dear President Clinton,

We are shocked and disappointed to hear that you will be giving special recognition to General Otto Perez Molina, now President of Guatemala, at a United Nations gathering today. We greatly value your work to end world hunger and your other humanitarian initiatives. However, we must vehemently protest your plan to honor a military leader responsible for the genocide that wracked Guatemala for more than thirty years. Indeed, the socio-economic devastation that resulted from that very campaign is a leading cause of the ongoing hunger there now.

As you doubtless remember, the United Nations sponsored Truth Commission Report, “Memory of Silence”, concluded that the Guatemalan military had carried out a campaign of genocide against its Mayan citizenry. Some 660 villages were wiped from the map, and over 250,000 people had been either “disappeared” or tortured, killed, and left in unmarked graves. The Truth

Commission also found that the army was responsible for some 94% of the war crimes that had occurred, and had routinely utilized torture and terror to control the population. You had the courage, in 1999, to apologize to the people of Guatemala for the complicity of the United States during that period.

General Otto Perez Molina was a high ranking officer during the worst of the genocide, and was based in the most repressed Mayan areas. Film footage shows him in full uniform in the Ixil region in 1982, standing over the battered bodies of three prisoners. He was also the Director of the much feared Intelligence Division in 1992, and was responsible for the long term torture and murder of Mayan leader Efraim Bamaca Velasquez. Mr. Bamaca, like thousands of others, was drugged and tortured, held in a full body cast to prevent his escape, then either flung from a helicopter or dismembered and scattered across a sugar cane field.

Otto Perez Molina now says the genocide never occurred. As President he has militarized the government, closed the Peace Archives, and granted a de facto amnesty to army drug lords. The war crimes prosecutions are openly obstructed, and the violence and intimidation of campesino and human rights leaders is escalating. This man is no humanitarian. You must not honor him.

More than 80% of the Mayan people suffer from malnutrition. They have starved for 500 years. Please do help them with food initiatives. But work with the church and civilian networks still dedicated to the health and welfare of all Guatemalans, despite the risks and repression.

FOOD YES! JUSTICE YES!
HONOR TO WAR CRIMINALS NO!

THESE ARE "OUR" PROBLEMS

The State repression and genocide of Guatemala was an “American” problem. For generations, particularly since the US-sponsored military coup against the elected government of President Arbenz, the US government has funded, trained, armed and supported the Guatemalan military – that continues today. Please send copies of this information, and your own letters, to your own Congress members and Senators, and media. The government and people of the US have a responsibility to support all efforts for truth, memory and justice for the genocide and State repression of the past in Guatemala, not to help “genocidal” generals whitewash and cover up their crimes.

RIGHTS ACTION

The roots of Rights Action’s work go back to 1983 in Guatemala. Since then, and particularly since 1995, Rights Action has been funding [grassroots](#) organizations and working for community development [and](#) the environment, and for [truth, memory, justice and human rights, and for](#) democracy in Guatemala and Honduras, as well as in Chiapas (Mexico) and El Salvador. The Canadian Rights Action Foundation, founded in 1999, is independent from and works in conjunction with Rights Action (USA). Since 1995, Grahame Russell and Annie Bird have been co-directors of Rights Action; Grahame is director of Rights Action (Canada).

TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS (in Canada and the U.S.) to support [grassroots groups in Guatemala working for truth, memory and justice for the genocide and State repression of the past](#), make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
CANADA: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS can be made (in Canada and U.S.):

<http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

- be a monthly credit card donor (Canada and U.S.)
- to donate stock, contact: info@rightsaction.org

GET INFORMED / GET INVOLVED

- **SPEAKERS:** Contact us to plan educational presentations in your community
- **JOIN A DELEGATION:** Form your own group or join one of our delegation seminars to Guatemala and Honduras to learn first hand about community development, human rights and environmental struggles
- **DAILY NEWS:** www.democracynow.org / www.therealnews.com / www.upsidedownworld.org / www.dominionpaper.ca / www.rabble.ca / www.fsrn.org /
- **GOOD READING:** Eduardo Galeano "Open Veins of Latin America" / Howard Zinn "A People's History of the United States" / James Loewen "Lies My Teacher Told Me" / Ronald Wright "Stolen Continents" / Naomi Klein "The Shock Doctrine" / Dr Seuss's "Horton Hears A Who" /

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