

Rights Action  
March 4, 2015  
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**Faces of Resistance: Visiting the Mayan Q'eqchi' People Making Law in  
Canada, for Canadians, Who Continue to Allow Canadian Companies to Act  
with Impunity and Virtual Immunity from Legal Accountability**

By Grahame Russell, March 4, 2015

(After visiting Hudbay Minerals/CGN harmed communities in Guatemala, February 5, 2015)

From January 28 – February 8, 2015, Rights Action travelled with a Canadian journalist and students from the University of Guelph (Canada), to meet with Mayan and campesino communities suffering environmental and health harms, repression and other human rights violations caused by the Canadian-led mining industry in Guatemala. Rights Action provides grassroots funding to the community and environmental protection and human rights promotion work of the people we met with.



German Chub and Angelica Choc (two plaintiffs in the precedent setting Hudbay Minerals/CGN lawsuits in Canada) have breakfast with U. Guelph students, in a home in the La Union neighborhood, El Estor. (February 5, 2015) The neighborhood of La Union was partially burned to the ground, twice, in 2006, by Guatemalan police and soldiers, and security guards working for the Canadian company Skye Resources (bought out by Hudbay in 2008). On September 27, 2009, some 100 yards from this home, Adolfo Ich (husband of Angelica Choc) was illegally detained by Hudbay/CGN security guards, and then killed; likewise, German Chub was shot and left paralyzed on the same day, at almost the same spot.



Students travel in 2 pickup trucks from La Union, El Estor, west towards Panzos, before turning off the main road and driving north, up a very difficult rock and dirt road, into the Lote 8 community. The students passed dozens of huge trailer-trucks hauling sugar cane to the Chaabil Utzaj, near Panzos. Historically, and on-going today, dozens of Mayan Q'eqchi' communities – the original peoples of this region – have been brutally and illegally evicted from their home communities to make way for large scale sugar cane and African palm (for growing “green” energy markets for ethanol and bio-diesel fuel) and for open-pit, mountain-top removal nickel mining.



For the first time since he was shot and paralyzed by the former head of security of Hudbay Minerals/CGN, German Chub was able to travel in the pickup truck, with the students, to the Lote 8 community up in the mountain range north of Lake Izabal. The Lote 8 community received us all in this community center, recently built again on the very spot where their community was burned to the ground in 2007 by soldiers and police, and private security guards hired by the Canadian mining company.

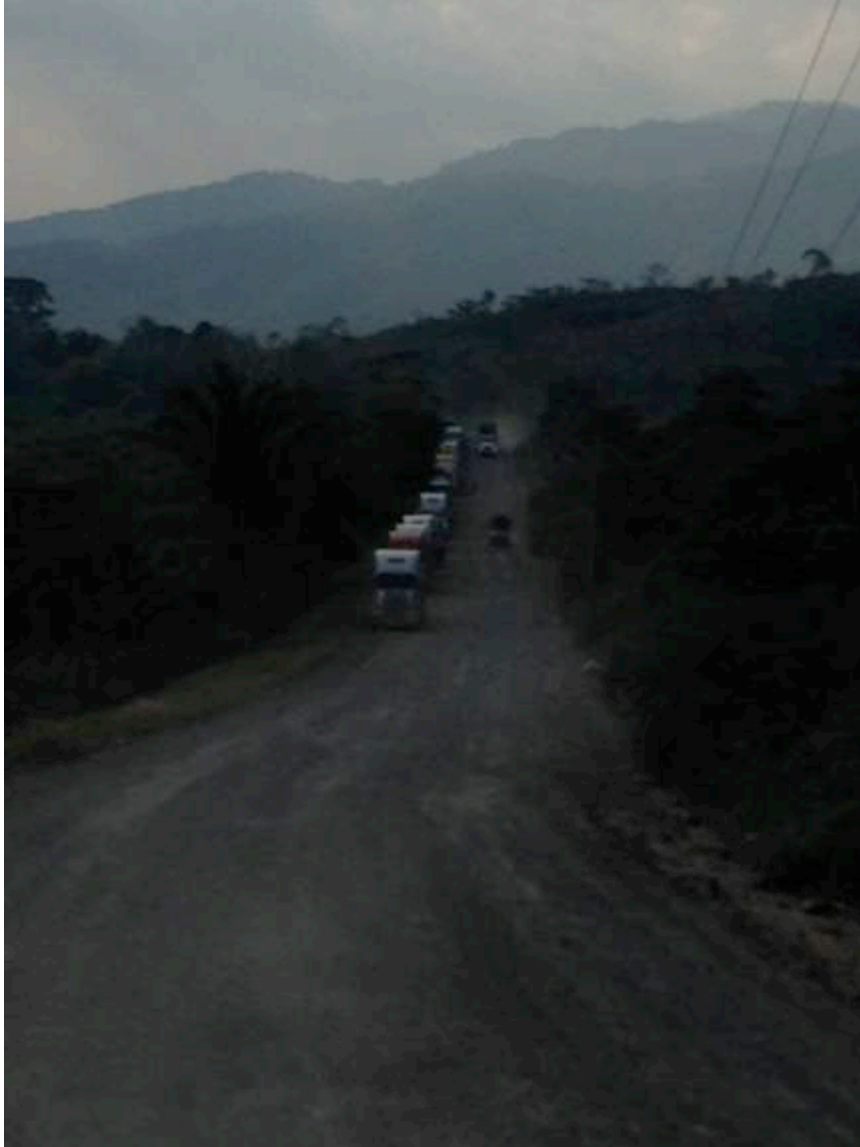


In honour of the visitors, and to give strength to Q'eqchi' communities throughout the region, struggling to stay on their lands and territories and protect their way of life, the Lote 8 community held a Mayan ceremony in the center of their community, high on the Santa Cruz mountain range, along the north side of Lake Izabal.





In the evening, driving back to El Estor by dozens of transport trucks load with raw material from the mountain-top removal, nickel mining open-pits – ready to be trucked (hundreds of truck loads every day) to the Santo Tomas de Castillo port, on the Caribbean sea, to be shipped directly to (apparently) the Ukraine.



For hundreds of years, the Mayan Q'eqchi' people have been attacked and evicted, killed and harmed, and resisted the relentless economic interest of mining companies, cattle farmers, producers of bananas, pineapples, sugar cane and African palm. Resistance is their way of live – an honorable and very difficult life.

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### **“Defensora”**

Organize a screening of the award-winning film “Defensora”, by Rachel Schmidt, that documents the lives and vision of the Mayan Qeqchi people and their efforts to seek justice in Canadian courts against Hudbay Minerals/ CGN.

Trailer/ Screenings /Information: [www.defensorathefilm.com](http://www.defensorathefilm.com)

**Precedent-setting lawsuits against Hudbay Minerals/ CGN:** [www.chocversushudbay.com](http://www.chocversushudbay.com)

### **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & United States)**

To support community organizations – like those of the Mayan Q'eqchi' peoples - working for locally-controlled development, the environment, human rights and the rule of law in Honduras and Guatemala, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8
- USA: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091
- Credit-Card Donations: <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>
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