

Declaration by Angelica Choc
Hudbay Minerals AGM, Toronto, May 22, 2015

My name is Angelica Choc. I am indigenous Mayan Q'eqchi' from Guatemala. I have come to Canada to speak directly to you, the shareholders, the owners of Hudbay Minerals. I come to this meeting with respect for you and your meeting, and do not want to take much time. I ask only that you listen with open hearts and minds. I am here to tell you about what happened at Hudbay's mining project in Guatemala.

My husband Adolfo Ich is dead. He was hacked with machetes and shot in the head by Hudbay security personnel during a community protest near Hudbay's mine on September 27, 2009. Hudbay security personnel also shot German Chub that same day. German, who is here today, is paralyzed from the chest down. The bullet remains lodged next to his spine, and he lives his life in a wheel chair. Rosa Ich is here. She, along with 10 other women, were raped during a violent eviction of her village in 2007, carried out at the request of the mining company.

Since that time, Hudbay has done nothing to accept responsibility for what happened at and near its mine, nor to make amends for the harms suffered by my family, by Rosa and the other women, by German and his family. Instead, Hudbay hides behind its lawyers and propaganda statements. Hudbay has said Rosa is lying about being raped. Hudbay has said that German "fabricated" a story about how he was shot. Hudbay says I threatened witnesses to force them to provide false testimony.

These false accusations against us make me sad and angry. We are here in person to tell you our truth as we lived it.

If you want to know about the rapes of 11 women by mining company security personnel, Rosa is here and she will tell you what happened to her and the 10 other women. German is here and he can tell you about the day he was shot by the head of security of Hudbay, and left for dead, and of what his life is like now as a paraplegic.

For my part, I was at home with my husband on the afternoon of September 27, 2009, when he went out for the last time, telling me he would be back soon! I can tell you that my son Jose Ich watched as my husband was surrounded, beaten, hacked with machetes and then shot in the head. I can tell you about the overwhelming grief I felt when my son told me my husband was dead, and when my husband's body was brought to my house.

Hudbay denies all of this happened. Yet Hudbay does not provide an explanation for how my husband was killed or who shot German, leaving him in a wheelchair. Hudbay knows that on September 27, the only people with handguns and shotguns were mine company security personnel, and yet it denies that its security forces were involved.

I wonder if you, the shareholders, the owners of Hudbay know about what happened to us in Guatemala. I wonder if you have been told the truth. I wonder if you are OK being the owners of a company that denies the very real harms that has been suffered by us, and does nothing to address them.

My question for you is, do you acknowledge the harms suffered by me, Rosa, German and our families and communities? And what will you do to address these harms?

MORE INFORMATION:

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