

Nov. 8, 2017, Toronto

Day #1 / Dia #1: Examinations for discovery (depositions), juicios Hudbay Minerals/CGN lawsuits, Declaraciones anticipadas

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Elena Choc Quib is the first of 13 Mayan Q'eqchi' plaintiffs to be deposed by Hudbay/CGN's lawyers, as part of the precedent setting Hudbay Minerals lawsuits, related to mining linked repression in Guatemala: the rapes of 11 women (Lote 8 community), the targeted killing of a community leader (Adolfo Ich), and a shooting-maiming (German Chub).

Elena Choc Quib es la primera de 13 demandantes Maya Q'eqchi's a ser interrogada por el equipo de abogados de Hudbay/CGN, como parte de los juicios Hudbay/CGN por represion minera: la violacion de 11 mujeres (comunidad de Lote 8), el asesinato del lider comunitario (Adolfo Ich) y el ataque que dejo paralizado a German Chub.



This morning, the 3 women from Lote 8 (Elena Choc Quib, Amalia Cac Tiul, Carmela Caal y Caal) and Angelica Choc gather outside the TD North Tower building, at King St. W. and York St., a centre of Canadian financial and corporate power and wealth. The photo shows a moment of levity, in the cool morning sun ... but symbolically, these bulls represent the excessive and grotesque, and often abusive and unconstrained systems of Canadian and global wealth, power and control.

Esta manana, las 3 mujeres de Lote 8 (Elena Choc Quib, Amalia Cac Tiul, Carmela Caal y Caal) y Angelica Choc se juntan a fuera del edificio TD North Tower, King St. West and York St., en el centro financiero-corporativo de Toronto, Canada. La foto muestra un momento de paz y tranquilidad (en el frio!) ... pero simbolicamente estos toros representan los excesivos y grotescos, y a menudo abusivos sistemas de poder Canadiense y global de riqueza, poder y control.



More than symbolically, these courageous plaintiffs, their lawyers and supporters have brought their demands for justice to the headquarters of the corporate and investor decision-makers, a very very far distance from where the corporate-investor abuses occurred. One can have nothing but massive respect for these 12 women and one man, demanding justice in the “belly of the beast”.

Más que simbólicamente, estas demandantes, sus abogados y grupos de apoyo han traído su lucha por la justicia al sede central de los y las que tomen las decisiones corporativas-inversoras que han tenido impactos tan negativos y destructivos en lugares tan lejanos a estas oficinas y edificios.

Uno tiene nada menos que un respeto enorme para estas 12 mujeres y 1 hombre, exigiendo justicia aquí mismo en la casa de, en el sede central de los de poder y riqueza.



Here, they meet with their lawyers Cory Wanless and Murray Klippenstein, before going up to the examinations for discovery.

Aqui, esperan con sus abogados Cory Wanless y Murray Klippenstein, antes de subir a ser interrogadas.

Ancestral strength / Fuerza ancestral



In a reserved waiting room, on the 20th floor, TD North Tower, the women gather to pray and gather strength from their ancestors and communities, and the gods of their lands, lake, rivers, mountains and forests.

En un cuarto reserverado por el bufete Klippensteins, piso 20 del TD North Tower, las mujeres se juntan para orar y pedir fuerzas de sus ancestros y comunidades, y de los dioses de sus tierras, lago, rios, bosques y montanas.

Day 1/ Dia 1. Faltan 10 dias mas/ 10 days to go.

The plaintiffs are available for interviews.

Contact

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Cory Wanless, (647) 886-1914 (c), cory.wanless@klippensteins.ca

Lawsuits background: www.chocversushudbay.com

Accompaniment support

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Background

- Is Justice Possible in Canada or Guatemala for Hudbay Minerals/CGN Mining Repression?, by Grahame Russell, October 28, 2017, UpsideDownWorld, <http://upside-downworld.org/archives/guatemala/justice-possible-canada-guatemala-hudbay-minerals-cgn-mining-repression/>
- *Defensora*, an award-winning 40 minute film (by Rachel Schmidt, 2013) documents the Q'eqchi' peoples' struggle in Guatemala to reclaim ancestral lands and to seek justice in Canadian and Guatemalan courts for murder, shootings and rapes committed by police, soldiers and private security guards working for Canadian mining company Hudbay Minerals and its Guatemalan subsidiary CGN. View: <https://vimeo.com/75725049>

Rights Action funding appeal: \$20,000

Thank-you to countless people who have donated so far. These precedent-setting struggles for justice and real accountability are, in part, your funds at work.

Funds raised are paying for many of the costs of the 13 plaintiffs and two companions from their home communities in rural, eastern Guatemala, to Toronto and back again. Hudbay will incur some of the expenses. Our costs include: in-Guatemala travel; in-Canada travel; food and lodging in Guatemala (near airport); acquiring passports & visas; purchasing extra clothing and footwear (for people who live in one of the hottest regions of Guatemala); family stipends to leave food and care-givers for children staying at home; two Rights Action trips to Guatemala in October, to help prepare the plaintiffs for the trip and accompany them. If more funds are raised, they will be used for future costs of the Maya Q'eqchi' people of Guatemala, in their work and struggles for territorial and environmental defense, and for human rights and justice.

Please contact me with questions or comments.

Grahame Russell, director Rights Action

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www.rightsaction.org

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Make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

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