

Films/ Videos - Guatemala

Links to films and videos addressing territory, environmental, human rights defense struggles Rights Action supports in Guatemala.

Pull-out films

Winds of Memory (1992)

This film by Felix Zurita reveals Mayan life and culture in Guatemala today, five centuries after the "discovery" of America by racist, Christianity-led western European imperialists and colonialists. The Tzutuhil Indians of Santiago Atitlan, a lakeshore village among volcanoes, seek to regain control over their lands, communities and lives. Overrun by tourists by day, haunted by the military and death squads at night, the Indigenous Mayan reveal the disjunction of their current lives: they exorcise death and demand truth and justice by exposing mass graves; they practice a religion where ancient gods reappear as Christian saints; and they daily suffer the racism, exploitation and repression of the descendants of the western European conquerors. As Mayans defy their repressors in order to practice Mayan rites, interviews with General Benedito Lucas Garcia, former Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and the Bishop of Santa Cruz de Quiche reveal the harsh repercussions of Columbus' voyage which are still felt by Mayans today.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsNSn7p_Pi0

Gold Fever (2013)

This award-winning film by Northland Films documents how Canadian mining giant Goldcorp Inc. continues to mine relentlessly in Guatemala, despite 12 years of repression, human rights violations, environmental destruction, and endemic corruption and impunity. Gold Fever takes the viewer into the homes and communities of courageous Mayan Mam people resisting harms and violations, struggling for justice and a different "development" model.

Trailer: <http://www.goldfevermovie.com/>

Defensora - Back story to Hudbay Minerals lawsuits (2013)

As the landmark Hudbay Minerals lawsuits enter their 11th year in Canadian courts ~ pitting Hudbay's team of highly paid lawyers against 13 impoverished, evicted, discriminated Mayan Q'eqchi' people from Guatemala, victims of mining violence (murder, gang-rapes, shooting-maiming) ~ DEFENSORA (www.defensorathefilm.com) remains a must see film to learn more about who the Q'eqchi' plaintiffs are, where they are from, what mining violence they suffered, what they are fighting in defense of, and why they are demanding justice.

<https://vimeo.com/329494479>

General

Los Civilizadores: Alemanes en Guatemala (1998)

Por Uli Stelzner y Thomas Walther, 130 min.

En Guatemala existe desde hace más de un siglo una pequeña pero muy influyente colonia alemana. Su prosperidad empieza con el Boom del café en los años 1870, y continúa en forma casi ininterrumpida hasta el presente. Convencidos de pertenecer a una cultura superior, tratan de imponer de una forma colonizadora a Guatemala su modelo de civilización. Los viejos barones de café muestran fotos descoloridas, y a partir de su historia se constituye la historia oficial: la historia de la colonización. Pero la mirada se desplaza desde el patrón hacia el trasfondo, hacia el otro, hacia el indígena quien soporta las palmaditas. La película retrata varias generaciones de familias. Cuenta sin comentarios posiciones del Siglo XX, posiciones que a través del tiempo han sido relativizadas, más no así modificadas. Una película que recorre cuestiones de poder, identidad y civilización.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fCFcuL72L8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1zT1hGODW1tpAhUASxBwQBjxntq-WL5052fMuwMVZdtYBLOpc_zQzwXPw

The invisible genocide of women in Guatemala (2011)

This film addresses the use of rape of women in the context of the U.S.-backed genocide in Guatemala against Mayan peoples. More than 100,000 women were raped in the 36 years of the Guatemalan genocides in which at least 200,000 people were killed and over 50,000 disappeared. In this video, photojournalists Ofelia de Pablo and Javier Zurita interview survivors and document the ongoing forensic and legal investigation that has been used in the genocide trial against former generals Ríos Montt and Rodríguez Sánchez.

<http://vimeo.com/36268697>

No More Evictions! The Struggle for Indigenous Land in Post-War Guatemala (2014)

In rural Guatemala, a highly unequal land ownership structure inherited from centuries of colonialism and decades of dictatorship is now being compounded by a corporate land grab. "No More Evictions!" takes us to the Polochic valley in eastern Guatemala where indigenous Q'eqchi' communities who have begun to reclaim their ancestral lands must now face the double threat of agribusiness and mining. Though the Guatemalan civil war (1960-1996) is formally over, both local and foreign corporations, including Canadian mining companies (Skye Resources & Hudbay Minerals) unleashed violence upon indigenous campesinos with impunity, giving many Q'eqchi'; the distinct impression that the war isn't really over.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQ0B3yp_J1I

¡No Más Desalojos! La Lucha para Tierras Indígenas en la Guatemala de Posguerra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2bSm>

U.S. Is Co-Responsible For Genocides In Guatemala (October 28, 2013)

Interview with Grahame Russell outside court house where former U.S.-trained and backed general Efraín Ríos Montt was on trial for genocide.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-X3OMEZouU&feature=youtu.be>

Genocide Trial in Guatemala (June 13, 2013)

Warwick Fry interviews Grahame Russell about trial of former U.S. trained and supported general Efraim Rios Montt, found guilty of war crimes, including genocide.

Listen: <http://vensol.blogspot.com.au/2013/06/former-president-on-war-crimes-charges.html>

Chixoy Dam: No Reparations, No Justice, No Peace (2013)

This 15 minute film by Lazar Konforti summarizes how, at the height of the genocides in Guatemala, the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank invested close to \$1 billion in the Chixoy hydroelectric dam project. Thirty-two Mayan communities were forcibly displaced; hundreds of Rio Negro villagers were massacred.

<http://vimeo.com/50015125>

Poverty In Pacux (2013)

This short film by Rachel Schmidt documents how -over 34 years later- Mayan Achi survivors of the Chixoy Dam / Rio Negro massacres live in endemic poverty, discrimination and trauma in "Pacux", a former military concentration camp, now cramped refugee community, still fighting for justice and full reparations.

<https://vimeo.com/52439128>

Hudbay Minerals justice struggles

Cory Wanless & Angelica Choc speak (November 8, 2019)

Responding to Hudbay Minerals lawyers attack on credibility of 11 Mayan Q'eqchi' women, victims of gang-rapes committed by Hudbay (Skye Resources) security guards, police and soldiers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhWYy_7P6tw&feature=youtu.be

Hudbay Minerals plaintiffs, lawyers & advocates speak (September 17, 2019)

Compilation of videos taken by Professor Catherine Nolin (UNBC) during a public event after a pleadings amendment motion hearing in Toronto, Canada, in the landmark Hudbay Minerals corporate accountability lawsuits.

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/compilation-of-videos-hudbay-lawsuits>

María Choc released on bail, will face trial, vows to keep fighting (January 2018)

Short film by Lazar Konforti. Maya-Q'eqchi' activist María Magdalena Cuc Choc released on bail, but will face trial on trumped up charges linked to her indigenous land and territory defense activism.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85nQTIPOU4M>

Defensora (2013)

Documental de 40 minutos sobre la lucha del pueblo Maya Q'eqchi' en defensa de sus territorios ancestrales, y por la justicia en contra de la CGN (Compania Guatemalteca de Niquel) y Hudbay Minerals/Skye Resources, en los tribunales Canadienses y Guatemaltecos, por la represión sufrida, incluyendo las violaciones de 11 mujeres de Lote 8, la muerte de Adolfo Ich y al ataque en contra de German Chub.

<https://vimeo.com/83654243>

Hudbay Minerals lawsuits - The Drop interview with Cory Wanless & Grahame Russell

(November 25, 2017)

<https://www.facebook.com/thedropvideo/videos/370077746779053/>

Hudbay Minerals on Trial: Impunity Reigns (April 6, 2017)

Short film by Lazar Konforti addressing how Mynor Padilla – ex Hudbay Minerals/Skye Resources head of security – was found “not guilty” by Judge Ana Leticia Pena Ayala of killing Adolfo Ich and shooting-paralyzing German Chub Choc.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xch_LMzfl7Q&feature=youtu.be

Choc vs. Hudbay (September 27, 2016)

Short film by James Rodriguez: Interview with Angelica Choc during annual commemoration of the life of her husband, Adolfo Ich, assassinated September 27, 2009 by Mynor Padilla and security guards working for Hudbay Minerals and its subsidiary CGN (Guatemalan Niquel Company).

<https://vimeo.com/191327705>

How Can Angelica Choc and German Chub Get Justice? (May 2016)

Short film by Steven Schnoor documenting how the Judge (Ana Leticia Pena Ayala) in the Adolfo Ich murder trial, ordered – May 2016 - a “security protection detail” for Mynor Padilla, ex head of security for Hudbay Minerals (and former lieutenant colonel in the Guatemalan Army), on trial for murder and the shooting-paralyzing of German Chub in September 2009.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rllt5geTlJc&feature=youtu.be>

Mynor Padilla Trial: Racial Discrimination (2016)

Short film by Lazar Konforti on unsuccessful efforts to have allegedly corrupted Judge Ana Leticia Pena Ayala recused from Mynor Padilla trial. Angelica Choc addresses the court, as Mynor Padilla and his team of lawyers (allegedly paid for by Hudbay Minerals) look on. Includes song written and performed by Adolfo Ich, Angelica’s husband, killed by Mynor Padilla and his security guards on September 27, 2009, when they worked for Hudbay Minerals/CGN.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_nLF-bke1k&feature=youtu.be

Hudbay Mineral’s Hoax (2015)

51 minute film by John Dougherty, documenting harmful operations of Hudbay Minerals in Guatemala, Peru and Canada, and plans to construct the “Rosemont” copper mine in Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7aacPtEI8s>

Fraude de Hudbay Minerals (2015)

Documental de 45 minutos (por John Dougherty) sobre las operaciones de HudBay Minerals en Canada, Guatemala, Peru y los Estados Unidos.

<https://youtu.be/1BF06KsgMsc>

Hudbay on trial for murder in Guatemala (2015)

Short film by Lazar Konforti. Mynor Padilla, Hudbay Minerals' former chief of security at their mine in Guatemala (which they sold in 2011 to Switzerland company Solway Investment Group), is on trial for murdering community leader Adolfo Ich during an attack by Hudbay's security personnel against community members in 2009. Angélica Choc, Ich's widow, fears for her safety as she has to confront her husband's murderer in court.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ke-mmuPHqFY>

Hudbay enjuiciada por homicidio en Guatemala (2015)

Mynor Padilla, antiguo jefe de seguridad de la CGN (Compañía Guatemalteca de Niquel), entonces subsidiaria de la canadiense Hudbay Minerals, está acusado del asesinato de Adolfo Ich Chamán, maestro y líder comunitario, en 2009. Angélica Choc, la viuda de Adolfo, todavía teme por su seguridad.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ke-mmuPHqFY>

They Cut Me In Half: Fundraiser for German Chub Choc (2014)

Short film by Lazar Konforti documenting the life of German Chub, a young Maya-Q'eqchi' father left paralyzed after being shot by Mynor Padilla, head of security for Hudbay Minerals in Guatemala. One lung was permanently damaged; the bullet remains lodged next to his spinal column.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXElOwBUn0E>

Defending Q'eqchi' Territory from Mining: Rebuilding Lote Ocho (2014)

Short film by Lazar Konforti documenting how private security forces employed by Hudbay Minerals/Skye Resources, along with Guatemalan police and soldiers, destroyed the Maya-Q'eqchi' community of Lote Ocho, burning 100 homes to the ground, destroying personal property and food, and gang-raping 11 women villagers. Community members are rebuilding homes and community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuuJSIztTK8&feature=youtu.be>

Precedent Setting Hudbay Minerals Lawsuits In Canada (October 2013)

The Real News interview with Grahame Russell.

http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&itemid=74&jumival=10902

Testimony of Rosa Elbira: Gang-rapes at Canadian mine in Guatemala (2010)

In 2007, private security forces employed by Canadian company Skye Resources (later owned by Hudbay Minerals), along with Guatemalan police and soldiers, violently evicted the Q'eqchi' community of Lote Ocho, burning 100 homes to the ground, destroying all personal property and food stuffs, and gang-raping 11 women villagers. Rosa Elvira is one of the women.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSGuDk4cnz4>

Violent Evictions at El Estor, Guatemala (2007)

By Steven Schnoor, this 10 minute film documents illegal, forced evictions of Mayan Q'eqchi' communities in Guatemala on behalf of Skye Resources/Hudbay Minerals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgwtLuISE1Y&t=10s>

Two Struggles For Justice: Sexual Violence Against Mayan Q'eqchi' Women In Guatemala

This film by ECAP (Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Accion Psico-Social) documents two struggles for justice by Mayan Q'eqchi' women victims of sexual violence and repression: Sepur Zarco and Lote Ocho.

Español: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4aOOSnJ4qo>

Q'eqchi'-inglés: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEoFrsAyvf8>

Other

The Panama Deception

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo6yVNWcGCo>

From 1992, the Panama Deception documents the U.S. government State-sponsored terrorism invasion of Panama, December 1989.

Grahame Russell address, Denver Justice and Peace Committee's Annual Global Justice and Peace Awards ceremony (Rights Action was 2012 recipient of the award)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGlobcuSno0>

Addressing: the collective nature of this work and struggle; Rio Negro and Chixoy Dam massacres story & that "this human rights award is the blood and tears of the Maya Achi people"; the local-to-global nature of Rights Action's work; Honduras 2009 military coup and pro-democracy movement;

Please send questions, comments my way

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