

Rights Action

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Transformative Struggles, Taking on the Violent Global Economic Model

SEPTEMBER 2017 SPECIAL FUNDING APPEAL

Hudbay Minerals Lawsuits & Justice for Assassination of Berta Caceres

The work and struggles Rights Action supports with your donations are long-term, by definition. The underlying causes of the exploitation and poverty, human rights violations and environmental destruction that our partner groups are working to end, are historical and are local-to-national-to-global — these are not ‘Guatemalan’ or ‘Honduran’ problems.

Rights Action directly supports people and organizations suffering and denouncing repression, forced evictions, human rights violations and environmental harms caused by mining companies, hydro-electric dams, production of African palm trees, ‘maquiladora’ garment sweatshop factories, tourism and more. (Below: Summary of funds granted, as of July 1, 2017)



“The global economic order, at work”

Photo by James Rodriguez

Illegal village destruction linked to Hudbay Minerals’
in Guatemala

Highlighted Struggles

No work or struggle we support is more or less important than any other. The exploitation, repression and environmental harms are similar in all cases. The underlying causes are

(continued)

At www.rightsaction.org you will find articles, radio interviews and news reports addressing the community, environmental and human rights defense struggles Rights Action is supporting in Guatemala and Honduras.

Summary: <http://rightsaction.org/resources-articles-interviews-videos/>

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS:

Make checks payable to “Rights Action” and mail to the appropriate US or Canadian office.

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**GET INFORMED/
GET INVOLVED**

Speakers: Invite us to give presentations in your community about these issues

Educational Delegations:

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:

- www.democracynow.org
- www.upsidedownworld.org
- www.dominionpaper.ca
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equally similar: In Honduras and Guatemala, the economic-political-military elites partner with international companies, investors and ‘development’ banks to exploit workers and the land, to then endlessly export goods and products to global markets — repression, corruption and impunity are endemic. Here, we highlight two struggles and ask for your continued financial support.

Hudbay Minerals Civil Lawsuits in Canada, Criminal Trial in Guatemala

Read here (<http://rightsaction.org/newsletterapril17-miningrepressionandimpunity/>) a summary of the precedent-setting Hudbay Minerals lawsuits in Canadian courts and the courageous criminal trial in Guatemala against Hudbay’s former head of security.

Since 2004, Rights Action has supported the territorial and environmental defense work of the Q’eqchi’ people against harms and violations caused by successive Canadian mining companies: INCO, Skye Resources and Hudbay Minerals. Since 2010, we have supported the civil lawsuits and criminal trials in Canadian and Guatemalan courts for the 2007 gang-rapes of 11 Q’eqchi’ women from the village of Lote 8, and for the 2009 assassination of Adolfo Ich and shooting-paralysis of German Chub.

Examinations for Discovery, November 2017

Barring further delays, 13 plaintiffs will travel to Toronto in November to be questioned by Hudbay’s lawyers during examination for discovery. Rights Action aims to raise \$20,000 to help facilitate all aspects of their trip (in-country travel, food, clothing, lodging, immigration documents, family support, etc.) from their homes in El Estor, Guatemala, to Toronto, and back.

At the same time, the murder and aggravated assault trial continues in Guatemala against Mynor Padilla, Hudbay’s former head of security (and former Lieutenant-colonel in the Guatemalan army). We seek to raise \$7,500, to pay for the participation of the victims-witnesses and their lawyer.

“Is Canada to Blame for Human Rights Abuses in Guatemala? Canadian mining firms are not held responsible for horrors inflicted on Indigenous communities by foreign subsidiaries. But a Toronto court could change that”, by Annie Hylton, June 30, 2017, <https://thewalrus.ca/is-canada-to-blame-for-human-rights-abuses-in-guatemala/>



Justice for Assassination of Berta Caceres

Since the U.S. and Canadian backed military coup in Honduras in 2009, Honduras has become the repression, murder, impunity and corruption capital of the Americas. The impacts of the coup could not have been more predictable, disasterous and deadly. Hundreds of people have been assassinated or killed for political reasons related to community struggles in defense of land, human rights, the environment, and a return to democracy and the rule of law. These killings went virtually unnoticed internationally until the assassination of well-known and respected Berta Caceres (and shooting-wounding of Gustavo Castro) on March 3, 2016, in Berta’s home, in La Esperanza, Honduras.

Predictably, in the context of Honduras’ entrenched corruption and impunity, no justice has been done for this crime. Due to pressure garnered by Berta Caceres’ family, COPINH and their allies, eight ‘material’ authors of her assassination have been arrested (including

members of the U.S.-backed military), but none of the ‘intellectual’ authors – who planned and paid for the death of Berta — have been identified publicly, let alone detained. Rights Action seeks to raise \$10,000 to provide continued support to the family of Berta Cáceres and COPINH (the organization co-founded by Berta), at the forefront of the justice struggle.

“Under the Gun: An Investigation Into the Murder of Berta Cáceres”, By John Gibler, June 15 2017, <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2017-4-july-august/feature/under-gun-investigation-murder-berta-caceres>

Your Donations At Work, as of July 1, 2017

Here, a summary of organizations, individuals and projects Rights Action funded and worked with in 2017. (Also found at: <http://rightsaction.org/yourdonationsatwork-june30-2017/>)

Honduras

- Azacualpa Environmental Committee: \$3,360. Community and environmental defense struggle versus Aura Mineral’s gold mine.
- Berta Cáceres’ family: \$8,450. Family security and justice struggle.
- COPINH (Coordinator of Indigenous & Popular Organizations): \$3,500. Defense of the environment, territory and indigenous rights.
- OFRANEH (Fraternal Organization of Garifuna & Black Peoples): \$4,500. Defense of the environment, territory and indigenous rights, resisting illegal, violent incursions of tourism and African palm businesses.
- Triunfo de la Cruz, Garifuna education fund: \$1,400
- Emergency funds: Health and security for shot journalist: \$1,000; Health and security for LGBT activist tortured by police: \$2,100.

Guatemala

- Pacux refugee community, scholarships, children of Achi genocide victims: \$4,000
- Rio Negro primary school, Achi community, destroyed by Chixoy Dam: \$1,550
- San Miguel Ixtahuacán, scholarship, law degree, Mam woman resisting Goldcorp Inc. mining harms: \$410
- El Estor, scholarships, children of Q’eqchi’ women seeking justice for Hudbay Minerals mining harms: \$4,000
- Santa María Tzeja, Mayan community, primary, middle, high school and university: \$11,750

Mining Harms ~versus~ Community Development, Environment & Human Rights

- La Puya resistance movement: \$800. Denouncing KCA Associates (with investments from Radius Gold).
- FREDEMI (San Miguel Ixtahuacán Defense Front): \$3,700. Mam people denouncing Goldcorp Inc.’s mine.
- Consejo Sipakapan de Pueblos: \$1,325. Sipakapan people denouncing Goldcorp’s mine.
- Las Casillas resistance movement: \$750. Campesinos versus Tahoe Resources’ silver mine.
- Q’eqchi’ mining resistance: \$1,800. Fisherpeople and campesinos versus CGN/ProNico (owned by The Solway Group, formerly INCO and Hudbay).
- El Estor Territorial Committee. Q’eqchi’ people seeking justice for Hudbay Minerals linked violence. Guatemala justice struggle (\$23,000); Canadian justice struggle (\$10,700).

Community Development & Environmental Protection

- CEDFOG education & communication centre, Huehuetenango: \$13,000
- El Estor, La Unión women’s chicken and pig project: \$600
- El Estor, Lote 8 women’s agricultural sustenance project: \$17,300
- Rio Negro, outboard motor repair: \$300
- Q’eqchi’ recovery of lands, Livingston: \$1,300

Truth, Memory, Justice

- Commemoration, March 13, 1982, Chixoy Dam/Rio Negro massacre: \$1,500
- Commemoration, May 14, 1982, Chixoy Dam/Los Encuentros massacre: \$1,500
- Commemoration, September 27, 2009, Adolfo Ich assassination: \$1,350

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Emergency Response

- El Estor, community leader suffering cancer: \$250
- El Estor, community leader operation: \$2,500
- El Estor, Lote 8 woman, husband died of poverty-related health issues: \$450
- San Miguel Ixtahuacan, Mam woman shot in 2010 after refusing to sell land to Goldcorp: \$125
- El Estor, wheelchair for paralyzed Q'eqchi' woman: \$605
- El Estor, Angelica Choc (\$10,000), after her house was shot up in September 2016
- El Estor, German Chub (\$7,200) paralyzed from waist down, victim of Highbay linked shooting

North-South Education & Activism

- Documentary film, Kukama people struggle, Peru: \$3,700
- Journalists and photo-journalists: \$4,000
- Educational/activist delegations to Guatemala: \$4,800
- MISN: Education and activism related to Canadian mining industry: \$1,200

Other Countries

- Otros Mundos (Mexico), justice work of Gustavo Castro, survivor of and eye-witness to assassination of Berta Caceres: \$5,400
- AYNÍ (Peru), community development project, Peru: \$9,500
- Tropicico Seco (Peru), flood relief: \$1,900

Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & United States)

To support the Q'eqchi' people seeking justice in Canada and Guatemala, and the family of Berta Caceres and COPINH, 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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Thank you for your trust and support. Please keep sending me your comments and questions.

Grahame Russell, Director Rights Action (USA & Canada)

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