

Faces of courage and dignity: Justice in Guatemala for Canadian mining repression???

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(Photo: Angelica & German selfie)

Angelica Choc and German Chub, December 1, 2016, at the court house in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, during closing arguments for the prosecution, in the criminal trial against Mynor Padilla, a former Colonel in the Guatemalan Army and former head of security for Hudbay Minerals/CGN.

On September 27, 2009, Mynor Padilla – working for Hudbay – shot German, a young Mayan Q'eqchi campesino, in the back and left him for dead in the El Estor region of Guatemala, near Hudbay's then owned nickel mine. German survived, paralyzed from the waist down. He lost the use of one lung, and the bullet remains lodge next to his spinal column.

That same day, Padilla and the private Hudbay security guards he was in charge of, singled out, grabbed and then murdered well known community, land, Indigenous rights and environmental defender Adolfo Ich, the husband of Angelica Choc.

Angelica and German have been spear-heading this courageous trial in Guatemala that Padilla's team of well connected lawyers (likely financed by Hudbay Minerals from Canada) has dragged out over almost two years; and this, after Padilla was for three years a "fugitive from justice" in the El Estor region, still working openly for Hudbay for part of this time!

Once again, the trial has been suspended today for another week.

Angelica and German – along with 11 women from the remote community of Lote 8, who were gang-raped in 2007 by private mining security guards, soldiers and police, as part of the illegal eviction of their community – are also spearheading, along with Klippensteins Barristers and Solicitors, the precedent setting civil lawsuits in Canadian courts against Hudbay and CGN, for the mining related repression they suffered.

Your Funds At Work

Rights Action has supported the community, land and Mother Earth defense struggles of the Mayan Q'eqchi' people in the El Estor región since 2004. And since 2010, Rights Action has been funding and otherwise supporting Angelica, German and the Lote 8 women as they seek justice in Guatemalan and Canadian courts. To donate, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

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