

Council of Q'eqchi' Ancestral Authorities

El Estor, Izabal, Guatemala

March 23, 2022

**Arbitrary detention of Julio Anselmo Toc Mucu
Solway Investment Group, CGN-PRONICO continue attacking
Q'eqchi' people**

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/arbitrary-detention-of-julio-anselmo-toc>

The Guatemalan State continues to violate the rights of indigenous peoples in the municipality of El Estor, at the request of the mining company Solway Investment Group (Suisa-Russia) and CGN-Pronico.



Solway Investment Group's ever expanding open-pit nickel mining operation, on Maya Q'eqchi' territories in Eastern Guatemala.

As Council of Q'eqchi' Ancestral Authorities, we regret what happened on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Young Julio Anselmo Toc Mucu was captured at noon when he was on his way home for lunch after a day of work.

He is the son of Julio Anselmo Toc, vice-president of the Fishermen's Union ("Gremial") and member of the Council. Together, the Council and the

Gremial organized peaceful protests against the illegal mining operation of Solway Investment Group / CGN-PRONICO, a company that at no time respected the decision of the Constitutional Court, ordering the suspension of the mine.

The illegal mining operation is also evidenced by the persecution of the community leaders who were involved in the peaceful protests in October 2021.

As Ancestral Authorities we are concerned because there are at least 12 arrest warrants issued against members of the Council and Gremial who were involved in the protests, when we demanded that our rights as indigenous peoples be respected.

Solway and CGN-PRONICO have co-opted the State of Guatemala to carry out a supposed pre-consultation and consultation process in favor of the company. The reality is different. The indigenous peoples of El Estor, Izabal were never consulted so that this company could operate in our territories.

They bought COCODES (local leadership committees) to vote in favor of Solway, CGN-PRONICO. There were only three auxiliary mayors in favor of this mafia that swindles the people of El Estor: the mayor of San Francisco, the mayor of El Centro, the mayor of Tres Quebradas - Mr. Carlos Coc together with Romel Adelson Reyes and the municipal mayor Joel Lorenzo Flores are the ones who enriched themselves with their deals with the Swiss-Russians.

How disturbing that these people deceive their own people.

Given this situation, we state that the young Julio Anselmo Toc Mucu was never in the protests of October, 2021. He has never been involved in these mobilizations. He has always been an honest and hardworking person. For this reason we reject the crimes of which he is accused.

These companies do not want us to raise our voices, demanding that our rights as Indigenous Peoples be respected.

We hope that our authorities do the right thing and soon release young Julio Anselmo Toc, who was illegally detained.

Enough abuses against our Q'eqchi' brothers and sisters.
No more looting and destruction of our lakes and hills.

ATTENTIVELY,

Council of Ancestral Q'eqchi' Authorities

Facebook: Council of Q'eqchi' Ancestral Authorities

*We will continue in resistance until this mining company closes down
and that it ceases to destroy our natural resources.*

More information

- **Documents confirm corruption of Guatemalan State by Solway Investment Group mining Company,**
<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/corruption-of-guatemalan-state-by-solway-investment-group>
- **Guatemalan Judge Erika Aifan forced into exile, facing death threats.**
“The state and three branches of government have been co-opted by criminal networks. It is a megastructure, including international actors, rooted in Guatemala’s past”, <https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/guatemalan-judge-erika-aifan-forced-into-exile>
- **Did the Swiss-based Solway Investment Group pressure the Swiss-based Springer Nature to quash publication of “TESTIMONIO: Canadian Mining in the Aftermath of Genocides in Guatemala”?**,
<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/did-a-swiss-based-mining-company-pressure-to-quash-publication-of-testimonio-the-book>

Rights Action (US & Canada)

Since 1995, Rights Action funds land and environment, justice and human rights defense struggles in Guatemala and Honduras. We also provide emergency relief funds (Covid19, hurricanes, victims of repression, etc.).

At the same time, Rights Action works to hold accountable the U.S. and Canadian governments, multi-national companies, investors and banks (World Bank, etc.) that help cause and profit from exploitation and poverty, repression and human rights violations, environmental harms, corruption and impunity in Honduras and Guatemala.

Act / Stir up the pot / Chip away ... in the "Hunger Games" global economic, political order

Keep sending copies of Rights Action information (and that of other solidarity groups/ NGOs) to family and friends, your networks, politicians and media outlets, asking: 'When will there be proper legal and political accountability for how our governments, companies and investment firms help cause, benefit from and turn a blind eye to corruption and impunity, and to poverty, repression environmental harms in countries like Honduras and Guatemala?'

- U.S. Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact>
- U.S. House: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>
- Canadian Parliament: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>

Follow work of and get involved with other solidarity/NGO groups

- Honduras Now: <https://www.hondurasnow.org/>
- Honduras Solidarity Network: www.hondurassolidarity.org
- Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective: www.solidaritycollective.org
- Friendship Office of the Americas: <https://friendshipamericas.org>
- NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with People of Guatemala): www.nisgua.org
- GHRC (Guatemalan Human Rights Commission): www.ghrc-usa.org
- Breaking the Silence: www.breakingthesilenceblog.com
- CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with People of El Salvador): www.cispes.org
- Peace Brigades International: <https://www.peacebrigades.org>
- Mining Watch Canada: www.miningwatch.ca
- Mining Injustice Solidarity Network: <https://mininginjustice.org>
- Mining Justice Alliance: <https://miningjusticealliance.wordpress.com>
- Common Frontiers Canada: www.commonfrontiers.ca
- Alliance for Global Justice: www.afgj.org
- CODEPINK: www.codepink.org
- School of Americas Watch: www.soaw.org

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- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
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