

“Sepur Zarco” Gang-Rape And Sexual Slavery Trial Begins Against Former Members Of U.S.-Backed Guatemalan Military

Photo: Indigenous women of the Mayan ethnic Q’eqchi’ group cover their faces during a hearing for the Sepur Zarco case in Guatemala City in June 2015. Photograph: Stringer/Reuters.

READ: <http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=0311364254>

Gang-Rape As Tool Of Military And Mining Repression

These precedent setting war crimes trials for gang-rape and sexual enslavement of 11 women in the 1980s from the Mayan Q’eqchi’ community of Sepur Zarco have finally begun in Guatemalan courts, at the same time as a precedent setting lawsuit works its way through Canadian courts, against Hudbay Minerals, for its responsibility for the gang rape in 2007 of 11 other Mayan Q’eqchi’ women from the nearby community of Lote 8.

“In its 1999 report, the UN-backed truth commission affirmed that state agents perpetrated rape as a widespread and systematic practice as part of their counterinsurgency strategy.” (See article below by Sophie Beaudoin)

In the Mayan Q’eqchi’ region, today, it is understood that Hudbay Minerals’ private security guards and soldiers and police gang-raped 11 women on January 17, 2007, as part of their repression strategy to forcibly evict the entire village of Lote 8 (that same day, over 100 homes were burnt to the ground), so that Hudbay Minerals could start its nickel mining operation.

More Information – Sepur Zarco Trials

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Film: “Two Struggles For Justice: Sexual Violence Against Mayan Q’eqchi’ Women In Guatemala”

By ECAP (Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Accion Psico-Social)

Documenting two struggles for justice by Mayan Q’eqchi’ women: 1- Women from Sepur Zarco filed a criminal complaint for sexual abuse and domestic slavery suffered in an army outpost during Guatemala’s state repression against its own people in the 1970-1980s; 2- Women from Lote Ocho filed a civil lawsuit in Canada against Hudbay Minerals for gang-rapes they suffered by security agents in 2007.

- Video español: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4aOOSnJ4qo>
- Video q’eqchi’-inglés: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEoFrsAyyf8>

Book: "Clamor por la Justicia" / “Clamor for Justice”

By ECAP (Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Accion Psico-Social)

Documenting the lives and stories of the women of Sepur Zarco and the women of Lote 8, all victims of gang-rapes, all involved in courageous struggles for truth and justice.

- Spanish version:
http://ecapguatemala.org.gt/sites/default/files/Clamor%20por%20la%20justicia%20version%20final_1.pdf
- English version: available on request

Tax Deductible Donations in U.S. and Canada

To support the struggle of the Mayan Q'eqchi' women of Lote 8 to rebuild their lives and community, and to seek justice in Canada for the rapes they suffered, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations:

- Canada: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/rights-action/>
- U.S.: <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations> (click on "NetworkForGood")

Donations of stock? Write to: grahame@rightsaction.org