

October 9, 2013
Rights Action
info@rightsaction.org

To friends and supporters,

- Please send your own letters to the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank (Addresses below).
- Please support the Chixoy Dam Reparations Campaign (See below).

October 9, 2013

Letter to the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank

Chixoy Dam Justice And Reparations Delayed, ... 31.5 Years And Counting

The government of Guatemala rejects obligation to fund Chixoy dam Reparations Plan, pretends to carry out government 'community development' projects. The World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank remain silent about on-going suffering and the Guatemalan government cop-out.

Mr. Luis Alberto Moreno, President
Inter-American Development Bank
1300 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20577 USA
Fax: (1 202) 623-3096

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

Dear Negligent directors and other WB and IDB employees,

Shame on your "development" banks for not taking all steps necessary to ensure that reparations are finally paid to the surviving victims of your ill-conceived, illegal and violently implemented Chixoy hydro-electric dam, 1975-1985.

As you know, the government of Guatemala is obliged to pay for the Reparations Plan for the thousands of Chixoy dam victims, as formally agreed upon in 2010 by the President of the country. That your banks are not also obliged to pay for this Reparations Plan is not due to any notion of justice or fairness, but because of the impunity with which your banks operate.

The Chixoy Dam project was a vaste "development" project of the IDB and the WB planned and carried out in partnership with successive Guatemalan military regimes during the worst years of Guatemala's State repression and genocide, 1975-1985. You might continue to pretend publically that you have complied with all terms of your Chixoy Dam project obligations, but you both know, and everyone knows that this is not true.

- Yes ~ your banks partnered directly with the genocidal regimes of General Lucas Garcia, 1978-1982, and General Rios Montt, 1982-1983, and invested close to one billion dollars in this "development" debacle;
- Yes ~ over 440 Mayan Achi villagers from the remote community of Rio Negro were massacred by soldiers, police and security guards directly employed by your project, as part of an effort to 'evict' them, to help make way for the dam flood basin;
- Yes ~ 25 villages upstream from the dam wall, and 7 more downstream suffered various degrees of devastation and illegal eviction, due to the project;
- Yes ~ both your banks profited financially from your investments in this "development" project;

The latest position of the government of Guatemala is to NOT pay for the Reparations Plan, as they are legally obliged to do, but rather for the government, itself, to implement some community development projects in the Chixoy Dam destroyed and harmed communities. The communities say no, as they should.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- (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.
- (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>
- (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>

CALOUS RESPONSE

In response to a previous communication to the WB (and the IDB), 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."

"Swift"? "Satisfactory"? This makes a mockery of dire suffering that your banks are directly and indirectly responsible for, suffering that continues today.

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/>

Thank-you.

Grahame Russell
co-director of Rights Action
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Copies to:

Government of Guatemala
Presidente Otto Perez Molina, Republica de Guatemala
[+502] 2251 4016
<http://www.facebook.com/ottoperezpp>
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<http://www.Guatemala.gob.gt/>

IDB
Pablo Roldan, representante en Guate, Pabloro@iadb.org
Alejandro Fros, jefe de operaciones, alejandrof@iadb.org
Juan José Taccone, JOSET@iadb.org
Hugo Amador Us Alvarez, representante en Guate, HUGOU@iadb.org

WB
Fernando Paredes, representante en Guate, fparedes@worldbank.org
C. Felipe Jaramillo, Director del depto de America Central y el Caribe,
cjaramillo@worldbank.org

Government of United States
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>)

Government of Canada
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>)

SUPPORT THE CHIXOY DAM REPARATIONS CAMPAIGN

To Make Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.) to support community-based, pro-democracy and human rights struggles in Honduras, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- United States: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations Can Be Made (Canada & U.S.):

<http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

- be a monthly credit card donor (Canada & U.S.)
- to donate stock, contact: info@rightsaction.org

- Comments / questions: info@rightsaction.org
- Get on/off Rights Action's listserv: www.rightsaction.org
- Follow Rights Action on facebook: www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org
- Please re-post and re-publish this information
