

Rights Action  
August 17, 2015

## **Hudbay Mineral's Co-defendant CGN Pays Secret Politician Trip to Russia -- as Murder Trial Against Hudbay Former Head of Security Continues, August 17-18**



(Mynor Padilla, former Hudbay head of security (and former Colonel in Guatemalan Army), on trial for September 27, 2009 murder of Adolfo Ich, shooting-paralyzing of German Chub, and shooting-wounding of 7 other men.)

### **Trial Information**

- In Guatemala: Angelica Choc, 4061-0865; Martha Garcia, 5764-3390, [titayu2005@yahoo.es](mailto:titayu2005@yahoo.es)
- In Canada/USA: Grahame Russell, [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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### **Guatemalan Legislators' Secret Trip to Russia, Paid by CGN**

By Jessica Gramajo, August 6, 2015

<http://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/diputados-viajan-sigilosos-a-rusia>

In silence, and without permission of congressional authorities, four legislators traveled to Russia on July 28, to supposedly participate in a forum about mining. The Guatemalan Nickel Company, CGN, covered all of the expenses of the trip.

The members of congress who travelled were Álvaro Trujillo Baldizón, president of the Congressional Commission on Energy and Mining; Carlos Herrera, fourth deputy-president of congress; Inés Castillo and José Echevarría, all members of the political party Renewed Democratic Liberty, known as Líder.

These legislators argue that they received the invitation and that they traveled as members of the Congressional Commission on Energy and Mining. However, the congressional working groups had not yet been established by the plenary session, with exception of the group on Electoral Matters.

Prensa Libre sought comments (but received no response) from representatives of the Guatemalan Nickel Company, [owned by Hudbay Minerals 2004-2011, and now] the subsidiary company of the Russian Solway Investment Group, since according to the legislators, the trip was financed by the CGN.

On several occasions, we attempted to contact Regina Rivera, who is in charge of CGN's public relations, but she did not respond her cell phone nor to the text messages sent to her on the matter.

A call was placed to the plant, but the company's receptionist, Luisa Moreira, stated that Rivera was the only person authorized to speak with the media, however she was not in the office, and therefore she would not be able to receive them until today.

Although supposedly the invitation was official, no congressional authority was aware of the trip until the day that the legislators took the plane to Russia, hours later they received a note in which Trujillo announced the absence of the four members of congress.

To visit Russia, these members of congress requested permission to be absent from July 28th to August 10th; presumably to participate in a supposed Forum on Conservation and Preservation of the Environment by the Extraction of Minerals in the Subsoil, with all expenses paid by the CGN.

The first vice-president, Aristides Crespo clarified: "no trip has been authorized; Congress has not made any payments." The congressional representatives, Juan José Porrás and Wálter Félix, members of the Commission on Energy and Mining, reacted with surprise when hearing about this. Porrás explained: "I belong to the commission, but I knew nothing about the invitation. Due to its significance, I think they need to give us an official report on their visit."

Felix expressed, "This trip doesn't seem at all good, because mining in Guatemala has caused considerable conflict, and to a large extent, has originated the lack of governability that presently exists in the country. It doesn't seem right that for a private company to invite congressional representatives to Russia to talk about mining."

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#### **Tax-Deductible Donations ~ Matching donor until July 15**

To support the Mayan Q'eqchi' victims/plaintiffs as they struggle to end the impunity of Hudbay and CGN and achieve justice in the criminal trial in Guatemala and the precedent setting civil lawsuits in Canada, 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
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- To donate stock, contact: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

#### **"Defensora"**

Screen this award winning film by Rachel Schmidt that documents the lives and vision of the Mayan Qeqchi people and their efforts to seek justice in Canadian courts against Hudbay Minerals and CGN.

- Trailer/Information: [www.defensorathefilm.com](http://www.defensorathefilm.com)

#### **Delegation to Honduras, November 7-15, 2015**

##### **"Connecting the Dots from the Global to the Local: Understanding the Environmental, Human Rights, Poverty and Impunity Crisis in Honduras"**

Rights Action and the Mir Centre for Peace at Selkirk College invite you to join this educational seminar trip to Honduras (including a visit with communities suffering on-going health harms due to Goldcorp's 2000-2008 mining operation).

- Flyer: <http://rightsaction.org/action-content/honduras-education-seminar-trip>
- More info: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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