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# Rights Action

June 28, 2010

**More HudBay Minerals Illegal Entries Onto Mayan Qeqchi Communities - Tensions High**

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HUDBAY MINERALS SENDS DRILLING TEAMS, ILLEGALLY, ONTO THE "LOT 8" MAYAN-QEQCHI COMMUNITY: A tense and harsh situation continues

By Grahame Russell, June 28, 2010

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The G8 rich and powerful nations gathered in Toronto to discuss and make plans to keep in place global economic and military polices that will serve to help keep the G8 nations rich and powerful!

One of the main themes at this year's "G8" meetings - as announced by Prime Minister Steven Harper of Canada - is "maternal and child health". Who can argue with that?

But there is a chasm of suffering and violations between the rhetoric and reality.

The Canadian government, nickel mining companies and investors (like the Canada Pension Plan), are not paying a lot of attention to "maternal and child health" in the Mayan Qeqchi community of "Lot 8", eastern Guatemala, where HudBay Minerals is repeatedly pressuring and/or attacking impoverished Mayan campesino communities.

As part of on-going efforts (that date back to the 1970s) to illegally and forcibly evict Mayan Qeqchi communities from lands and communities they have lived on for generations, in recent years the Lot 8 community of 100 homes has been razed to the ground, twice, and women have been gang raped by Canadian nickel company security guards and Guatemalan soldiers and police.

Recently in Canada, CTV aired a W5 documentary "Lost Paradise" addressing many of the environmental and health harms and human rights violations being caused by Canadian nickel and gold mining companies in Guatemala (specifically Skye Resources, HudBay Minerals and Goldcorp Inc.). To view:

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20100415/w5_paradise_lost_100415/20100417

In "Lost Paradise", W5 focuses attention on the illegal forced evictions and destruction of homes of Mayan Qeqchi people in a number of poor villages in the municipality of El Estor. Some of these were documented in a 10-minute film, by Steven Schnoor, the El Estor Evictions. To view:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q20YxkM-CGI>

On January 9, 2007, hundreds of heavily armed soldiers, police and CGN (then Skye Resources, now HudBay Minerals) security guards, entered the isolated community of Lot 8. 100 small huts were burned to the ground; all personal property, livestock and crops were either destroyed or stolen.

On January 17, 2007, hundreds of heavily armed soldiers, police and CGN security guards again illegally entered Lot 8, destroyed all the huts the families had hastily rebuilt over the previous week. This time, the security guards, soldiers and police also gang-raped at least 6 women; two of the women, who were pregnant at the time, lost their babies.

Read a photo-essay, by Grahame Russell, after Rights Action and the UNBC (University of Northern British Columbia - Prince George) made a fact-finding visit to Lot 8 in May 2010. For the first time, since the gang rapes of January 2007, the women rape-victims gave their testimonies, publicly, to an international delegation:

http://rightsaction.org/Alerts/Guatemala_nickel_nightmare_052710.html

No justice, whatsoever, has been done for these crimes - illegal, forced evictions, destruction or robbery of property, gang rapes. No compensation or reparations have been made to the 100 families of the Lot 8 community.

Since the violence, destruction and rapes of January 2007, the Lot 8 community has moved further into the mountains, where they have rebuilt their huts, replanted crops, and been living peacefully, precariously, since then.

On June 15, 2010, HudBay Minerals geologists entered Lot 8 community, again illegally, without the permission of the community. Once the community realized what was happening, they gathered around and peacefully confronted the company geologists, who then left community lands.

The situation is tense. This can only be a provocation.

Dating back to when the Canadian mining giant INCO first arrive in this region, in 1961 - and participated directly and indirectly (along with the Guatemalan military) in a series of well documented illegal and forced evictions, disappearances, and political assassinations - none of the underlying land-claims issues have ever been addressed by the governments of Guatemala and Canada, nor by the chain of global nickel companies - INCO, Skye Resources, HudBay Minerals.

No justice has been done for the forced evictions, property destruction and theft, and other political crimes and human rights violations - of 3 decades ago, or of 3 years ago.

Without concrete pressure in Canada on HudBay Minerals and its investors (like the Canada Pension Plan) and the direct involvement of the governments of Guatemala and Canada, it is probable that more violence will occur; more suffering by the Mayan Qeqchi communities (whether Lot 8, and/ or other ones) ... and there will be no resolution to the issues.

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NEEDED:

Letter writing, phone calls and visits to the offices of HudBay Minerals; Canadian and Guatemalan government officials and politicians; Canadian investors; etc (see list below).

Example: The CPP (Canada Pension Plan) has \$30,000,000 of pension funds invested in HudBay.

IN YOUR LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS, DEMAND:

- That HudBay Minerals immediately suspend all its mining operations (exploration and/or exploitation in eastern Guatemala);
That the Guatemalan government immediately suspend the mining licenses of HudBay Minerals, and other nickel mining companies operating in eastern Guatemala;
- That the Canadian and Guatemalan governments - separately - carry out public, complete investigations into the long history of forced evictions and human rights violations committed by Canadian nickel companies (dating back to the 1970s) in this region of Guatemala;
- Based on the findings of said investigations, that full reparations and compensation be made to affected and harmed Mayan Qeqchi communities;
- That the CPP (and other pension funds and investment funds) completely divest of all investments in HudBay Minerals;
- The passing of comprehensive criminal and civil law reform in Canada, so as to be able to hold Canadian companies and investors accountable for environmental and health harms and human rights violations.

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TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS for indigenous and campesino communities resisting the harms and violations of mining projects and carrying out their own environmental justice, community development and human rights projects in Guatemala and Honduras, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887

CANADA: 552 - 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS: <http://rightsaction.org/contributions.htm>

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EDUCATIONAL DELEGATIONS TO CENTRAL AMERICA: Form your own group or join one of our delegations to learn first hand about community development, human rights and environmental struggles (info@rightsaction.org)

EDUCATION IN YOUR HOME COMMUNITY: Contact us to plan educational presentations in your own community, school, place of worship, home (info@rightsaction.org)

JOIN our listserv: write to: info@rightsaction.org

JOIN our newsletter mail list. Send name and address to: info@rightsaction.org

CREATE YOUR OWN email and mail lists and re-distribute this information

RECOMMENDED DAILY NEWS: www.democracynow.org / www.upsidedownworld.org / www.dominionpaper.ca

RECOMMENDED BOOKS: Eduardo Galeano's "Open Veins of Latin America"; Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States"; Naomi Klein's "The Shock Doctrine"; Paolo Freire's "Pedagogy of the Oppressed"; Dr Seuss's "Horton Hears A Who"

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CGN - COMPANIA GUATEMALTECA DE NIQUEL
(98.2% owned by Hudbay Minerals)

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CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

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