

Copper Country Guatemala Accompaniment project

CCGAP Newsletter

October 2006 Number 31

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CCGAP hosts Annual GAP Gathering *GAP activists across the nation delighted with the Copper Country*

On August 23rd this summer, the first of the GAP (Guatemala Accompaniment Project) activists began to trickle into the Copper Country, a trickle that by the evening of the 24th, had turned into... well, not a flood, exactly, but at least a good-sized stream. At various times in our four-day gathering, there were up to 35 attendees, including several of our faithful CCGAP supporters and board members.

GAP gatherers also included representatives from other sponsoring communities like our own CCGAP, former accompaniers (including our own Hale Sargent and Laura MacDonald), and GAP and NISGUA staff from both Washington DC and Guatemala.



The walls of the big tent were festooned with plans as attention was given to Bridget Brehan, GAP staffer



At our tent meetings we were brought up-to-date on the political, social, economic and environmental currents in Guatemala; we shared with other sponsoring communities the chal-

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Massacre Survivor to Visit Copper Country

Edwin Caril Vicente speaks about genocide cases

Edwin Canil Vicente of the **Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR)** will discuss Guatemala's genocide cases based on both his personal experience of war and his formal legal training.

A K'iche' Maya, he is the sole survivor of the 1982 massacre in his community of Santa María Tzejá, Ixcán, Quiché. As a six-year-old, he managed to hide among the trees as the army killed his mother, grandmother, three sisters, a brother, and cousins. He fled with his remaining relatives to Mexico where they lived in refugee camps for 12 years. Back in Guatemala, Edwin finished high school at the Santiago Indigenus



Institute and is in the final stages of completing a law degree at the University of San Carlos. He co-founded a regional students' association that engages in political activism and community service.

The Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR) is an association of witnesses from 22 communities that launched legal cases in national courts charging the former Guatemalan Military High Commands with genocide and crimes against humanity. The AJR is legally represented by the Center for Human Rights

Legal Action (CALDH). The AJR is also a co-plaintiff in a legal case in Spain against former Guatemalan military officials, which recently re-

sulted in an international arrest warrant against three former Guatemalan presidents and other government officials. Three officials named in the warrant – former President Ríos Montt, Minister of Defense Guevara Rodríguez, and Director of the National Police Chupina Barahona – were trained at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Edwin will speak about the exciting developments in the case in Spain as well as the AJR's latest actions to propel the domestic case forward.

CCGAP and Finlandia University will sponsor Edwin's presentation to the public at the Finnish-American Heritage Center on November 7th, 7:30 PM. There is no fee and all are welcome.

Related information: Domestic genocide cases: http://www.nisgua.org/news_analysis/index.asp?cid=1030
Spanish genocide case: http://www.nisgua.org/news_analysis/index.asp?cid=1120 CALDH: <http://www.caldh.org/>
Santa María Tzejá video (with Edwin's story in chapter 3): <http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/fellows/guatemala/>

CCGAP's accompaniers reflect on their roles

Dylan Ramshaw

Dylan finished his tour of service as a representative of CCGAP in August. His experience convinced him that he wanted to continue the work of accompaniment and this month he went back to Guatemala to serve as an organizational accompanier in the capital city. Here is an excerpt from one of his letters:

My first day in community was the commemoration of a massacre in the 80s. There was live music, speeches, and a re-enactment of the massacre by the youth of the community. For me, the most powerful event of the day was the candle light vigil at the monument constructed in memory of the fallen. Survivors and family members of the victims retold their memories of the day when the army entered their town on market day and fired indiscriminately at community members. Other survivors recalled their hardships as refugees, where they often lived with little food and water, and in fear of being forcibly returned to Guatemala before the conflict could be resolved.

Over the past few months I have heard accounts of personal tragedy and resilience from witnesses as their communities struggle to regain lost lands and homes after more than two decades since the harshest years of repression and now ten years since the Peace Accords were signed. However, the most moving discussions are those concerning the survivors' determination to bring to justice those responsible for these crimes.

Thanks to all, from Dylan

Lindsey Engelman

We first met Lindsey in Guatemala this past spring where she was accompanying in the same town as Dylan. Shortly after that, we learned that Lindsey had to leave suddenly due to a death in her family back home in Texas. Now, she has decided to return to Guatemala, again as an accompanier in the same community where she started, replacing Dylan.



Lindsey taking notes at the GAP gathering

One of the issues I find of most concern is the imbalance of power between nations and how it is used. More specifically, I am concerned with the manner in which the U.S. uses its power on other nations without taking into consideration how its actions, whether financial or military, affect the people living within such nations. Presently, major examples of this are wars thought to defend our nation (i.e. Iraq and the War on Drugs) and unfair trade agreements such as NAFTA and CAFTA.

I am concerned because it requires people who are not directly affected by U.S. policies to act to change those policies. For instance, no matter how many people in Latin American countries protest the eradication of the coca plant, it will take many people within the U.S. advocating for changes in the War on Drugs to prevent the U.S. government from pressuring Latin American countries into maintaining military actions to eradicate coca production.

Accordingly, as a citizen of such a powerful country, I believe it is my moral obligation to educate myself about the effects the U.S. has on other nations and peoples and advocate for different policy.



Kim plays with children in Guatemala

Kim Kern

Kim is also from Texas, and has traveled in Mexico and Guatemala, where she was studying Spanish when Hurricane Stan had its devastating effects there. In its aftermath, she helped to deliver food to villages isolated by landslides.

Kim will be starting her accompaniment term next March, taking Lindsey's place. She writes:

What concerns me the most are basic human rights; the right to clean water, land, food, shelter, education, health care and autonomy. Every day dams are being built, land is being stolen, food is being genetically modified and education is being down-sized all in the name of profit. I was always taught as a child that equality and cooperation were important virtues, but living and working in the "real world" has taught me that power overrules equality.

Through my travels in the United States and abroad, I have witnessed the drastic differences in quality of life from community to community. This is why I make a conscious effort to support fair-trade products, locally grown food, public education and learn about natural building techniques. I also oppose such institutions as the IMF and the WTO which make decisions on the global scale that hurt people on the local scale. I fight against legislation like CAFTA that will open up borders to privatization and large-scale dumping of subsidized food.

All of these political/social/moral issues are intertwined but at the core are basic human rights. These are important to me because I believe that people, families and community are more important than money.

Seeking Justice Abroad

Spanish Courts Issue Arrest Warrants for the Butchers of Guatemala

By Catherine Norris

While the abuses at Guantanamo Bay and other setbacks for human rights are often in today's headlines, one of the most important international victories for the respect of human rights in recent years is going largely unreported. **On July 7, a Spanish judge issued arrest warrants for eight former Guatemalan military leaders, including three ex-presidents, who are responsible for some of the worst crimes against humanity committed in the hemisphere in the last century.** Controlling the government at the height of Guatemala's 36 year-long internal armed conflict, these men orchestrated a scorched earth campaign that included the torture, murder and forced disappearances of over 200,000 people. More than two decades later, they are finally facing charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Remarkably, the arrest warrants are not the culmination of some Spanish official's judicial activism, but rather stem from the perseverance of Guatemalan survivors of genocide fighting for justice. In 1999, under the leadership of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberta Menchú, a group of plaintiffs filed the case in the Spanish legal system. Survivors have also continued to pursue similar cases in the domestic legal system and the Inter-American system in hopes of finding that justice delayed does not have to mean justice denied.

In a significant move towards strengthening the application of international human rights law, Spanish National Court judge Santiago Pedraz heeded both Guatemalan and Spanish calls

for justice by issuing international warrants for the arrest of former military rulers Efraín Ríos Montt and Oscar Humberto Mejía Victores, in addition to six others.

Three of the warrants were for men who were educated at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning Georgia.

Pedraz also ordered that the defendants' assets be frozen both in Spain and internationally, lodging the warrants with Interpol to alert countries across the world.

The Spanish-issued warrants are a major setback to Guatemala's efforts to reform its international image. The current administration of President Óscar Berger, a former businessman and wealthy landowner, has pleased Western countries by deregulating the economy and liberalizing trade, at the same time promoting an international image that his government is concerned with human rights issues. But while the Berger administration strongly enforces its economic agenda, most noticeably by enacting the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), it has only paid lip service to respecting human rights, maintaining impunity for past and current abuses by the country's security forces and allied criminal groups. The Berger administration has prioritized the wealth of few over the well-being of many, increased land



In late-breaking news: Last week, a coalition of indigenous survivors of the Guatemalan military's counterinsurgency campaign filed demands of accusation against former President Efraín Ríos Montt as part of a genocide case in the national justice system. The government has allowed the legal case to languish in the investigative stage for the last six years, but the recent filing formally urges the District Attorney to initiate the next stage of the legal process. The photo above is at the press conference on October 5th. The poster hanging above the group is of Ríos Montt and says: WANTED: for GENOCIDE.

evictions against poor farmers, allowed an increase in threats and attacks against human rights defenders, and failed to seriously address an alarming rise in murders of women and girls.

Guatemala has sought to compensate for its domestic human rights shortcomings by bolstering its image in international forums. As of May, Guatemala holds one of the 47 seats on the United Nations' new Human Rights Council, the highest international human rights body. Guatemala has also recently sent peacekeepers to Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, claiming that "10 years after the signing of the Peace Accords, we're exporting peace!" Ironic for a country that reported 5,338 cases of homicide in 2005 (a 60% increase from 2001) to serve as a model of peace and justice for others. After a May visit to Guatemala,

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Fronterizo's Neighbor Invaded by Military Forces

Drug Raids or Social Repression?

By Olimpia Boido and NISGUA staff

incident attested that the maneuver was for training purposes.

Two surprise military incursions occurred in the Ixcán recently. The affected communities relived the fear and horror experienced during the war, as soldiers with guns dropped out of helicopters and intimidated the inhabitants.

The remote region of the Ixcán was hard-hit during the civil war and is currently slated for several large-scale, corporate-driven projects including hydroelectric dams, oil drilling, and highway construction. The majority of the Ixcán's inhabitants are small-scale farmers of several Maya ethnicities.

The Military Incursion and Its Impact on the Local Population

On August 21, seven army helicopters landed in the community of Ixtahuacán Chiquito (across the river from Fronterizo) while three airplanes circulated the area. Soldiers jumped from the moving helicopters, heavily armed and with their faces painted. They surrounded the local school, forcing students to stay inside. They also blocked the various entrances to the community, impeding the return of farmers to their homes. One man on his way home was tied up and forced to lie on the ground. The soldiers threatened women with their weapons and entered into approximately a dozen homes where they took farming tools. They then proceeded to a sacred mound in the center of the community and began four small excavations. Upon receiving a radio transmission, the soldiers abruptly ended the excavation and left the area by helicopter. The intervention lasted about four hours.

Some residents of Ixtahuacán Chiquito and nearby communities fled temporarily into hiding. Between 20 and 30 families from neighboring Fronterizo 10 de mayo left for Mexico and returned the next day.

Actions and Accompaniment

The communities lodged two sepa-

rate formal complaints about the incidents to the Public Prosecutor's Office, and a regional commission is investigating further legal actions. Community leaders from Ixtahuacán Chiquito and Ventana del Cielo (the other Ixcán community that was invaded) were in the capital last week to demand an official explanation and raise awareness of the incidents.

At the community's request NISGUA, within the Coordination of Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG), are providing human rights companions to Ixtahuacán Chiquito. The accompaniment is constant for the time being, and its duration will be determined as events unfold.

DEA Involvement

The Ixcán operations took place within the context of a strong U.S./ Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) presence in anti-drug work, including the "Maya Jaguar Plan" that provides support to the Guatemalan military. Both the U.S. and the Guatemalan governments acknowledge collaboration between the DEA and the Guatemalan military. There is concern in both the Guatemalan Congress and the human rights community about the lack of information regarding the whereabouts, timing, and extent of the DEA's participation.

In Search of an Explanation

Government officials from the National Police, the Presidency, the Minister of Defense, and the Interior Minister have provided varying explanations for the intervention in Ixtahuacán Chiquito. Some stated that the soldiers were looking for notorious drug traffic leader Otto Herrera. Others indicated that they were seeking a hidden cache of firearms that had been left by the guerrillas and that was being used in narco-trafficking. At least one agent involved in the Ixtahuacán Chiquito

These contradictory explanations raise questions and hypotheses about the incident's true motives. Luis Solano, in an article published by Infopress, proposes that pressure from the U.S. to intensify the fight against drugs could have pushed the Guatemalan government to undertake a poorly-planned endeavor with the expectation of obtaining quick results that would place Guatemala in the good graces of the United States' drug control bodies. The U.S. ambassador recently stated that the fight against drug trafficking in Guatemala was not bearing the expected results, as only 81 kilos of an expected 900 kg of drugs have been seized in 2006.

Social Repression?

Meanwhile, the National Front for the Struggle in Defense of Public Services and Natural Resources has connected the intervention with the Xalalá dam project. The project, currently in the planning stages, would displace communities and damage the ecosystem, and has already generated substantial opposition. The recent incursions in the Ixcán, contends the Front, seek to intimidate the communities and inhibit organizing against the dam and other mega-projects.

In a similar vein, Arnoldo Villagrán, from Incidencia Democrática, posits that the government is attempting to legitimize the repression of various sectors of the society through the use of psychological tools in which guerrillas, drug-traffickers, and other 'enemies of the people' become an all-encompassing and omnipresent rival. Since this threat could take any shape, it justifies military interventions anywhere. In this scenario, the Ixcán operations were aimed at creating a public display of military prowess. In so doing, asserts Villagrán, the State seeks to intimidate a population that increasingly demands answers from an increasingly unpopular government.

Seeking Justice

Continued from page 3

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour was blunt in expressing dismay "that not only reforms are progressing slowly, but that more and more people are becoming increasingly frustrated with the State's inability to deliver the promised security, equality and justice."

Despite this recent censure from the U.N., Guatemala is now also vying for a seat on the Security Council. Guatemala's bid for the rotating two-year seat comes mainly from the Bush administration, which has launched a diplomatic offensive to ensure that Guatemala - and not the first declared candidate, Venezuela - takes over the seat. The U.S. is conveniently overlooking the myriad problems and challenges that the Guatemalan government has failed to address, claiming Guatemala is a "viable candidate" solely to thwart Venezuela's bid.

CALDH (the Center for Legal Action on Human Rights) began pursuing genocide cases against Ríos Montt and others in the domestic legal system, but the genocide cases continue to languish in the preliminary investigative phase six

years after their filing. With these cases stalled, Spain's Constitutional Court ruled last September that "the principle of universal jurisdiction takes precedence over the existence or not of national interests," allowing the case to proceed in Spain. Initially, Guatemalan courts agreed to cooperate with a visit of a Spanish Investigative Commission lead by Judge Pedraz and several prosecutors. However, when the Commission arrived on June 24, 2006, it was stopped by the Guatemalan courts. Based on appeals filed by Ríos Montt and other accused officials, the Guatemalan Constitutional Court prevented Pedraz from collecting any testimony during his visit.

Shortly after returning to Spain, Judge Pedraz issued arrest warrants for all eight of the accused (including the former President Lucas García who had died just weeks earlier). In the order, Judge Pedraz made special note of "the obstructionist attitude of the defendants," while the Spanish prosecutor commented on "a clear, constant and voluntary lack of cooperation with the Spanish judicial authority in investigating these crimes." The very public failure of the Guatemalan judiciary to comply with the requests of the Spanish commission underscores the pervasive impunity gripping Guatemala, as well

as the lack of political will to come to terms with crimes of the past, and thus the need to try the genocide case internationally.

The Berger administration now has two options to finally back up its rhetoric with action. First, Berger could make the domestic cases against the former dictators and their military high commands a true priority by ensuring that the investigative phase draws to a close and the cases go to trial. Or alternately, the administration can acknowledge the shortcomings of Guatemala's legal system and extradite the accused to Spain for trial. In either scenario, the government has a responsibility to ensure the security of the witnesses and human rights defenders involved in the case, many of whom are subject to threats and intimidation.

Rather than lobbying for Guatemala's entrance to the Security Council, **the U.S. has the opportunity to better serve the people of Guatemala, as well as the ideals of democracy and justice it purports to hold so dear, by complying with Judge Pedraz's arrest and asset freezing orders for those accused of genocide.** If any of the accused enters the U.S., arrests must be made, and if the defendants hold financial assets

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GAP gathering *continued from page 1*

enges of fundraising; we deliberated over decisions related to the future of our roles as accompaniers in Guatemala; and we fulfilled our goal of arriving at a consensus with every decision.

We also had fun! On Friday evening a talent show kept us applauding, singing and laughing especially when we were surprised by an

all-too-brief visit from GANDER GUY! We made time

to hike the Churning Rapids Trails, were nourished with the tasty food supplied by Bill Caputi and the Keweenaw Coop, enjoyed Saturday evening at McLain State Park with an Argentinean barbecue prepared by Gustavo Bourdieu.

Many thanks go to Jennifer Slack, Linda Rulison, Beth Flynn, Sarah Green and Floyd Henderson, Rich Featherly and Suzanne VanDam for their help with housing, tents and bedding, snacks and transportation. Special thanks to Terry Kinzel (Gander Guy! see photo) for his generosity and humor and for keeping things going smoothly throughout the gathering.



Meetings and talent show took place under the big top.



Update from Fronterizo/Nueva Libertad

It has been difficult to get any news from Fronterizo and Nueva Libertad since the incident that happened across the river in Ixtahuacan Chiquito, (see article page 4). What contact we have had informs us that the families that fled in fear into the jungle or across the border into Mexico came back within a day or two, and now life continues as before.

Just to remind everyone of what happened last year: between 20 and 30 families have broken away from Fronterizo to form their own community which they have named Nueva Libertad. CCGAP has committed to treating the two parties impartially, which means that we need to take medicine to both groups next time that we go to visit, and to make sure that we divide our attentions equally when we are there.

The primary and *basico* (middle school) classes continue to serve children from both communities as the teachers have also tried to remain neutral in their loyalties. CCGAP supports the *basico* by donating about half of the expenses for the fourteen students,



amounting to around \$1800 per year for three years.

The building material that CCGAP had donated for the construction of a new school building was equally divided between the two communities and the people of Nueva Libertad bought a cement block mold with which they have constructed a two room building which serves as clinic and meeting room.



Don Dimitrio, the mayor of Nueva Libertad, demonstrates the use of the block-maker.

The MTU chapter of Engineers Without Borders is sending a group of graduate students and instructor to Fronterizo/Nueva Libertad in November to do some community assessment in preparation for possible construction of wells for both communities.

We are looking forward to our next visit to the two communities and hope you might come with us. (see **delegation** page 7)

Friends of CCGAP

We offer great thanks to the following people who have supported us financially over the past year. We are grateful also for the many people who bought raffle tickets last May

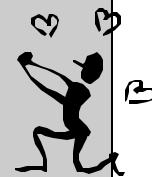
Alvord, Kate
 Anonymous *****
 Bach, David***
 Bacon, Marlys
 Baldrige, Andrea
 Bean, Nancy
 Bell, Barbara
 Belote, Linda
 Benda, Mike & Cathy
 Berg, Lois
 Bewick, Bill
 Bewick, Shirley
 Bilodeau, Michele in kind****
 Boersma, Norma
 Bowen, Stephen & Nancy*****
 Brown, Viola
 Casper, Jane & Sergej
 CC Reading Council*****
 Chouinard, Anne/Marcel Potvin

Chow, Roger
 Coggins, Mary
 Cooper, Johanna
 Derber, Ellen**
 Dereske, Mary Lee
 Driller, Mel
 Fiala, Frank & Emily
 First United Methodists*****
 Flanders, Zvi*
 Flessland, Mark* in kind
 Flynn, Beth
 Foley, Jo*
 Frair, Audrey & Paul
 Fredendall, Phyllis
 Fredrickson, Ted
 Gale, Alice
 Gappy, Greta
 Green, Sarah &
 Floyd Henderson in kind
 Grier, Rosemary & John Welch
 Hancock Rotary*****
 Herck, Nancy*
 Hindelang, Mary & Mark Silver
 Hinton, Sean
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 Janke, Robert
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 Kansa, Heikki *
 Kass, Carol & David

Kingsley, Leonard & Velma
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 Kingsley, Mitch & Ann
 Kingsley, Phillip & Judith
 Kirkish, Joe
 Klemp, Jan
 Korh, Rob & Nancy
 Kraft, Ken & Susie*
 Kurtz, Craig in kind
 Kurz, Norman
 Levinger, Laurie
 Love, George & Dorothy*
 MacDonald, Tina
 Manchester, Jackie*
 Mayer, Alex*
 Maynard, Bev
 McCarthy, Clara*
 Monson, Paula & Terry
 Morgan, Michelle & Phil
 Newhouse, Emily
 Nielsen, Ellen
 O'Malley, John
 Oppliger, Shawn & Doug*
 Passerello, Fran & Chris
 Peterson, Eric** in kind
 Peterson, Rolf & Candy*
 Pickens, James
 Ranck, Tammy
 Rhicard, Nelle
 Richter, Dana & Sharon Levine

Rose, Bill & Nanno
 Rulison, Linda*
 Sandoval, Ciro & Sandra*
 Sargent, John & Sara Jane
 Schmied, Father Tom
 Slack, Jennifer**
 Slavick, Allison
 Snyder, Karen & Tom
 Thornton, Beatrice
 Torgeson, Sharon & Wayne
 Van Pelt, Patricia
 VanDam, Suzanne in kind
 Vogler, Marilyn
 Vozel, Amy & Eagle Glassheim
 Waddell, Craig*
 Walsh, Kevin & Jean**
 Watkins, Dave
 Weber, Mark
 Wheeler, Barb
 Whitlow, Heather*
 Whitt, Laurie Anne
 Yoder, Chris*****
 Young, Chuck & Lois

* \$100 or more
 ** \$200 or more
 *** \$300 or more
 **** \$400 or more
 ***** \$500 !!! And more!



The Copper Country Guatemala Accompaniment Project (CCGAP) is a group of organizations and individuals who financially support companions to serve as human rights observers and a deterrent to the violence that threatens people in Guatemala who are struggling for justice and an end to impunity.

CCGAP also serves as a sister community for the Guatemalan village of Fronterizo 10 de Mayo/Nueva Libertad, a community established on the 10th of May 1995 by a group of refugees who returned to Guatemala after 12-15 years in refugee camps in Mexico. CCGAP is committed to maintaining a long-term relationship with Fronterizo and Nueva Libertad, strengthening ties between our communities and expressing our solidarity with them by developing individual relationships with annual visits and by giving financial support to small projects planned by the Guatemala community. We offer educational talks on Guatemala to groups here in the Copper Country along with the opportunity to become involved in this community-to-community relationship with the Mayan indigenous people of Guatemala.

The Guatemala Accompaniment Project (GAP) is a branch of the national organization, NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala). All donations to CCGAP are used to support companions in Guatemala and small community projects as requested by the members of Fronterizo. Funds are also used to disseminate information among people of the Copper Country community.

CCGAP Board members: Linda Rulison, president, Sarah Green, vice-president, Bev Maynard, treasurer, Terry Kinzel, secretary, Suzanne VanDam, Floyd Henderson, Stephen Pluhacek, Beth Flynn, Rich Featherly and Ellen Carpenter.

Make a contribution to CCGAP!

Here is my tax-deductible contribution to the Copper Country Guatemala Accompaniment Project, a 501(c)3 organization.

___\$15 ___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Checks can be made payable to **CCGAP**
53044 Hwy M203, Hancock, MI 49930
(906) 482-6827 sekingsley@pasty.com

Seeking Justice

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in the U.S., as many wealthy Central American officials tend to, the accounts should be frozen immediately.

Although much still needs to be done for justice to ultimately prevail before the Spanish and Guatemalan courts, human rights activists can already begin to celebrate at least a partial victory. The fact that international arrest warrants have been issued for individuals so long cloaked in impunity provides hope not only for Guatemalan survivors, but also for others clamoring for justice worldwide. After decades of being denied their day in court, survivors in Guatemala have been heard across the Atlantic, a testament to their persistence and ability to overcome enormous obstacles. The Berger administration and its allies now have the opportunity and obligation to put into practice their much touted commitments to human rights.

Catherine Norris works with the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) as the U.S. Coordinator for the Guatemala Accompaniment Project. This article was first published in Counterpunch Weekend Edition August 5 / 6, 2006, and can be read in its entirety at www.counterpunch.org/norris08052006.html

Help Plan Your Delegation to Guatemala

Have you been wishing that you could visit Guatemala? Would you consider participating in a small group with an experienced leader?

Here's your chance. Our delegations go for two weeks, with five days in immersion language school, several days visiting the Ixcán area and Fronterizo/Nueva Libertad, and the rest of the time traveling to places of interest. Last year we went to the ruins of Tikal combined with a visit to a cooperative of ex-combatants from the guerilla war.

You will have opportunities to meet people and see places that the average tourist will never see, and you will learn in depth about

the challenges faced by citizens of a "developing country", all this at a price less than what the average tourist would pay. You must be flexible in every sense of the word.



Kenny Svenson, participant in last year's delegation, is joined by friends in Fronterizo

We have two possible times for our next trip: early March? Or early May? Is there some

particular interest that you have in Guatemala that we could accommodate?

Please let me know if you are interested, even if neither of these times meet your needs. It is still early enough to find the best dates for everyone concerned. Call or write SE Kingsley 906 482 6827 or sekingsley@pasty.com to reserve a spot with our group.



**COPPER COUNTRY GUATEMALA
ACCOMPANIMENT PROJECT**

*A Link between Guatemala and the
Copper Country*

CCGAP

Sue Ellen Kingsley
53044 Hwy M-203
Hancock, MI 49930

Phone: 906-482-6827
Email: sekingsley@pasty.com

October 2006
Number 31

Take a Chance for Peace!

*Enter to Win a Trip for Two to Guatemala while
Supporting NISGUA with your \$25 donation*

*The Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala
(NISGUA) Working for Justice in Guatemala*

GRAND PRIZE: Round trip ticket for 2 people to Guatemala plus one week of language classes at La Minerva Intensive Spanish school in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala (www.xelapage.s.com/Minerva) **Estimated value: \$1500**

FIRST PRIZE: Lithograph of Tikal by Gregory Halvorsen Schreck, Estimated value: \$300

SECOND PRIZE: Guatemalan Tapestry, Estimated value: \$75

THIRD PRIZE: Guatemalan wall hanging, Estimated value: \$50

NISGUA will provide six runner-up prizes.

Only the first 500 tickets received will be entered.

1 in 500 chance of winning with each ticket!

All entries must be received by November 18th, 2006

Tickets are available by calling SE Kingsley at
906 482 6827 or sekingsley@pasty.com

Or by visiting the NISGUA web page: www.nisgua.org



2007 Arte Maya Calendars

Support the struggle for social justice in Guatemala with a purchase of the 2007 Arte Maya Calendars with colorful works of contemporary Maya artists from the region of Lake Atitlan. These calendars contain all-new paintings in vibrant colors and unique designs and are union-printed in both English and Spanish, with U.S. and Guatemalan holidays. The calendar also includes the Maya day and month glyphs for each day of the year. They make useful and beautiful holiday gifts and the best part is that when you purchase an Arte

Maya Calendar, you're directly supporting Guatemalan artists!
Calendars can be purchased for \$15.00 apiece from SE Kingsley, sekingsley@pasty.com. Or you can order calendars directly from: NISGUA, 1830 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009 (202) 518 7638 www.nisgua.org