

Vote for “Landscapes of Resistance” photo of a victim of Hudbay Minerals linked rapes, at People’s Choice Award (Canadian Museum for Human Rights)

Share: <http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/votelandscapeofresistancephoto>



“Landscapes of Resistance” photo of Irma Yolanda Choc Cac. Photo @ Alexandra Pedersen

Please vote on-line (<https://photo.humanrights.ca/photocontest/archive/2016/>) for the “Landscapes of Resistance” photo of Irma Yolanda Choc Cac, one of 11 Mayan women suing Hudbay Minerals Inc. (Toronto) for sexual violations committed during a forced eviction from her community’s ancestral lands in 2007.

“Landscapes of Resistance” photo up for a People’s Choice Award

- From Alexandra Pedersen, PHD candidate, Queen’s U.; graduate of UNBC (University of Northern British Columbia); alex.pedersen0@gmail.com

Dear Friends, in June 2017, I was at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) for the opening of the Points of View exhibition, where my photo “Landscapes of Resistance” is featured, and up for a People’s Choice Award.

The museum is fraught with contradictions. Built on top of an improperly excavated Ojibway archeological site and made possible by donors like HudBay Minerals.... the list goes on. While there are excellent exhibits and tremendous stories inside, there are of course other stories that are not told too.

Below, you will find a press release. I ask you to go online and vote for my photo. I have committed to donating all the winnings towards the 11 women's legal defense fund through Rights Action. Amnesty International, Mining Watch, and Rights Action are helping to spread the word.

After I submitted my photo of Irma Yolanda, I had to fight with the museum staff to leave Hudbay Minerals' name in the description of the image. The museum had wanted to delete reference to Hudbay. In 2008, Hudbay donated \$1 million to the Museum.

Outside the Points of View exhibition is the donor wall, and it includes Hudbay's name and a 3 minute video on how the company puts human rights first in everything they do. The photograph inside the exhibition points to the company's negligence and links their actions to the sexual violations against the women.

Press Release

Canadian Museum for Human Rights features image of Indigenous Q'eqchi' Maya plaintiff in national exhibition

- Landscapes of Resistance, 2012 Points of View: A National Human Rights Photography
- Exhibition opens Friday, June 23, 2017, Canadian Museum for Human Rights (Winnipeg)

Featured amongst the 70 images selected to highlight Canada and human rights is an environmental portrait of Irma Yolanda Choc Cac, an Indigenous Q'eqchi' Maya woman from the remote community of Lote Ocho in eastern Guatemala.

Choc Cac is one of eleven Indigenous women currently suing Canadian mining company HudBay Minerals Inc. (Toronto) for alleged sexual violations during a forced eviction from her community's ancestral lands in 2007. This case is one of three precedent setting lawsuits in Ontario courts; the first of their kind attempting to hold a Canadian mining company accountable for negligence and carelessness abroad.

The photograph, titled Landscapes of Resistance, features Choc Cac standing amongst the charred remains of her home; burned to the ground by company private security forces, Guatemalan police, and military when community members refused to leave.

Doctoral candidate Alexandra Pedersen (Queen's University) took this photograph while revisiting the community of Lote Ocho as a member of an educational delegation co-led by Dr. Catherine Nolin (University of Northern British Columbia) and Grahame Russell (Rights Action).

Choc Cac, as well as several other women involved in the lawsuit, shared their testimonies with delegates and requested that their experiences of extreme violence and injustice involving HudBay Minerals be shared widely with Canadians.

A Call to Vote

- Vote “Landscapes of Resistance” for People’s Choice Award
- Members of the public can vote online (see link below), or in person at the museum

All images in the Points of View exhibition are eligible for a People’s Choice Award, an honour bestowed to the photograph with the most votes from the public. Voting for the People’s Choice Award begins June 23, 2017 and ends in January 2018 when winner will be announced.

“Landscapes of Resistance” is a finalist in the Human Rights and Environment category. Vote for the image and the photographer will donate all prize money towards the Indigenous women’s legal defence fund through Rights Action.

Support the women of Lote Ocho and let them know their voices are heard by voting and sharing this campaign with your friends, colleagues, and social networks.

- How to vote: <https://photo.humanrights.ca/photocontest/archive/2016/>

More information

- Points of View exhibition: <https://photo.humanrights.ca/photocontest/>
- HudBay legal cases: <http://www.chocversushudbay.com/about>

Thank-you

Alexandra Pedersen

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

To support the Mayan Q’eqchi’ people of Guatemala, working and struggling for justice in Canada and Guatemala, and for fundamental change from the local to global levels, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations: <http://rightsaction.org/donate/>

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