

Rights Action
October 6, 2014
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**Arizona Citizens Oppose Hudbay Minerals:
"Who Is Adolfo Ich Chaman And Why Should You Care?"**



(September 27th march in Toronto, commemorating 5th anniversary of political murder of Adolfo Ich and shooting-paralyzing of German Chub.)

Hudbay Actions In Guatemala Call Integrity Into Question

By Lynn Carey, September 30, 2014

http://www.gvnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/in-my-view-hudbay-actions-in-guatemala-call-integrity-into/article_3db91e4c-491a-11e4-b355-a7e1013e53e1.html

Who is Adolfo Ich Chaman and why should you care? Hudbay Minerals, the Canadian mining corporation now poised to develop the Rosemont mine in Southern Arizona, owned and controlled a subsidiary, Compania Guatemalteca de Niquel (CGN) in Guatemala in 2009. Hudbay/CGN claims to own the right to mine nickel in the El Estor region of Guatemala on the ancestral land of the Maya Q'eqchi. These indigenous people have lived on and farmed this land for hundreds of years.

Hudbay and its predecessors acquired their interest in the land following the Guatemalan civil war in the 1960s without input or consultation with the Maya Q'eqchi people.

Over the years, Hudbay has forcibly evicted them from the land on several occasions, burning their homes and villages and destroying their meager possessions. According to its website, Hudbay considers these people to be "illegal squatters."

Adolfo was the leader of the Maya Q'eqchi's protest against Hudbay's actions. On Sept. 27, 2009, Hudbay's security forces challenged the protesters and, as Hudbay's website notes, "Unfortunately, a protester (Adolfo Ich Chaman) died as a result of wounds sustained that day."

What the website doesn't tell you is that Adolfo's wounds were caused by being shot in the head by Hudbay's chief of security, Mynor Padilla. Padilla also shot German Chub, a young man now a paraplegic and confined to a wheelchair. German was watching a soccer game when he was shot. Padilla remains in a Guatemalan jail awaiting trial on murder and assault charges.

In a precedent-setting ruling, a Canadian court recently held that Hudbay can be sued in Canada for the acts of its employees in Guatemala. The claims of both Adolfo's widow and German are pending in Canadian courts.

In addition, 11 Maya Q'eqchi women allege they were gang-raped by mining company security forces during an illegal eviction, and those claims will be tried in Canada as well.

Put aside the environmental harm and inevitable pollution Rosemont will cause. Forget about the endangered jaguar and ocelot. Ignore the water the mine will use in a state rapidly running dry. Just ask yourself, is Hudbay the kind of company we want doing business in our backyard?

In July, a Guatemalan court ruled in favor of indigenous people in a dispute involving a mining permit on Mayan land granted by the government to another Canadian mining corporation. The court held that the Guatemalan government must respect the right to information and consultation with the local population before granting any kind of mining permits, as required by international conventions.

But even if we accept that Hudbay has every right to mine the land and that the Maya Q'eqchi are "illegal squatters" as Hudbay claims, does this entitle them to murder, maim and rape? Is this a company whose word we can trust when they say they will honor promises made by Augusta? Can we believe them when they pledge to reclaim the land after Rosemont closes? I think the answer is obvious.

[Lynn Carey is a retired lawyer living in Tumacacori.]

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To support Mayan Q'eqchi' people in Guatemala, and their struggles for community, the environment and for justice in Guatemalan and Canadian courts for Hudbay Minerals related repression, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

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