

Your funds at work 2020 Funding Summary

Most community groups and people Rights Action supports are involved in courageous human rights, environmental, territorial defense struggles, confronting the wealth and (oftentimes) violent power of companies and investors in the unequal, unjust global economy in the unjust, unequal Nation State system.

When the COVID-19 pandemic spread through Central America, and when hurricanes ETA and IOTA devastated many regions of Honduras and Guatemala in November 2020, Rights Action sent emergency response funds to these same people and community groups.



“On the people will help save the people”

As is true with most emergency situations and catastrophes, local community groups and people are always in the best position to receive support and provide the most effective hands-on emergency relief.

COVID-19: \$75,000

Since mid-March, Rights Action sent \$75,000 in small grants (\$250-\$2000) to partner groups in Honduras and Guatemala responding to Covid19. Funds were used primarily for:

- Buying basic foods and securing water for the most needy community members
- Covid19 education and prevention measures
- Planting community and family gardens, with focus on medicinal plants and local foods

- On-going land and human rights defense struggles. In the midst of the full-on Covid19 crisis, wealthy actors –national and international– continued using corruption and violence (including evictions and killings) to advance their economic interests

Hurricanes ETA and IOTA: \$50,000

Over the first two weeks of November 2020, Rights Action sent \$50,000 in small grants (\$250-\$2000) to partner groups in north and central Honduras and eastern Guatemala responding to the devastation of hurricanes ETA and IOTA, that worsened ever more so the widespread homelessness, hunger and desperation. Community groups used funds primarily for food and potable water, clothing and shelter, and medical support for victims of the hurricanes ... before the inevitable re-building work began, once again.

*We are NOT all in this together
We should NOT be working to “get back to normal”*

Rights Action is deeply concerned by the now-even-more precarious conditions of a majority of the populations of Honduras and Guatemala whose military-backed governments maintain full relations with the U.S. and Canadian governments, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and IMF, and global companies and investors operating mines and hydro-electric dams, ‘sweatshop’ factories and tourism businesses, and producing ‘for-export’ coffee, sugarcane, African palm, bananas and pineapples.

During the worst ravages of COVID-19 and hurricanes ETA and IOTA, it was mostly ‘business-as-usual’ for these sectors of the global economy that continued to export their goods to wealthy consuming societies, primarily in the U.S., Canada and western Europe.

While fully supporting the ‘for-export’ sectors of the global economy, the corrupt, military-backed governments in power – deceitfully referred to as “democratic allies” by the U.S. and Canada - do next to nothing to invest in and support their majority populations in times of the “normal” pandemics of impoverishment and racism, land dispossession, human rights violations and repression, let alone when further devastated by Covid19, and climate disasters like hurricanes ETA and IOTA.

Land, human rights and environmental defense struggles: \$150,000

In 2020, our community defender partner groups not only struggled to survive COVID-19 and hurricanes ETA and IOTA, but were forced to continue with land, human rights and environmental struggles in resistance to rapacious, violent economic actors. In 2020, Rights Action was able to send \$150,000 to Indigenous and non-Indigenous community defenders for a range of their land, human rights and environmental defense struggles.

GUATEMALA

- CODIDENA. Resisting harmful, illegal mining operation of Pan American Silver (formerly Tahoe Resource)
- Union of Maya Q’eqchi’ fisher people. Resisting harmful, illegal mining operation of Solway Investment Group
- Criminal trial against Mynor Padilla, former Hudbay Minerals/Skye Resources head of security
- Landmark Hudbay Minerals lawsuits in Canada

- Legal defense work: Support for land and human rights defenders, now political prisoners and victims of trumped up 'criminalizations'
- Right Action accompaniment, education, activism trips
- Angelica Choc. Widow of Huidbay-linked murder victim, leader in justice struggles in Guatemala and Canada
- Aniceto Lopez. Health support, community defender against previous Goldcorp mining harms
- Carlitos Chen. Child of Maya Achi genocide survivor, mental health support
- Carlos Ernesto Choc. Support for journalist targeted for reporting on mining harms linked to Solway Investment Group
- German Chub. Health support, paralysis victim of Huidbay-linked shooting
- Jesus Tecu. Health support, surviving victim of Maya Achi genocide
- Ramiro Choc. Health support, Maya Q'eqchi' land defender, former political prisoner
- Ramiro, Angelica and Maria Choc. Support during 'state of siege' crackdown on Q'eqchi' land defenders

**"CANADA IS
3 MINING COMPANIES
IN A TRENCH COAT
WEARING A STUPID HAT
AND CARRYING A GUN."**

- Alex Green, The Outline

THAT'S WHY TORONTO HOSTS THE WORLD'S
BIGGEST MINING CONVENTION EVERY YEAR.

COME HELP US CRASH IT.

SUNDAY MARCH 1 • 12 PM • 255 FRONT ST

WWW.LINKTR.EE/MARCH1 #DISRUPTDAC

Education

- El Estor. Scholarships, children of Maya Q'eqchi' community defenders
- Rio Negro/Pacux refugee community. Education funding, children of Maya Achi genocide victims
- San Miguel Ixtahuacan. Law studies, Maya Mam community defender

Truth, Memory, Justice

- Commemoration. Feb.2, 1982, World Bank/IDB's Chixoy dam Xococ massacre
- Commemoration. Mar.13, 1982, World Bank/IDB's Chixoy dam Rio Negro massacre
- Commemoration. Jan.8, 1982, Chichupac massacre
- Commemoration. Mar.31, 2018, murder of Hector Choc, nephew of Angelica Choc
- Commemoration. Sept.27, 2009 assassination of Adolfo Ich, husband of Angelica Choc

- FAFG (Guatemalan Foundation of Forensic Anthropology), mass grave exhumations, search for the 'disappeared'

Community development

- Transitions. Wheelchair building, personal health management support for paralysis victims

HONDURAS

- Azacualpa Environmental Committee. Resisting illegal cemetery and community destruction by Aura Minerals
- Berta Caceres family. Security and justice for Berta's assassination
- Commemoration. March 2, 2016, assassination of Berta Caceres
- CIPPH. Indigenous community defense struggle
- Repression victims and political prisoners. Support for family members, activists, lawyers
- OFRANEH (Garifuna & Afro-descendant people's organization). Resisting harms and violations caused by global tourism operators, African palm producers
- Refugee support. Victims of repression, granted asylum in Canada
- Right Action accompaniment, education and activism trips

OTHER COUNTRIES

- Chiapas, Mexico. Health support, Gustavo Castro, victim of attempted killing during assassination of Berta Caceres
- Chiapas, Mexico. Human rights award, commemorating assassination of Mariano Abarca
- El Salvador. Human rights assembly commemorating Oct.27, 1987 assassination of Herbert Anaya Sanabria

Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)

To support land, human rights and environmental defender groups in Honduras and Guatemala, and their emergency response work, make check 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

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E-transfers and wires, write to: info@rightsaction.org

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