

Rights Action

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September 2020

Inequality is the pandemic



These are tough times for many people across the planet, particularly in countries of the global south, like Guatemala and Honduras. Tough times caused by the “normal pandemics” of poverty and exploitation, racism and dispossession, violence and impunity – all now worsened by Covid19.

“Inequality is the pandemic”

The fundamental pandemic characterizing the human ‘community’ on our planet is inequality: the systems of huge inequality of wealth and power between nations, between individuals, between peoples, between genders and races, etc.

The unequal distribution of wealth and power / poverty and powerlessness, are so ubiquitous, so normal, widespread and accepted, they are hard to see, let alone transform. And these are the “normal pandemics”, the



“The facemask does not cover hunger and misery”

normal inequalities that Rights Action’s partner groups are resisting and fighting against; this is the work and struggle that Rights Action is involved with.

Funding survival, resistance and transformation

Thank-you to folks across the U.S. and Canada who – perhaps going through tough times yourselves – have continued to support Rights Action’s work.

Understand this: Funding our indigenous and non-indigenous community partner groups is not “charity” work; these are not “gifts”. Regularly sending small grants to these groups is a decision to help enable their land, human rights and environmental defense struggles; enable their truth and justice struggles; enable their emergency response work – such as today, in times of Covid19.

(continued)

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS:

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

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GET INVOLVED**

Speakers: Invite us to give presentations 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

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Funds sent to partner groups

Since mid-March, Rights Action has sent almost \$100,000 to our partner groups, mainly in Honduras and Guatemala, carrying out Covid19 prevention work house to house, community to community, *while at the same time* they continue to suffer, resist and fight against the “normal pandemics”.

OFRANEH & Garifuna communities, Honduras (\$11,400)



Under siege by global tourism and African palm industries in partnership with the corrupt, repressive, U.S. and Canadian-backed regime

On July 18, 2020, these five Garifuna land and rights defenders were kidnapped and ‘disappeared’ from the town of Triunfo de la Cruz, by heavily armed, uniformed men linked to the corrupt, repressive regime in power. There is still no sign of these men.

Mayan Q’eqchi’ communities, Guatemala (\$27,250)



Resisting harms and repression linked to Solway Investment Group (previously Skye Resources and Hudbay Minerals) in partnership with the corrupt, repressive, U.S. and Canadian-backed regime

On July 17, 2020, this Guatemalan military helicopter landed in front of the home of Angelica Choc, Maya Q’eqchi’ land and rights defender. Her husband – Adolfo Ich – was killed September 27, 2009 by security guards employed by Hudbay Minerals, near this spot – the same day and location that they also shot and left paralyzed German Chub.

Two days later, the regime declared a military state of siege in this region, in support of the on-going, illegal mining operation of Solway Investment Group.

**Azacualpa Environmental Committee,
Honduras (\$2,300)**



Resisting mining harms and repression linked to Aura Minerals, in partnership with the Honduran regime.

On September 6, 2020, Azacualpa community members protest the mountain-top removal gold mine of Aura Minerals that continues operating despite Covid19 restrictions and numerous legal investigations against it. Operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a well, Aura Minerals is devouring this mountain range, inching closer to the destruction of the village and cemetery of Azacualpa.

Mayan Achi communities, Guatemala (\$11,000)



“A prayer for the victims of Rio Negro”

Never recovered from widespread massacres and violent evictions caused by the World Bank and IDB’s brutal Chixoy hydro-electric dam project, in partnership with the U.S.-backed military regimes of genocidal generals Rios Montt and Lucas Garcia, Achi survivors carry out desperate hunger relief work for the most vulnerable of the surviving victims of the Chixoy dam massacres.

Justice for March 2, 2016 assassination of Berta (\$1,600)

Support for Berta’s mother and family, as they support COPINH-led efforts to seek justice for the Honduran regime-backed assassination of Berta Caceres.



“They have accused us not only of illegally trafficking weapons and of armed struggle, but also of being witches. That is the only accusation I accept. We have to be witches, in part, to put up with all we are living through, and to continue with our struggles. So yes, that accusation is true; the other ones are not. We live under great ‘criminalizations’, especially for being women.”

Others

- Xinka and campesino communities, Guatemala, resisting mining harms and repression linked to Tahoe Resources and Pan American Silver (\$2,850)
- CIPPH (Coordinadora Indígena del Poder Popular de Honduras), supporting impoverished Lenca-descendant communities, western Honduras (\$3,800)
- Siria Valley, Honduras. Villagers suffering Covid19 linked hunger and health harms, on top of on-going health harms linked to Goldcorp’s mine (\$2,350)
- Guapinol Environmental Defense Committee, Honduras, resisting illegal mining, while trying to free 7 community defenders illegally jailed by the regime in support of the mining interests (\$1,300)
- Community food kitchen, Guatemala City (\$800)
- Community food kitchen, El Progreso, Honduras (\$1,350)

(continued)

- Patutul community, Guatemala (\$500)
- Transitions Disabilities Association, Guatemala (\$1,300)
- Guatemala human rights defenders (\$3,200)
- Honduras human rights defenders (\$2,500)
- Kukama women’s federation, Iquitos, Peru (\$500)
- Jocoaitique historical memory committee, Morazan, El Salvador (\$3,600)
- Pachamama Alliance, supporting indigenous partners in Ecuador to stand for their rights and nature (\$4,500)

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS (CANADA & U.S.)

To support the community defense and Covid-19 response work of our partners groups in Honduras and Guatemala, make check 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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No going “back to normal”

As always, thank-you for your trust and support in our work and that of our partner groups suffering, resisting and fighting against all the “normal pandemics”, in addition to Covid19.

Thank-you for your own activism in your communities, working resolutely to fundamentally transform how we live together on this one and only planet.

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