

~~~ Public Presentation ~~~

## **GUATEMALAN VICTIMS OF MINING REPRESSION IN TORONTO, CANADA SEEKING JUSTICE AGAINST HUSBAY MINERALS**



(Photo: 10am, Monday, November 26, 2012. Cory Wanless, lawyer with Klippensteins law firm, arrived with Maria Cuc Choc (sister-in-law of Adolfo Ich, killed September 27, 2009 by security guards working for Hudbay Mineral's mining company in Guatemala) and German Chub Choc (shot and paralyzed that same day, by the same security guards.) Today, German is being cross-examined by Hudbay Mineral's lawyers of the Fasken Martineau law firm (<http://www.fasken.com/en/home/>) in downtown Toronto. Photo: Grahame Russell, [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org))

~~~ Public Presentation ~~~

WHERE: OISE auditorium, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto

WHEN: Wednesday, November 28th, 7pm – 9pm

WHO: Participating in this event are:

- five Mayan Qeqchi indigenous people from El Estor, Guatemala – all victims of mining related repression: Angelica Choc, wife of Adolfo Ich (killed); Rosa Elbira and Margarita Caal, two of the eleven gang-rape victims from the Lote 8 community; German Chub (shot and paralyzed); Maria Cuc Choc (sister of Angelica Choc and their brother Ramiro Choc, an indigenous political prisoner since 2008); and,
- Grahame Russell (Rights Action), Maude Barlow (Council of Canadians), Susana Caxaj (Mining Injustice Solidarity Network). The Klippensteins law firm, representing the victims, has been invited.



(Rosa Elbira, Margarita Caal and nine other Qeqchi women, all victims of gang-rapes that occurred as part of an illegal, forced eviction (including the burning of 100 homes) in their remote village of Lote 8, as well as women from a nearby village. Photo: James Rodriguez, 2010, www.mimundo.org)

PRECEDENT SETTING CASES

The five Mayan Qeqchi people, from the nickel mining harmed communities of El Estor, department of Izabal, Guatemala, are in Toronto (November 24-29) to participate with their lawyers (Toronto-based Klippensteins law firm) in pre-trial cross-examinations with Hudbay Mineral's lawyers. Rights Action has funded and worked with the mining-harmed communities of El Estor since 2004, and is now supporting their right to justice and remedy.

These cross-examinations are part of 3 civil negligence suits filed against Hudbay by Klippensteins concerning the gang rape of eleven Qeqchi women in 2007, and the killing of Adolfo Ich and shooting/paralyzing of German Chub in 2009. These are precedent setting legal cases in Canadian courts – that will hopefully help pierce the wall of impunity and immunity from legal accountability that Canadian resource extraction companies benefit from in Canada for crimes, human rights violations and environmental harms that their operations sometimes cause in other countries.

From 2008-2011, Hudbay tried to operate a nickel mine that has been controversial in Guatemala since the 1970s when then Canadian mining giant INCO (International Nickel Company) operated the mine. The 1999 United Nations Truth Commission documented that INCO (via its Guatemalan subsidiary EXMIBAL) colluded with the US-backed Guatemalan military regime in acts of repression in the 1970s and early 80s – including killings and disappearances – against the same Qeqchi population.

Though Hudbay sold its mining interests in 2011, at an estimated loss of \$200 million, the Qeqchi people continue to seek justice and remedy for the human rights violations they suffered while the nickel mining operation was under the ownership and control of Hudbay, including the gang rape of eleven Qeqchi women, the killing of Adolfo Ich and the shooting/paralyzing of German Chub.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- **Defensora** (5 minute trailer: <http://www.indiegogo.com/defensora>) documents the Mayan Qeqchi people's struggle to reclaim their ancestral lands and to seek justice

and remedy for the murder, shootings and rapes committed against them by Canadian mining companies in Guatemala.

- **El Estor Evictions** (10 minute film: <http://rightsaction.org/video/elestor>) documents Canadian nickel mining companies' illegal, forced evictions of Mayan Qeqchi communities in eastern Guatemala.
- **Article:** GUATEMALAN VICTIMS OF MINING REPRESSION COMING TO CANADA TO SEEK JUSTICE IN COURT, By Grahame Russell, <http://rightsaction.org/action-content/guatemalan-victims-mining-repression-coming-canada-seek-justice-court>
- **"Seeking Justice" - CBC TV The National** (4 minute news piece), Nov. 25, 2012, <http://www.cbc.ca/player/News/TV+Shows/The+National/ID/2309415544/>
- **Lawsuits:** <http://www.chocversushudbay.com/>
- **Rights Action:** info@rightsaction.org, www.rightsaction.org, www.facebook.com/rightsaction.org

THIS EVENT SPONSORED BY:

Rights Action, Climate Justice Group of Science for Peace, UNBC Guatemala Research Group, Breaking The Silence (Toronto), Maritimes-Guatemala Solidarity Network, Mining Watch, Canadian Dimension magazine, No One is Illegal, Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network, Mining Injustice Solidarity Network, Operation Groundswell Alumns, Toronto Haiti Action Committee, Amnesty International Toronto Business & Human Rights Group, Pan-African Solidarity Network, CUPE local 3907, Council of Canadians, ... (* If your organization would like to co-sponsor, send name to: info@rightsaction.org *)

DONATIONS WILL BE ENCOURAGED:

Funds raised at this event help support the work of the Qeqchi people for justice, community development and protection of their environment. Tax-deductible donations can be made. **(CHEQUES:** Make cheque payable to "Rights Action" and mail to: Rights Action, (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8. **CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS:** <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>)

MORE INFORMATION:

Grahame Russell, Rights Action, info@rightsaction.org, c: 860-751-4285, <http://www.rightsaction.org/>

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LAWSUITS:

Cory Wanless, cory.wanless@klippensteins.ca, 416-598-0288, <http://www.chocversushudbay.com/>

~~~ Please re-post and re-publish this information ~~~