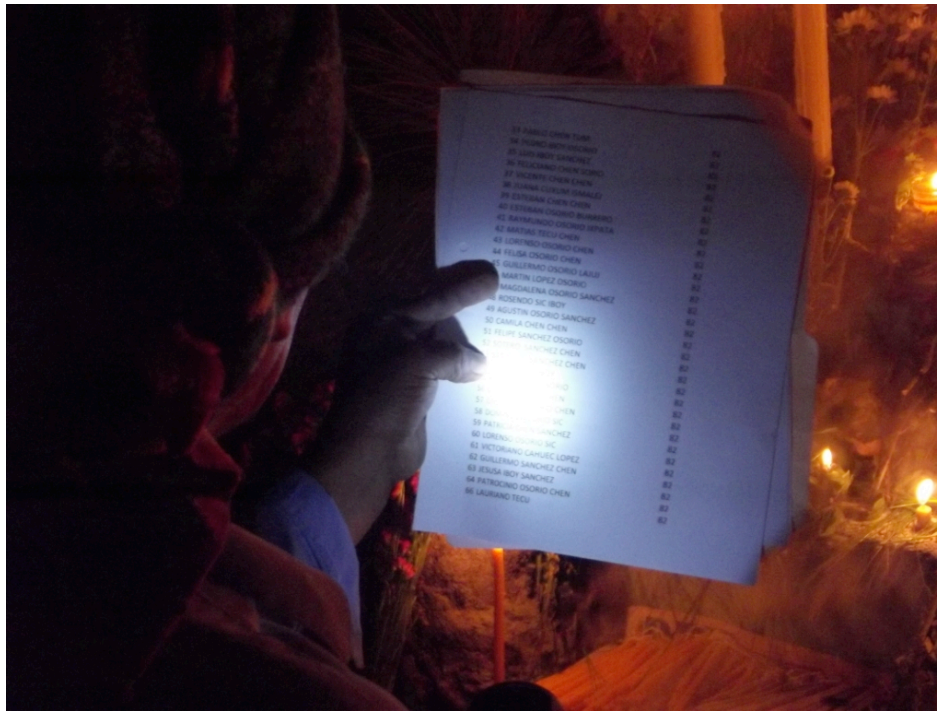


Rights Action
July 8, 2013
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In Guatemala, the Forensic Team Makes Positive I.D. of one of the "Chixoy Dam" Massacre Victims, 31 Years Later

By Grahame Russell, July 8, 2013

The FAFG (Guatemalan Foundation of Forensic Anthropology) has made a positive identification of 7 individuals exhumed (dug up) from clandestine cemeteries (mass graves) on the Guatemalan Military's Coban Base. To date, over 500 individuals – all victims of repression and genocide in the 1970s and 80s - have been exhumed from the Coban military base. (Included below: a communiqué from the FAFG)



(March 13, 2012 – a Mayan priest reads the names, one by one, of all of the Chixoy Dam massacre victims, at a commemoration that takes place in the remote village of Rio Negro annually, on March 13, the date of one of the four Chixoy Dam massacres in 1982. @ Grahame Russell)

Martina Rojas, one of the 7 individuals positively identified by the FAFG, is from the Mayan Achi community of Rio Negro, in the Chixoy River basin that borders the departments of Baja and Alta Verapaz and Quiche.

WORLD BANK & IDB "DEVELOPMENT" PROJECT

In 1982, the Guatemalan military carried out a mini-genocide against the Rio Negro village, so as to clear the river basin of people and make way for the Chixoy Hydro-electric Dam, a "development" project of the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank) and the World Bank.



(The Chixoy Dam wall today, blocking off the Chixoy River. The remains of the burned and destroyed communities and of many of the massacre victims lie under the flood basin water, for many miles up-river from this wall. @ Grahame Russell)

Using DNA samples from surviving family members, the FAFG has determined that Martina Rojas is one of the victims of the May 14, 1982 massacre of 85 people at the place known as Los Encuentros, which was the 3rd of 4 massacres of Rio Negro villagers in 1982. In total, 444 Rio Negro villagers – women and men, young and old – were massacred.



(The actual mass grave, in the Coban military base, from where the remains of Martina Rojas were exhumed, along with dozens of other presumed Los Encuentros victims. May 2012 @ Grahame Russell)

Eye-witnesses to and survivors of the Los Encuentros massacre saw the soldiers kidnap some 45 of the victims, and fly them away in helicopters, never to be seen again. It was long rumoured they had been forcibly taken to the Coban military base but, until the FAFG exhumations and i.d. process, there had never been concrete proof.

FAFG Communique:

IDENTIFICATIONS OF VICTIMS RECOVERED IN CREOMPAZ

FAFG (Fundación de Antropología Forense de Guatemala)
<http://fafg.org/pagNoticias/2013/Mayo/NewsIdentiEng2013.htm>

A forensic investigation, conducted by FAFG, has so far produced the identification of 7 individuals, victims of enforced disappearance, whose skeletal remains were recovered at the former military installation "zone 21", currently functioning under the name of "Regional Training Command Center for Peacekeeping Operations" (CREOMPAZ), located in Coban, Alta Verapaz.

The seven remains recovered from CREOMPAZ were identified based on DNA match to their respective families through the FAFG genetic database. The identity of the remains was confirmed through a thorough review and cross-check of information obtained during the multi-disciplinary forensic investigation.

The names of the persons identified are Robert Cac Suc (disappeared on April 5, 1982), Peter Laj Calej (disappeared on March 25, 1982), Abelino Cojoc (disappeared on May 10, 1982), Oswaldo Lazaro Ical Moran (disappeared on December 28 1981), Martina Rojas (disappeared on May 14, 1982), Augusto Rax Acté (disappeared on March 11, 1982) and Baldomero Chiquín (disappeared on June 2, 1982).

All seven were victims of enforced disappearance, and their relatives have spent more than 30 years searching for them, until they were found and identified among the 535 victims recovered in the CREOMPAZ investigation.

According to witness testimonies, three of the victims were openly taken by military forces. One of them was taken in a community called Los Encuentros, Rio Negro, Alta Verapaz, and brought by helicopter to the military base along with other women and children from the same Rio Negro community. The identification of this woman, whose remains were found in mass grave FAFG 1433-XV, containing 17 women, 43 children, one man and two not determined, confirms this testimony, and is a demonstration of the violation of Human rights, as they were detained, transferred to a military installation and extra judicially executed, with no trial or consideration of age or gender.

FAFG began the forensic investigation at CREOMPAZ on February 27, 2012, and concluded the first phase of the investigation on May 12th, after recovering the skeletal remains of a minimum number of 535 individuals from 83 graves located within the military installation. Preliminary archaeological findings indicate that 55 % of the remains show evidence of violence, such as hands or feet tied blindfolds or gags, sharp force trauma and ballistic trauma.

The family members have been notified on the identifications, and have expressed grief on getting the confirmation of the death of their loved ones, as they had held on to the hope of seeing them again. At the same time, to have full knowledge and to find the truth about what happened to them, and getting the remains back, also brings the families peace and empowers them.

ROBERTO CAC SUC

FAFG 1433-V-30

Mr. Roberto Enrique Cac Suc was the first victim to be identified from CREOMPAZ investigation, the remains were returned to his family on March. Mr. Cac Suc was 28 when disappeared on a Sunday morning, April 5th in 1982. He was approaching downtown San Cristobal Verapaz when he was captured by civil patrolmen who took him into the municipal building, where he was detained for two days. His wife tried to see him and asked for the reason of his detention, but she was denied access and information. His relatives say that Mr. Roberto Cac Suc worked in Calzado, Coban and was not implicated in any organizations, at the time of his death.

LAZARÓ OSWALDO MORÁN ICAL

FAFG 1433-XIV-5

Mr. Lazaro Oswaldo Moran Ical disappeared on December 28th 1981 from San Sebastian, San Cristobal Verapaz, when he was 27. His family reports that hooded men screaming his name entered their home in the middle of the night on December 28. They dragged him out and took him away in a pickup that the community identified as being used by the G2 (military intelligence), His family went to look for him at the military base, but they never found any information on his whereabouts. The genetic profiles of his mother, father and brother matched with the genetic profile of the skeletal remains numbered as FAFG 1433-XIV-5 recovered within the former military base of Coban. Two brothers within the same family disappeared during the

internal armed conflict, but due to the differences in the dental work FAFG investigators confirmed that the remains corresponded to Mr. Lazaro Moran.

PEDRO LAJ CALEL
FAFG 1433-V-37

According to testimonies from relatives, Mr. Pedro Laj Calel disappeared on March 25th, 1982, in San Cristobal Verapaz. Mr. Laj Calel was 65 years old when he disappeared. His family stated that he left his home in San Lucas Chical towards San Cristobal Verapaz to buy corn, never to be seen again. The skeletal remains corresponding to Mr Peter Laj Calel were located in the grave FAFG 1433-V, marked as skeleton No. 37, and had traces of rope tying his hands. He was identified through the comparison of the genetic profiles of his children and the genetic profiles of the remains.

MARTINA ROJAS
FAFG 1433-XV-40

According to testimonies given by the family of Mrs. Martina Rojas, she disappeared on May 14th 1982. She was 50 years old at the time. On the day of her disappearance, an army helicopter came to the community of Los Encuentros, Rio Negro, and other witnesses tell Mrs. Rojas and a group of women and children were taken away in the helicopter. Ms. Rojas and the group of women and children were never seen again. Martina Rojas was identified by comparison of the genetic profile of her son, and the profile obtained from the remains. The skeletal remains corresponding to Mrs Martina Rojas, were located in CREOMPAZ Coban, Alta Verapaz, in the grave FAFG 1433-XV.

BALDOMERO CHIQUIN
FAFG 1433-XVII-13

Mr. Baldomero Chiquin disappeared on June 2, 1982 in Santa Cruz Verapaz, according to his family. They stated that Mr. Chiquin was preparing to go to work, when soldiers arrived around 5 am at his home. Along with all the other men in the community he was taken to the local school. At 6 pm they were taken out of the school and ordered to march, the soldiers said they were chosen to serve the army. This was the last the family knew of Mr. Chiquin. The identification was confirmed from a comparison of the genetic profiles obtained from his father and brother. The skeletal remains of Mr. Baldomero Chiquin were located in CREOMPAZ Coban, Alta Verapaz, in the grave FAFG 1433-XVII The grave where the remains of Mr. Baldomero Chiquin were located, contained skeletal remains from a minimum number of 37 individuals.

ABELINO COJOC
FAFG 1433-VII-2

Family members indicate that Mr. Abelino Cojoc was 40 years old when he disappeared on May 10th 1982 in the village of Pacayas, San Cristobal Verapaz. Mr. Cojoc left his home to buy maize in the Pacayas, but did not return. A cousin had seen that he had been arrested. The identification was based on comparison of the genetic profiles obtained from his children and the remains as well as the subsequent comparison of ante mortem information. The skeletal remains of Mr. Peter Laj Calel were located in CREOMPAZ Coban, Alta Verapaz, in grave FAFG 1433-VII.

AUGUSTO RAX ACTE
FAFG 1433-XVI-3

Testimony from family members indicates that Mr. Augusto Rax Acté disappeared on March 11th 1982, on km 205.5 on the Verapaz route. The family explained that he worked with his brother at the hydroelectric dam "Cojetar", in the Chixoy River. They normally used a pick-up for transportation, but that day the car-battery died so they had to take the bus, bringing the

battery with them to have it checked. On their way back, a group of hooded, armed soldiers with dogs stopped the bus, and Mr. Rax Acté decided to get off the bus. But as the soldiers saw him with the car-battery, they assumed he was guerilla and they detained him. They tied him up and threw him in a car, and his family never knew of him again. His brother went looking for him in different military detachments, but with no results. The identification was made through comparison of the genetic profiles obtained from his mother, brother, and four sisters. The skeletal remains corresponding to Mr. Augusto Rax Acté were located in CREOMPAZ Coban, Alta Verapaz, in grave FAFG 1433- XVI, skeleton No 3. The remains were found with a blind-fold over the eyes, a shirt of undetermined color, and two plastic rings tied around the wrists.

DENIALS AND PROFITS

In the 1970s and 1980s, IDB and World Bank project managers knew of the repression at the time of the Chixoy Dam project. Project staff and vehicles were used, in conjunction with the Guatemala military, to carry out some of the extermination violence for the Chixoy Dam. All of this took place during the worst years of the Guatemalan genocides!

To this day, the IDB and World Bank deny any knowledge of repression related to the Chixoy Dam project and claim that they complied with all project requirements. In total, thousands of Mayan campesinos were forcibly and illegally evicted from some 32 communities; repression was widespread, though Rio Negro clearly suffered it the worst. Both the IDB and World Bank profited financially from their investments in the Chixoy Dam project.

CAMPAIGN FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND REPARATIONS

Since 1993, Rio Negro genocide survivors have worked for truth, memory and justice. The Chixoy Dam Reparations Campaign is an on-going struggle to hold the IDB, World Bank and government of Guatemala accountable for the massacres, the violent, illegal evictions and loss of land, property and economic well-being, and to pay a \$150,000,000 Reparations Program that has been agreed up by the government of Guatemala, but the funds have not been released.

BACKGROUND

- (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/REPORT373A3720Generating3720Error37203728Dec372020123729+8013.twl>
- (Article) PROFITING FROM GENOCIDE: The World Bank & IDB's Bloody [Chixoy Dam] History In Guatemala. <http://rightsaction.org/action-content/profitng-genocide-world-bank-idb%E2%80%99s-bloody-history-guatemala>
- (Film - 16 minutes) CHIXOY DAM: No Reparations, No Justice, No Peace. (Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/50015125>) In the early 1980s, during the worst years of the US-backed Guatemalan genocide and State repression, the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank invested close to \$1 billion in the Chixoy hydroelectric dam project, partnering with a succession of military regimes. Thirty-two indigenous Mayan communities were forcibly and illegally displaced to make way for the dam, and hundreds of indigenous Mayan Achi people were massacred – mainly in the community of Rio Negro. Thirty years later, survivors are still struggling for truth, justice and comprehensive reparations.
- (Film – 4 minutes) POVERTY IN PACUX: 30 Years and Counting. (Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/52439128>) From 1975-85, the World Bank and Inter-American

Development Bank partnered with US-backed military regimes in Guatemala, to build the Chixoy hydro-electric dam "development" project. 32 Mayan communities were harmed or completely destroyed. Some 440 men, women, infants and elderly from one village - Rio Negro - were massacred so as to "relocate" them from the dam flood basin. 30 years later, Rio Negro survivors live in conditions of endemic poverty, discrimination and trauma in "Pacux", a relocation community, still fighting for justice and reparations. This is the story of one destitute survivor.

CHIXOY DAM REPARATIONS CAMPAIGN

In Guatemala, contact COCAHICH (Comité de Comunidades Afectadas por la Represa Chixoy) - Carlos Chen, chenosorio.carlos@gmail.com, and Juan de Dios Garcia, adivima@yahoo.com (<http://www.derechos.net/adivima/>) – for more information about their on-going campaign.

Thank-you. For more information in the U.S. and Canada, and to support this campaign, contact ...

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www.rightsaction.org
www.facebook.com/rightsaction.org.

WRITE LETTERS

demanding that the IDB and the World Bank comply with the government of Guatemala to release the \$150,000,000 that has been promised for the Reparations Program:

Presidente Otto Perez Molina, Republica de Guatemala
[+502] 2251 4016
<http://www.facebook.com/ottoperezpp>
@ottoperezmolina (<https://twitter.com/ottoperezmolina>)
<http://www.Guatemala.gob.gt/>

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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