

Rights Action – November 16, 2011

FUND-RAISING APPEAL

HEALTH NEEDS & AN INCOMING-GENERATING FAMILY STORE FOR GERMAN CHUB CHOC, an Indigenous Mayan Qeqchi Man Shot and Left Paralyzed in 2009 by Private Security Guards Hired by HudBay Mineral's Subsidiary in Guatemala, CGN

Dear friends,

Rights Action asks for your tax-deductible donations to raise \$15,000 for the on-going health needs, for the construction of a small, income generating family store, and for efforts to seek justice for German Chub Choc, now paralyzed from the chest down.



(Photo @ Grahame Russell, Guatemala City, September 2011)

On September 5, 2011, for the first time in public, German Chub Choc – a Mayan Qeqchi man from the nickel mining harmed community of El Estor, Guatemala - spoke of how he was shot, point blank, by a private security guard hired by the Guatemalan Nickel Company (CGN), then wholly owned by the Canadian company HudBay Minerals.

German was left for dead, and yet miraculously survived. Today, he remains paralyzed from the chest down; he also has lost the use of his left lung. For close to 18 months, he was in and out of hospitals and rehabilitation centers, supported by a network of courageous and caring Guatemalans and North Americans.

In the photo above, German spoke publicly for the first time, telling his story to indigenous women from throughout Guatemala and representatives from Rights Action, the Council of Canadians and the Forum on Water & Gender.

Though the truth is finally being told, no justice has been done for the assassination attempt on German's life, neither in Guatemala, nor in the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, nor in Canada.

RIGHTS ACTION

On the north side of Lake Izabal, eastern Guatemala (near the Caribbean coast and Honduran border), indigenous Mayan-Qeqchi communities have long been struggling to defend their communities and indigenous rights, resisting being forcibly and illegally evicted from their lands to make way for nickel mining by HudBay Minerals (formerly Skye Resources and, prior to that, INCO, the International Nickel Company, dating back to the 1970s).

Watch two short documentary films:

- EL ESTOR EVICTIONS, January 2007 (10 minutes), <http://rightsaction.org/video/elestor/index.htm>
- TESTIMONY OF ROSA ELBIRA, an indigenous Qeqchi woman and gang rape survivor, September 2011 (5 minutes), <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSGuDk4cnz4>

Rights Action has been involved in this struggle since 2004. Our main partner group is the El Estor Mayan Qeqchi Committee. Since 2004, Rights Action has:

- been funding the El Estor Mayan Qeqchi Committee and various communities
- been providing emergency response funds to local community members suffering forced evictions and repression
- brought North American delegations, journalists and donors to the region
- funded community to community exchanges with other mining affected communities
- reported regularly on the harms and violations caused by Canadian nickel mining companies
- denounced – together with a delegation from University of Northern British Columbia - the harms and violations to the Canadian government
- been instrumental in supporting 3 [hopefully precedent setting] lawsuits in Canadian courts for some of the most serious human rights violations committed by private security guards hired by the mining company



(Photo @ Grahame Russell, Guatemala City, September 2011)

GERMAN'S NEEDS

German now lives with his very poor parents, and his young son, in their small home in El Estor. We are seeking \$15,000 for German and his family to provide funds for his on-going health needs, to enable him to build and operate a small family-neighborhood store that will provide him with a sustainable income, and for efforts to seek justice.

BELOW:

- 1- Description of a small store (think tiny, local, corner store) that German (supported by his family and other community leaders that Rights Action works with) will build from scratch, including initially stocking it. It will be built in a way that German - in his wheelchair – is the owner and store-keeper. (Full budget, in excel, available on request)
- 2- A list of on-going health and mobility needs that German has. While the store should become an income earning project, his on-going health and mobility needs will never be income-earning. If the store project is successful, he will earn enough money to help with his life-long family, health & mobility needs.

Beyond this, financial support is needed for all the on-going political and legal struggles. Rights Action has a full proposal for community based education and organization work, political activism and legal cases, being carried forward by mining affected communities and people (including German) in the El Estor region. (For this proposal, write Grahame Russell @ info@rightsaction.org)

GERMAN'S STORE = \$5,500

On family property, German and his family will build a small store structure (think tiny, local, corner store). It will be mainly a wood structure – framing, floor, doors & walls. It will have tin roofing, shelves, a refrigerator and small freezer, etc. It will be a wheel-chair friendly facility with a large open front and counter (and wooden shutters), ramps, doors and locks. The

budget (Full budget, in excel, available on request) was prepared by German, his family and local community leaders that have been supporting German since he returned to El Estor.

GERMAN's HEALTH NEEDS = \$2,500

German writes:

"I, GERMAN CHUB CHOC, 23 years old, ID card number Q 18-40,585, of the community of El Estor, Izabal, am sending out this appeal to the international community and good-hearted people. I am a victim of the actions of the CGN (Guatemala Nickel Company) located in El Estor, Izabal. I was left disabled on September 27, 2009, the day of the murder of ADOLFO ICH CHAMAN, our campesino leader in Barrio La Union, El Estor, Izabal.

I am a man of meagre means and my parents are unemployed. This is why I am submitting to you a request for the following items that will help me with my daily needs and my mobility:

- 1- RUBBER GLOVES: 2 PAIRS A DAY
- 2- LUBRICANTS: 1 TUBE PER WEEK
- 3- TOILET PAPER: 2 ROLLS PER DAY
- 4- 12 MG STERILE CATHETER: 1 PER MONTH
- 5- 10MG BLADDER CONTROL PILLS: 1 PER DAY
- 6- ANTIBIOTIC MEDICATION, CIRIAX, CIPROFLOXACINO: 1 PER MONTH
- 7- CIREX PILLS: 2 PER WEEK
- 8- SOAP: 2 BARS PER WEEK
- 9- LIQUID DISINFECTANT SOAP: 1 CONTAINER PER WEEK
- 10-CLORINE DISINFECTANT: 1 GALLON PER MONTH

I need the above items for my daily life.

NEW WHEELCHAIR = \$2,500

I also need a wheelchair for mobility – the one I presently use is second hand.

A QUICKIE "COMPLETA" ACTIVE LIFE STYLE ALUMINUM WHEELCHAIR WITH THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

- INFLATABLE PRIMO NYLON TIRES - 24X1 3/8
- ACTUATOR, #28
- BELT #24
- 18 SPOKE WHEEL HUB
- 5 INCH AXLE PIN
- 1 1/8 BEARINGS (angle)
- MOUNTING PLATE WITH HARDWARE
- LATERAL WINGS/HANGERS
- FOOTREST
- INFLATABLE CUSHION, 14 WIDE, 14 1/2 LONG, CUSHION COVERS
- RIM COVER
- 1 SEAT - 13 1/2 inch wide, 14inch long
- LABEDA FITNESS WHEELS
- 4 BEARINGS FOR THE WHEELS, SW 80018
- 1 BACKREST - 13 3/4 inches
- 2 WHEELCHAIR MUD GUARDS
- 2 PAIRS OF BELTS
- 1 PUMPS
- 1 WHEELCHAIR MESH BAG

All the parts of this wheelchair are made of aluminium and suitable for my personal needs. I really need your help with these items as they are very expensive and I am unable to purchase them for myself. I would greatly appreciate it if you could provide me with QUICKIE "COMPLETA" wheelchair. This brand is very sturdy and recommended by doctors.

I am asking for your help out of real need. I have no other option but to knock on the doors of members of the international community. I hope I can appeal to your hearts, as I feel abandoned and dejected. THIS IS ALL THE FAULT OF THE MINING COMPANY."

DONATIONS

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Under certain conditions, we can also put donors in direct touch with local community leaders who work closely with German.

Please contact me for questions, comments.

Grahame Russell
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www.rightsaction.org
www.facebook.org/RightsAction

TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS for the health and family store needs of German Chub Choc, 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>
DONATIONS OF STOCK: info@rightsaction.org

- Please re-post this
- To get on-off Rights Action's listserv: www.rightsaction.org
- www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org
