

~ Urgent Action ~

June 7, 2014, Guatemala

## **Armed Guards From CGN Mining Company (Co-Defendant With Hudbay Minerals in “Hudbay Lawsuits” in Canada) Illegally Enter Community of Lote 8, Home to 11 Plaintiffs in the Hudbay Lawsuits**

Early this morning, the remote Maya Q’eqchi’ community of Lote 8 (El Estor, Izabal) was illegally entered by armed security guards from the CGN (Compania Guatemalteca de Niquel) mining company.

### **Emergency Funds & Letter Writing Needed**

- Funds needed for Lote 8 community to defend their home and territory
- Pressure needed on Hudbay Minerals and CGN (and Canadian and U.S. Governments) to hold them responsible for any evictions and repression



(In this photo [June 2, 2014], Margarita – a victim of the 2007 gang-rapes and plaintiff in the Hudbay lawsuits – addresses Lote 8 villagers and our group of visiting North Americans, in the Community Center.)

Early this morning, at least a dozen heavily armed CGN guards drove illegally into and were found occupying this very Community Center, re-built here in the center of the former Lote 8 community that was violently attacked and burned to the ground in January 2007, by CGN/ Hudbay Minerals security guards, Guatemalan police and soldiers. On January 17, 2007, eleven Lote 8 women were gang-raped by Hudbay/CGN security guards, soldiers and police, and over 100 homes were burned and destroyed.

The Lote 8 community had been planning yet another meeting today to discuss the on-going land dispute with the CGN mining company. Ever since the Canadian mining giant INCO illegally acquired these lands in the 1960s, the Mayan Q’eqchi’ people have suffered repeated violent, illegal evictions, killings, shootings, rapes.

When they came to the Community Center this morning, they found it occupied. The people of Lote 8 are alerting the national and international community to the threat of possible repression and eviction they again face.

### **A History of Mining, Repression and Impunity**

Last week, Guatemalan leader General Otto Perez Molina arrived in El Estor to “inaugurate” the mining operation of CGN, despite the 40 year history of repression, violent forced evictions, racism and impunity carried out by mainly Canadian nickel mining companies (INCO, Skye Resources, Hudbay Minerals).

This renewed mining operation is inaugurated despite the impunity and lack of justice in Guatemala and Canada for 40 years of illegally evictions and other crimes; violent evictions and repression that have been met by the on-going by silence of the governments of Guatemala and Canada:

- CGN and Hudbay Minerals are defendants in the Hudbay Lawsuits ([www.chocversushudbay.com](http://www.chocversushudbay.com)) in Canada for the assassination of Adolfo Ich, the shooting-paralyzing of German Chub (both on September 27, 2009), and the 2007 gang-rapes of the Lote 8 women;
- Mynor Padilla, former head of security of CGN/Hudbay Minerals is in jail, pending trial for the assassination of Adolfo Ich, the shooting-paralyzing of German Chub, and other victims (all on September 27, 2009);
- There are further legal proceedings in Guatemala related to the march 2012 murder of three university students from the Del Valle Univeristy, on CGN property in El Estor, during an exchange programme with CGN;

**(Recommend viewing: “Defensora”, award-winning documentary about the community and land defense struggle of the Mayan Qeqchi people, and their work for justice in Canada in the Hudbay Minerals lawsuits: <http://www.defensorathefilm.com/>)**

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#### **What To Do:**

Write Hudbay Minerals and CGN, with copies to your media and elected politicians in Canada and the USA, holding Hudbay and CGN responsible for any harm (illegally evictions and repression) that CGN may commit against the Lote 8 villagers, including the plaintiffs in the Hudbay Lawsuits.

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CGN – COMPANIA GUATEMALTECA DE NIQUEL  
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### **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)**

To support the on-going work for community development and environmental defense of the Mayan Qeqchi people of El Estor, 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>

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### **More Information**

- About the community defense and justice struggles of Mayan Qeqchi people in Guatemala: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)
- About the lawsuits against Hudbay/ CGN in Canada: [www.chocversushudbay.com](http://www.chocversushudbay.com)

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(By Grahame Russell, Rights Action, leading a delegation of North Americans through Guatemala, including members of the British Columbia-based Sustainable Mining Alliance of the Kootenays [SMAK].  
More information / How to support & get involved: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org), [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org))

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