

Rights Action
January 27, 2015
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Exhumations of Victims of Mining in Guatemala

The bodies of three university students are being exhumed in Guatemala to undergo further forensic examinations into cause of death. The three died under “mysterious circumstances” on CGN (Guatemalan Nickel Company) property just months after the Canadian company Hudbay Minerals sold CGN to the Solway Group. It is suspected by many the three students were murdered by CGN personnel. Separately, CGN is co-defendant with Hudbay Minerals in lawsuits in Canada for another murder, a shooting-paralyzing and for the gang-rape of 11 Mayan Qeqchi women.

January 25, 2015

Communique from Carlos Rodolfo de León Herrera, father of the student exhumed on January 19, 2015



(January 19, 2015 - On the day of the exhumation of their son Angel Rodolfo, Carlos Rodolfo and his wife stand with a photo of Angel in the cemetery.)

Given the evidence of possible violence revealed by forensic reports, on January 19, 2015, the first of three exhumations took place of the bodies of the three biology students who died on the property of CGN (the Guatemala Nickel Company) in the municipality of El Estor, Department of Izabal, Guatemala, on March 31, 2012. The circumstances of the deaths of the three students remain unclear. They were supposed to be monitoring crocodiles as part of an academic program exchange between the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG) and CGN.



CGN is presently co-defendant with Hudbay Minerals in another lawsuit before the Canadian courts for the murder of Adolfo Ich, the attack that left German Chub paralyzed, and the rape of 11 Q'eqchi women from the community of Lote 8, these acts of violence related to the same mining operation where the three students were killed.

Initially, the forensic reports did not include reference to serious wounds on the head of one of the students, although there was mention of wounds found on the other young man, and of bruises found on the body of the young woman. Parents of the students suspect that there may be further evidence of violence that could have caused the death of the three students.

The trial is proceeding in the court in the city of Puerto Barrios, receiving strong pressures from both CGN and the UVG who are both implicated in the case. In fact, at the request of the mining company, the exhumations were suspended by the same judge that had authorized them. The exhumations were not initiated until a court of appeals gave the order that they should go ahead.

On January 19, the remains of Angel Rodolfo de León Palacios were exhumed; those of Juan Carlos Velásquez Marroquín will be exhumed on January 27; and those of Nahomi Lara Orellana on February 4.

Results are expected to be tabled by the end of February. It is hoped that the results will provide new evidence that will allow the Public Ministry to pursue the investigation.

Yours Sincerely,
Carlos Rodolfo de León Herrera
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- Educational Delegation: Form your own group or join one of our educational-solidarity delegation seminars to Guatemala and Honduras to learn more about these issues and struggles

- Daily News: Start viewing, reading regularly: www.democracynow.org / www.upsidedownworld.org / www.dominionpaper.ca / www.rabble.ca /

Defensora

By Rachel Schmidt, Defensora documents the Mayan Qeqchi people's struggle in Guatemala to reclaim their ancestral lands and seek justice in Canadian and Guatemalan courts, for the murder, shootings and rapes committed against them by Canadian mining companies (particularly Hudbay Minerals). www.defensorathefilm.com

Hudbay Minerals / CGN lawsuits in Canada: www.chocversushudbay.com

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