

January 17, 2013
Rights Action

CHIXOY DAM JUSTICE AND REPARATIONS, DELAYED 31 YEARS AND COUNTING

World Bank / Inter-American Development Bank funded Chixoy Dam project in Guatemala (1975-1985): 440 indigenous villagers massacred; dozens of communities forcibly evicted and otherwise harmed

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."
(Mohandas Gandhi)

"There are no magic answers, no miraculous methods to overcome the problems we face, just the familiar ones: search for understanding, education, organization, action ... and the kind of commitment that will persist despite the temptations of disillusionment, despite many failures and only limited successes, inspired by the hope of a brighter future." (Noam Chomsky)

Please send your own letters to the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. Please support the Reparations Campaign.

January 17, 2013

Dr. Jim Yong Kim
President, The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433 USA
Fax: (1 202) 477-6391

Mr. Luis Alberto Moreno
President, The Inter-American Development Bank
1300 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20577 USA
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Dear friends,

May 2013 be the year that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and World Bank (WB) finally do the right thing and take the necessary steps to ensure that reparations are finally paid to the surviving victims of the ill-conceived and violently implemented Chixoy hydro-electric dam, 1975-1985.

While it is the State of Guatemala that is obliged to pay for the Reparations Plan, as agreed upon in 2010, this is because of the impunity with which your banks operate, and not due to any notion of justice or fairness. The Chixoy Dam project was a huge "development" project of the IDB and the WB in partnership with successive Guatemalan military regimes during the worst years of Guatemala's State repression and genocide, 1975-1985.

Payment of full reparations must be ensured by both banks and the government of Guatemala.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- (Report) GENERATING TERROR: Why the World Bank [and Inter-American Development Bank] Must Pay Reparations for Its Role in Sustaining Genocide in Guatemala
<http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/REPORT373A3720Generating3720Terror37203728Dec372020123729+8013.twl>
- (16 minute film) CHIXOY DAM: No Reparations, No Justice, No Peace -
<https://vimeo.com/50015125>;
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xF3YI7XMNEE&feature=youtu.b>. This film includes interviews with Carlos Chen and Jesus Tecu Osorio, who lost almost their entire families to the 1982 Rio Negro / Chixoy Dam massacres.
- (4 minute film) POVERTY IN PACUX: 30 Years and Counting -
<http://vimeo.com/52439128>. 31 years after the Rio Negro / Chixoy Dam massacres, and the filling of the dam flood basin, Rio Negro survivors live in conditions of endemic poverty, discrimination and trauma in "Pacux", a relocation community. This is the story of one destitute survivor.
- (Article) JUSTICE DELAYED 30 YEARS IN GUATEMALA, By Grahame Russell & Lauren Carasik -
<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/01/20121394150158844.html>

Like many people and organizations, I am dismayed by the lack of response from the WB, the IDB and the government of Guatemala. In response to a previous communication, we received a one-paragraph letter (November 2, 2011) from Pamela Cox, vice-president of Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Office of the World Bank, saying:

"we [the World Bank] share your desire for a swift resolution of this process and a satisfactory outcome for the affected Chixoy communities."

This is a shockingly insensitive response.

31 years have elapsed since the repression (including wholesale massacres) and forced evictions caused by the Chixoy Dam.

8 years have passed since the government of Guatemala finally sat down with the victims to negotiate a reparation and development plan.

3 years have passed since the government of Guatemala accepted its responsibility for the harms and destruction and agreed to pay for a reparation and development plan for the harmed communities and people.

WHAT TO DO / WHO TO CONTACT?

While I would be glad to speak with you further about all this, your banks know what you must do, with the government of Guatemala, and you know who you must deal with in Guatemala:

COCAHICH (Comité de Comunidades Afectadas por la Represa Chixoy)
Carlos Chen, chenosorio.carlos@gmail.com

Juan de Dios Garcia, adivima@yahoo.com
<http://www.derechos.net/adivima/>

It is beyond urgent to stop playing with the suffering of the victims of the Chixoy Dam.

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cc:
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U.S. Executive Director to World Bank, Ian H. Solomon, eds01@worldbank.org
(<http://web.worldbank.org/external/default/main?menuPK=380472&pagePK=64099288&piPK=64099409&theSitePK=380445>)

U.S. Executive Director to the IDB, Gustavo Arnavat
(<http://www.iadb.org/en/about-us/executive-directors-and-alternate-executive-directors,1327.html>)

Executive Director for Canada (Ireland & the Caribbean) to the World Bank, Marie-Lucie Morin, eds07@worldbank.org
(<http://web.worldbank.org/external/default/main?menuPK=386589&pagePK=64099288&piPK=64099409&theSitePK=386583>)

Canadian Executive Director to the IDB,
James Haley and Carol Nelder-Corvari
(<http://www.iadb.org/en/about-us/executive-directors-and-alternate-executive-directors,1327.html>)

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