

A non-profit, grassroots, solidarity organization dedicated to promoting human rights in Guatemala and supporting communities and activists who face threats and violence.

GHRC provides analysis, advocacy, and direct support for human rights defenders, and educates the public on the human rights situation in Guatemala. This year, we provided analysis to an increasingly diverse audience and facilitated increased advocacy opportunities for our Guatemalan partners. Our issues of focus in 2014 were:



Militarization



Truth, Justice &
Historic Memory



Access to Land &
Natural Resources



Women's
Rights



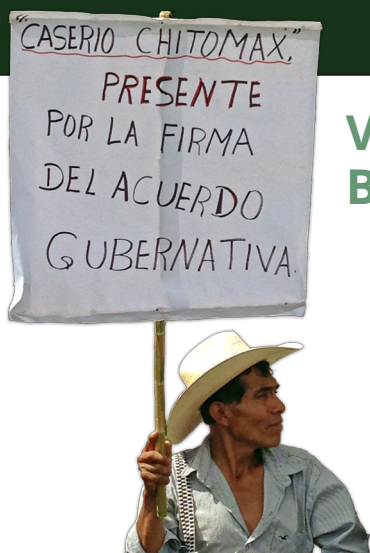
Criminalization &
Impunity

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2014:

VICTORIES IN THE US CONGRESS: THE MILITARY BAN AND REPARATIONS FOR THE CHIXOY DAM

This year, GHRC continued to successfully advocate for human rights conditions on State Department funding to the Guatemalan military. These restrictions remained in place, despite increasing pressure from actors in both the Guatemalan and US governments.

GHRC also contributed to successful advocacy efforts that led to the signing of a historic executive order by Guatemalan President Pérez Molina that will provide \$154 million in reparations to communities affected by the Chixoy hydroelectric dam. As part of this effort, we also participated in a series of meetings with officials from the World Bank, urging them – successfully – to postpone the vote on a loan to Guatemala. This pressure helped affected communities and the government reach an agreement in late 2014.



RAISING THE PROFILE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

GHRC continues to provide direct support to human rights defenders through international observation, accompaniment and emergency funding. We scheduled dozens of meetings for Guatemalan partners with government offices and other key actors.

We honored the Guatemalan Human Rights Law Firm with our 2014 Alice Zachmann Human Rights Defender Award. We also highlighted the struggle for justice in Guatemala this year through support for transitional justice cases, survivors and their advocates. Through the coordination of two workshops for women leaders involved in justice processes in their communities, we helped strengthen national and international support networks and build tools for improved access to justice.



RESPONDING TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS

The urgency of the child migration crisis at the US southern border earlier this year spurred GHRC to offer analysis and recommendations regarding the root causes of migration from Guatemala. GHRC organized two well-attended rallies in DC critiquing the US response, and mobilized supporters to send over 4,600 emails to congressional offices demanding protections for child migrants. In addition, GHRC published a position statement on the child migration crisis as well as a report on conditions faced by returned migrants.



CASE

UPDATES

LA PUYA LAND RIGHTS CASE: In 2014, we carried out ongoing government advocacy, grassroots campaigns, and a speaking tour aimed at supporting 'La Puya'—a peaceful movement in opposition to a US-owned gold mine. In February, for the two-year anniversary of peaceful resistance, we presented a letter of support with over 2,000 signatures from individual supporters and partner organizations. In May there was a violent eviction of protesters, and

GHRC staff was present to document abuses. Together with activists in Nevada, where the US company is based, we carried out a day of action which included a rally in front of the Nevada Mining Association and a parallel online action to call for the association to deny membership to companies associated with human rights abuses. Finally, we published a special report highlighting concerns regarding the struggle at La Puya.

AVEJA & THE MILITARY DOSSIER CASE: GHRC has provided ongoing support to AVEJA, the organization of family members of the Military Dossier case. The Dossier is an intelligence document that tracked the movements of 183 people, many of whom were then disappeared, tortured and killed by security forces. We set up a meeting with the US Embassy and helped prepare the members of AVEJA for a series of meetings with the European diplomatic corps in November. We've also raised awareness about the emblematic case through our speaking tour and other advocacy in DC.

THE GENOCIDE CASE: GHRC has continued to push for access to justice for those involved in the genocide case, and has supported related advocacy initiatives for the lawyers and victims' association. In May, we commemorated the one-year anniversary of the genocide sentence and continued to raise awareness about the case in the international community.

ADVOCACY

THIRTY+
ADVOCACY MEETINGS

US CONGRESS | STATE, DEFENSE
& JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS |
WORLD BANK | EU EMBASSIES IN
GUATEMALA

RESTRICTING MILITARY FUNDING: GHRC delivered a petition to the US State Department with nearly 4,000 signatures calling for the government to maintain a ban on funding to the Guatemalan army, and continued to advocate for increased human rights conditions on security funding. This year, the restrictions on military funding remained in place.

FACILITATING MEETINGS FOR DEFENDERS: GHRC participated in the Alliance Against Criminalization, a coalition of 28 Guatemalan and international organizations working to support human rights defenders. One of the central goals of the Alliance is to share information, analysis and the concerns of human rights defenders with the international community, in particular the diplomatic missions present in Guatemala.

CHIXOY REPARATIONS: GHRC contributed to successful advocacy efforts that led to the signing of a historic executive order by Guatemalan President Pérez Molina that will provide \$154 million in reparations to communities affected by the Chixoy hydroelectric dam in Baja Verapaz.

SPOTLIGHT ON JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE:

GHRC monitored the selection process for attorney general, Supreme Court justices and appellate court judges, advocating with a coalition of organizations for increased transparency and for processes that abide by international standards.

As part of this effort, GHRC signed onto a series of joint press releases, participated in a press conference in Guatemala City and shared concerns with US government offices.

As Guatemalans face ongoing obstacles for justice, GHRC has denounced the lack of implementation of Inter-American Court sentences, advocated against the militarization of public security, pushed for the extension of the mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), and sought to ensure that the US government is closely monitoring progress in key human rights cases.

- including -

4 DELEGATIONS TO GUATEMALA

2 SPEAKING TOURS

1 CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

1 AWARD PRESENTATION

20

INTERVIEWS FOR
RADIO, TV & PRINTED
NEWS

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

GHRC EVENTS

- ▶ GHRC co-led two workshops in February (in Guatemala) and July (in Colombia) as part of a project on the fundamental role of women in the search for justice.
- ▶ GHRC and partners organized a congressional briefing on the impact of US security policy in Mexico, Central America and Colombia.
- ▶ GHRC presented our third annual Alice Zachmann Human Rights Defenders Award to the Bufete Jurídico de Derechos Humanos (The Guatemalan Human Rights Law Firm). We also presented a posthumous special recognition to Dr. César Barrientos for his contributions to the justice system in Guatemala.
- ▶ GHRC co-sponsored an event on mining and human rights in Guatemala with land rights activist Oscar Morales.
- ▶ GHRC hosted a public benefit concert with singer-songwriters Gina Chavez and Elena Lacayo.

DELEGATIONS

GHRC led three week-long delegations with university groups (American University, Loyola University in Chicago and Oregon State University) and one "open" delegation on the topic of women and the construction of justice in Guatemala. GHRC also gave presentations on the human rights situation to a number of other delegations and groups during their trips to Guatemala.



SPEAKING TOURS

In the spring of 2014, Makrina Gudiel spoke at packed events along the East Coast, presenting at seven universities and five community groups. Makrina described her fight for justice for her brother, who was disappeared in 1983 by state forces and is included in the infamous Military Dossier, as well as for her father, who was murdered in 2004 for bringing the case to the Inter-American Court. She also discussed international solidarity, her involvement in the sanctuary movement of the 1980s, and the decades-long struggle to end US military aid to repressive regimes in Guatemala.

During our fall 2014 tour, Maya Kaqchikel activist Miriam Pixtún spoke to audiences in Illinois, Wisconsin and Nevada about the "La Puya" peaceful anti-mine struggle. The tour culminated with a day of action in Reno, Nevada – home of two mining companies with controversial projects in Guatemala. We joined local environmental activists to denounce violations committed by these companies in Guatemala, and we delivered a letter to the Nevada Mining Association calling for its members to respect human rights everywhere.



DIRECT SUPPORT

We continue to provide direct emergency funding, and in 2014 supported numerous requests for urgent support and provided funds to 97 individuals. We also started a new fund called the Human Rights Defenders Support Fund, which will support the work of human rights defenders who have non-urgent – but very pressing – needs.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GUATEMALA OFFICE:

- ▶ GHRC accompanied communities and defenders from 14 different geographic regions, and provided international observation during multiple court hearings of community leaders facing trumped-up charges.
- ▶ GHRC staff participated in a fact-finding mission to San Juan Sacatepéquez after martial law was imposed in the region.
- ▶ GHRC funded a self-care workshop for indigenous women designed to alleviate the physical, emotional and psychological stress faced by human rights defenders. The workshop was carried out by Lorena Cabnal and the women of AMISMAXAJ.
- ▶ GHRC acted as a “witness of honor” during the planning and implementation of a community policing agreement between the indigenous leadership of Nacahuil and the National Civilian Police. The accord helped to reestablish the presence of a local police force in way that is respectful of indigenous traditions.

PROVIDED FUNDS
TO:

97

PEOPLE THROUGH
THE HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS FUND

AWARDED
**VOICELESS SPEAK
FUND** GRANTS TO:

EIGHT

GUATEMALANS
WORKING IN THE US

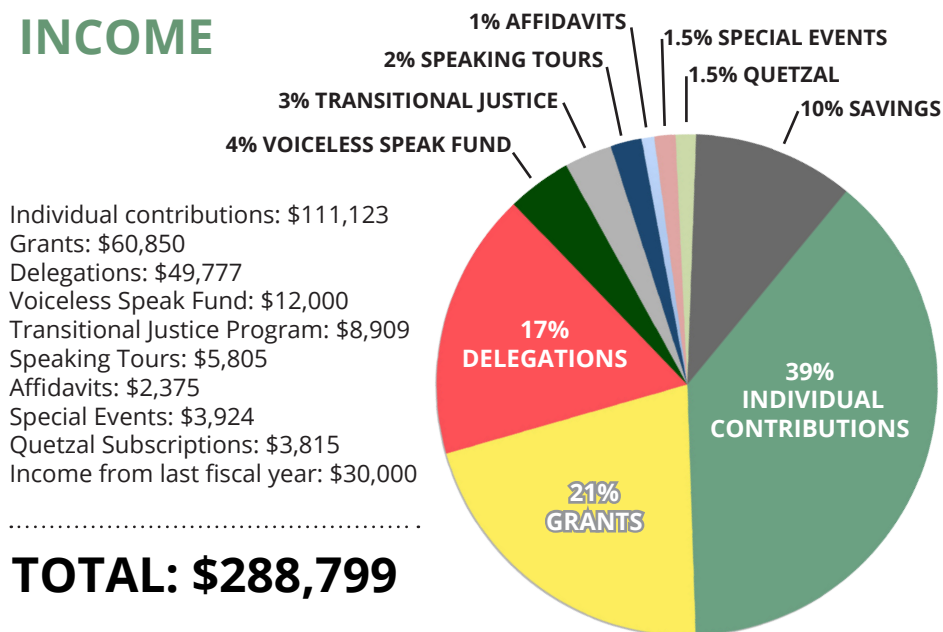
PROVIDED
SUPPORT IN:

TWENTY

ASYLUM CASES

FINANCIALS

INCOME



TOTAL: \$288,799

EXPENSES

70.5% PROGRAMS

18% ADMINISTRATION

11.5% FUNDRAISING

Program costs: \$203,812
Administration: \$52,045
Fundraising: \$33,201

TOTAL: \$289,058