

**ON THE HISTORIC APPROVAL OF  
THE 2014 UNITED STATES APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

**THE COORDINATOR OF THE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHIXOY DAM  
(COCAHICH)**



**BEFORE THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

**PROCLAIMS**

Its profound gratitude to the honorable U.S. Congress, (the House of Representatives and the Senate), and to the esteemed President of the United States, Mr. Barack Obama, for the recent approval by the United States of the 2014 Appropriations Bill, which contains language in support of our struggles in the search for reparative justice for the grave violations of human rights caused by the construction of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Project in Guatemala.

This law sets a historic precedent in the world, preventing governments and multilateral financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank, from continuing to violate the human rights of indigenous peoples, including the right to self-determination, free, prior and informed consent, and control over their territories.

The law stipulates that the World Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank must inform the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury of the measures adopted by these institutions in support of implementation of the Reparations Plan for the Damages Suffered by the Communities Affected by the Construction of the Chixoy Dam, negotiated in 2010.

The law additionally states that U.S. programmatic support to the Guatemalan army will only be made available if the U.S. Secretary of State certifies that the government of Guatemala is taking credible measures in implementation of the Reparations Plan for the Damages Suffered by the Communities Affected by the Construction of the Chixoy Dam (April 2010).

With this Act, it has been demonstrated before the national and international community that both the country of Guatemala and these international financial institutions have been violators of human rights in Guatemala and have failed to demonstrate any willingness to provide redress for their acts. This is the reason for the language in the law. For over 30 years, the Government, with the complicity of the business sector and with the collaboration of the World Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank, cast 33 communities into extreme poverty to facilitate the construction of the Chixoy Dam. These communities were stripped not only of their lands, their homes, their crops and animals and

means of survival, but also suffered the loss of their culture, their sacred sites and their ecosystems, and the loss of human lives. For defending their lands against the construction of this dam, 444 indigenous sisters and brothers of the Maya Achi people of the community of Rio Negro were massacred by the national army in 1981 and 1982. This, put in other words, is the destruction of the social fabric, classified as an act of genocide.

After a long struggle in the search for justice, in April of 2010, a negotiation was finalized between the affected communities and the government of Guatemala which resulted in the consensus approval of a Plan for Reparations on behalf of the communities. Almost four years since, the government of Guatemala has failed to execute the Reparations Plan by not signing the governmental agreement that would give political life to the Plan's implementation. All the while, the communities remain in inhumane conditions.

Faced with this situation, we demand that the President of Guatemala, Gen. Otto Pérez Molina, the World Bank, and the InterAmerican Development Bank, urgently implement the Reparations Plan for the Damages Suffered by the Communities Affected by the Construction of the Chixoy Dam, agreed to in April 2010.

For our part we are certain that the government of the United States of America will comply 100 percent with the language in this law.

Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, Guatemala, January 2014.

For additional information:

Juan de Dios García  
Tel. 79388230 or 79388687  
Email: [info@adivima.org.gt](mailto:info@adivima.org.gt)