

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LAWSUIT IN CANADA AGAINST MINING COMPANY RELATING TO KILLING OF MAYAN LEADER

For immediate release: *December 1, 2010*

Toronto, Canada and Guatemala City, Guatemala: Angelica Choc and her lawyers announced today a lawsuit against Canadian mining company HudBay Minerals Inc. relating to the killing of her husband, Adolfo Ich Chamán. On September 27, 2009, Adolfo Ich, a respected Mayan Q'eqchi' community leader and an outspoken critic of harms and rights violations caused by mining activities in his community, was hacked and shot to death by security forces employed at HudBay Minerals' Fenix Mining Project in an unprovoked attack near the town of El Estor, Guatemala.

Adolfo's widow has brought a lawsuit in Ontario courts to seek accountability for his death. The lawsuit claims \$2 million in general damages and \$10 million in punitive damages and is brought against Canadian companies HudBay Minerals Inc. and HMI Nickel Inc., as well as their Guatemalan subsidiary, Compañía Guatemalteca de Níquel ("CGN").

Adolfo's murder was brutal. Mining security forces recognized Adolfo as a community leader, surrounded him, beat him and hacked at him with machetes before shooting him in the head at close range.

"I believe my husband was killed because he spoke out about the rights violations caused by Canadian mining in Guatemala," said Adolfo Ich's widow, Angelica Choc. "I believe he was killed because he was encouraging communities to stay united against the harmful practices of the mining company."

Angelica Choc has brought the lawsuit in Canada because of the strong connections between the mining project and Canada.

"The bullet that killed Adolfo was shot in Guatemala, but the decisions that ultimately led to Adolfo's death were made in Canada," said Murray Klippenstein, lawyer for Angelica Choc. "HudBay Minerals' head office is a mere five blocks away from the Canadian court where the case will be heard."

Because Guatemala suffers from very high rates of impunity, there is little chance that Angelica Choc could get justice in Guatemala. In 2005, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Execution stated that "Guatemala is a good place to commit a murder, because you will almost certainly get away with it." In 2009, the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala reported that "the impunity rate in Guatemala amounted to some 98 per cent, with only 2 out of every 100 cases actually going to court."

The claim represents assertions that have not yet been proven in court. All defendants will have the opportunity to respond in these proceedings.

For more information, see www.chocversushudbay.com

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