

Strength and peace in the sacred fire

By Grahame Russell, El Estor, Guatemala, September 27, 2017
(<http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/strength-and-peace-in-the-sacred-fire>)



Lake Izabal, eastern Guatemala. I am here working with 13 Maya Q'eqchi' plaintiffs getting ready to travel to Toronto, Canada, in November 2017, to continue with their precedent setting lawsuits (represented by Klippensteins Barristers and Solicitors) against Hudbay Minerals (and CGN, its formerly owned Guatemalan subsidiary), for negligence resulting in a targeted killing and a shooting-paralyzing (in 2009), and the gang rape of 11 villager women, as part of an illegal forced eviction of the Lote 8 community (in 2007).

As these struggles for justice in Canada proceed, the Q'eqchi' people continue to work desperately in defense of their human rights, community well-being and environment (including this very threatened Lake Izabal) against ravages caused by on-going nickel mining of CGN and Solway Group, the new owner that bought the open-pit, mountain-top removal mine from Hudbay Minerals. One more example of global companies and investors happy to do private-profit driven, destructive business with the corrupt, repressive government in power in Guatemala.

September 27, 2017



Eight years to the day after the assassination of her husband Adolfo Ich, Angelica Choc gets strength and peace from the sacred fire during a ceremony commemorating the life of Adolfo and other Q'eqchi' victims of mining repression, dating back to years of violence and evictions when INCO (International Nickel Company) tried to operate this same mine in the 1970s-80s.

Angelica, along with German Chub, is leading the criminal case against Mynor Padilla, her husband's killer who also shot and left paralyzed German. Padilla is the former head of security for Hudbay Minerals and a former lieutenant colonel in the Guatemalan army. Angelica and German are two of 13 Q'eqchi' plaintiffs coming to Toronto, Canada, in November 2017, to continue with their civil lawsuits against Hudbay Minerals and CGN (Compañía Guatemalteca de Niquel) for mining repression, gang rapes and killings in Guatemala.

Adolfo Ich stadium



As part of the commemoration activities, local youth – including Angelica’s children – play a game of soccer on a field in their community of La Union, named Estadio Professor Adolfo Ich Chaman, after his assassination. This wall borders CGN company property. Adolfo was singled out and killed close to this very spot, and German was shot and left paralyzed on the edge of this community soccer field.

Precedent-Setting “Hudbay Minerals” Lawsuits Are Advancing

Funding appeal: \$20,000. (All donations welcome)

Funds raised will pay for many of the costs of the 13 plaintiffs and two accompaniers from their home communities in rural, eastern Guatemala, to Toronto and back again. Hudbay will incur some of the expenses. Our costs include: in-Guatemala travel; in-Canada travel; food and lodging in Guatemala (near airport); acquiring passports & visas; purchasing extra clothing and footwear (for people who live in one of the hottest regions of Guatemala); family stipends to leave food and care-givers for children staying at home; two Rights Action trips to Guatemala in October, to help prepare the plaintiffs for the trip and accompany them.

More information

Grahame Russell, director Rights Action

grahame@rightsaction.org

1-416-807-4436

www.rightsaction.org

www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org

Tax-deductible donations (Canada & U.S.)

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: www.rightsaction.org/donate/
