

January 14, 2014
Rights Action
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U.S. Senate Considering Withholding Funds from World Bank (WB) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Until Chixoy Dam Reparations Plan Paid for and Implemented in Guatemala

From 1975-1985, the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank partnered with the repressive and genocidal regimes of General Lucas Garcia, 1978-1982, and General Rios Montt, 1982-1983, and invested close to one billion dollars in the Chixoy dam "development" project. Over 440 Mayan villagers were massacred; thousands more were illegally and forcibly evicted from land and home. The survivors have been suffering in poverty and abandonment ever since.

- **Below:** Letter to the WB and IDB, urging them to pay for and insist on implementation of the Chixoy Dam Reparations Plan
- **What to do:** Please write to your elected government officials in the U.S. and Canada urging them to support the withholding of government funding to the WB and IDB, until the Chixoy Dam Reparations Plan is paid for in Guatemala and the surviving victims groups are able to implement it

January 14, 2014
Letter to World Bank & Inter-American Development Bank

No More U.S. and Canadian Government Funds Until Chixoy Dam Reparations Plan Is Paid For and Implemented in Guatemala



(The former Mayan Achi community of Rio Negro lies deep under this part of the Chixoy river, in central Guatemala. In 1982, over 440 Rio Negro villagers were massacred as part of efforts to forcibly evict them to make way for the filling of the Chixoy dam flood basin. Photo @ Nate Einbinder)

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Inter-American Development Bank
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Washington, DC 20577 USA
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Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President
World Bank
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Dear Sirs and other WB and IDB employees,

May 2014 be the year when your Banks ensure that reparations are finally paid to the surviving Mayan victims of your ill-conceived and violently implemented Chixoy hydro-electric dam in Guatemala, 1975-1985.

In 2010, the President of Guatemala formally accepted government responsibility to provide \$150,000,000 for the Reparations Plan for thousands of victims of the Chixoy dam project. The IDB and WB officially observed and endorsed the negotiation process and Reparations Plan.

Since 2010, the government of Guatemala has refused to release the \$150,000,000, and the Chixoy dam surviving victims continue to live in chronic conditions of poverty, abandonment and on-going trauma.

Rights Action is supporting efforts in the U.S. Senate to withhold any new funds to the WB and the IDB, until the Reparations Plan has been funded and community members begin to implement the reparations and restoration projects and programs included in the Plan.

Chixoy Dam

- Between 1975-1985, the WB and IDB partnered directly with the repressive and genocidal regimes of General Lucas Garcia, 1978-1982, and General Rios Montt, 1982-1983, and invested close to one billion dollars in the Chixoy dam "development" project
- Over 440 Mayan Achi villagers from the remote community of Rio Negro were massacred by Guatemalan soldiers and police, and private security guards directly employed by your project, as part of an effort to 'evict' them, to help make way for the filling of the dam flood basin
- Thousands of other Mayan people, from some 32 villagers, were forced to leave their home communities. None received anything close to proper compensation for all that was taken from them including land, animals, access to water, trees, plants, homes, personal property, etc. 25 Mayan villages upstream from the dam wall, and 7 more downstream suffered various degrees of devastation and illegal eviction
- Both your banks profited financially from your investments in this "development" project

Background Information

On request, we can provide huge amounts of information produced by Guatemalan and international organizations documenting the harms and violations.

- 16 minute film ~ Chixoy Dam: No Reparations, No Justice, No Peace: <https://vimeo.com/50015125>. 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 In Guatemala: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/01/20121394150158844.html>

Institutional Indifference

Both your banks continue to publicly state that you complied with all terms of the Chixoy Dam project. This is false. In response to a previous communication to the WB (and the IDB), Rights Action 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"?

What To Do / Who To Contact?

Your banks know what you must do, with respect to the government of Guatemala, and you know who you must deal with in Guatemala.

COCAHICH (Committee of Communities Affected by the Chixoy Dam)

Carlos Chen, chenosorio.carlos@gmail.com

Juan de Dios Garcia, adivima@yahoo.com

<http://www.derechos.net/adivima/>

Thank-you.

Grahame Russell

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No American and Canadian Government Funds to the WB and IDB Until Chixoy Dam Reparations Plan Paid for and Implemented

Please write your own elected politicians (MPs, Congresspersons, Senators) and urge them to suspend any government funds to the WB and IDB until the Chixoy Dam reparations plan has been paid for and implemented.

Contact:

- Member Of Parliament:
<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>
- Congress: <http://www.house.gov/> to get info for your member of Congress, and call: 202-224-3121
- Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/> to get contact for your Senator, and call: 202-224-3121

Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)

To support the Chixoy Dam Reparations Campaign, 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 (Canada & U.S.): <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

- Be a monthly donor (Canada & U.S.)
- To donate stock: info@rightsaction.org
