

Rights Action
info@rightsaction.org
March 24, 2014

Petition/Statement of Solidarity:

**Justice in Guatemala for murder and shooting by former head of security of
Hudbay Minerals/ Guatemala Niquel Company**

Please read and sign this petition in solidarity with Mayan Q'eqchi' Communities in Guatemala as they continue their 50 year struggle against mainly Canadian mining companies, denouncing and resisting: murders; violent forced evictions and land thefts; rapes; shootings; criminalization of dissent.

- To sign: <http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/solidarity-with-q-eqchi-communities-in-their-struggle-against-canadian-mining-companies>

Maya Q'eqchi' communities in the Izabal region of Guatemala have faced an onslaught of repression, violent evictions and land thefts over the past five decades at the hands of a series of mainly Canadian mining companies who have owned the Fenix Nickel Project.

On April 4, 2014, Mynor Padilla, the former Head of Security for the mine under the ownership of Canadian company Hudbay Minerals and local subsidiary CGN, will be tried for the murder of Aldofo Ich Chamán who was a respected Q'eqchi' community leader, father of six and open critic of human rights violations and environmental damage caused by corporate mining activities.



Padilla will also be tried for the shooting of seven others on the same date, September 27, 2009 near El Estor, Izabal: Haroldo Cucul Cucul, German Chub Choc, Alejandro Chuc, Ricardo Acte Coc, Samuel Coc Chub, Alfredo Tzi Ich, and Luciano Choc. German Chub lives today in El Estor with a number of grave medical conditions as a result of this shooting, including a collapsed lung and a spinal cord injury that has left him paraplegic.



In a series of separate civil cases being heard in Canada, Hudbay Minerals and CGN are being tried for the shooting-paralyzing of German Chub, the murder of Ich Chamán and the gang-rapes of 100 women in a nearby community during an illegal forced eviction.

Despite historic and ongoing repression, Indigenous communities in the region have been resisting encroachment on their territory by a series of mining companies for over 50 years. The commencement of the criminal case against former head of mine security, Mynor Padilla, is an important step towards justice for the communities who have been actively defending their territory, their lives and their communities through their resistance against the mining project.

In the four and a half years since the violent events of September 2009 took place, victims, witnesses, and family members have struggled through a long and frustrating series of legal processes in order to have justice served. They are calling upon allies to join them in solidarity as the criminal trial begins on April 4th.

Angelica Choc, the wife of Adolfo Ich, makes the request clear: “Let all of us who are fighting in defense of our territories unite to demand that justice be served.”

By signing this petition, we want to make sure everyone involved in this struggle knows that they are not alone.

Please sign and endorse this letter as a statement of your solidarity and concern with those harmed during the events of September 27, 2009, and with all other victims of violence carried out by mining companies in the region, the Maya Q'eqchi' community of El Estor, and all those who defend their land, communities, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

This statement of solidarity (below), as well as all signatures and endorsements, will be brought to the courthouse as the trial begins on April 4th, 2014.

Statement of Solidarity

To: communities harmed by Canadian mining in Izabal, Guatemala,

As the trial begins concerning the murder of Adolfo Ich Chamán and the wounding of Haroldo Cucul Cucul, German Chub Coc, Alejandro Chuc, Ricardo Acte Coc, Samuel Coc Chub, Alfredo Tzi Ich, and Luciano Choc at the hands of a Canadian mining company, we want you to know that you are not alone.

Unfortunately, we know that the struggles of your communities against this new era of colonization carried out by the extractive industry are not new. We have witnessed that over the past 50 years you have faced innumerable acts of horrific violence and that continuing to resist has brought suffering and required immense sacrifice.

We want to express our solidarity and concern with all those harmed during the events of September 27, 2009, and to denounce the murder of Adolfo Ich as a targeted act of violence against a respected Maya Q'eqchi' community leader and an open critic of human rights violations and environmental damage caused by corporate mining activities.

We also stand in solidarity alongside all other victims of violence carried out by mining companies in the region, the Maya Q'eqchi' community of El Estor, and all those who defend their land, communities, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We know that today is but one step in the long journey towards justice, towards the reclaiming of your territory, towards safety, peace and self-determination for your communities.

Know that we stand with you today, tomorrow, and in the struggles to come.

In remembrance of all of those who have fallen, and with admiration for the strength and dignity of all of the women and men who have participated in this struggle.

Sincerely,
[Your name]

- To sign: <http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/solidarity-with-q-eqchi-communities-in-their-struggle-against-canadian-mining-companies>

More Info

- About the trial and, more generally, the community defense struggles of Mayan Qeqchi people in Guatemala: Grahame Russell, info@rightsaction.org

- About the lawsuits against Hudbay/ CGN in Canada: www.chocversushudbay.com

“Defensora”

This 2013 award winning film documents the lives and vision of the Mayan Qeqchi people and their efforts to seek justice in Canadian courts against Hudbay Minerals.

- Trailer /Screenings /Information: www.defensorathefilm.com

Join an Educational Delegation to Guatemala

- May 31-June 8, 2014: “Mining Injustice ~versus~ Community well-being and the Environment”, in the context of on-going struggles for truth, memory and justice for the genocides and repression of the past. Hosted by Rights Action and SMAK (Sustainable Mining Alliance of the Kootenays). Contact: info@rightsaction.org
- July 3-10, 2014: “Mayan Communities & Environmental Well-Being ~ versus ~ Large-Scale Mining And Hydroelectric Dam Projects, In An Unjust Global Economic Order”, in the context of on-going struggles for truth, memory and justice for the genocides and repression of the past. Hosted by Rights Action and Mayflower United Church of Christ (Minneapolis). Contact: info@rightsaction.org

Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)

To support Mayan Qeqchi efforts to defend their environment and community well-being and attain justice for the harms and violations suffered, 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 (Canada & U.S.): <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

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