

A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE 2014

GUATEMALA NO GOING BACK!



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IMPUNITY, RESISTANCE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
Lively discussion, debate, workshops, inspiration and action on the new challenges facing Guatemala's social movement.

Saturday 31 May 2014
0900-1600 plus networking social 1600-1830
Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre
25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

2013 was a historically momentous year for Guatemala. A genocide case was brought against a former president, environmental and land justice activists endured murder, kidnapping and violence, whilst femicide, violence against women and abuse of trade union rights were rife.

This event is for Latin American activists, Latin American studies students, trade unionists, UK social movement activists and those involved or interested in human rights, the women's movement and green issues.

Organisers:
Guatemala
Solidarity
Network(GSN),
Amnesty
International UK, Central
America Women's Network
(CAWN), Trades Union
Congress (TUC), Banana Link,
Latin American Mining Monitoring
Project (LAMMP) and Peace Brigades
International (PBI)
Sponsor: The International Transport
Workers Federation (ITF)

Keynote speakers

- Yolanda Oqueili, leader of the Frente Norte del Area Metropolitana (FREENAM)
- Jean-Marie Simon, eyewitness to Guatemala's genocidal civil war and author of the ground breaking book of photojournalism, 'Guatemala: Eternal Spring, Eternal Tyranny'
- Alex Praca from the International Trade Union Confederation
- June Holmes, Amnesty International Central America Team

Workshops

- Working with Guatemalan human rights defenders
- Strengthening links of international solidarity between the trade union movements of the UK and Guatemala
- The role of women in positions of leadership within the struggles for environmental and land justice
- Guatemalan women: the legacy of genocide and violence
- A beginner's guide to Guatemala

Closing plenary

- Next steps - a session focused on practical action and collaboration

For further information

email: info.koh@talktalk.net

advance registration (advisable):

<http://guatemalaconference2014.eventbrite.co.uk>

updates (blog): <http://guatemalaconference2014.wordpress.com>

twitter: <https://twitter.com/GuateConf2014>

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Guatemala: No Going Back! conference. This conference has been organised by a diverse range of organisations and individuals all with a history of support and solidarity with Guatemala's resilient social movements.

The historic genocide trials of 2013 brought the attention of the world to the experiences of Guatemala's indigenous communities during their civil war. Rural communities fighting land and environmental struggles, trade unionists organising their members in what is being described as 'the most dangerous country in the world to be a trade unionist', and women human rights defenders all endure a climate of violence and murder. The thread that runs through all these issues is their struggle against impunity.

Guatemalan speakers will bring you up to date on the struggle for land, environment issues and the role women in these social movements.

A former photojournalist will recall her experience documenting Guatemala's civil war and give an update on the current state of the genocide trials.

International trade union and human rights defenders will give a global context to these clashes and explore how we in the UK can develop effective long - term support for their campaigns.

The workshops will provide a space for discussion, debate and deeper understanding of specific issues you may be interested in.

The goal of our event is not only to understand the struggles for human rights in Guatemala, but to gain the capacity and confidence to offer effective solidarity. The day will be activism and solution oriented.

During the conference there will be a solidarity photo action (optional) to send a visual message of support to the communities whose struggles we will be highlighting.

We hope that you have a great conference experience, which we hope will leave you inspired become involved in future activities and campaigns around Guatemalan social issues.

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0830 – 0930	REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS 60 mins.
0900 – 0930	BEGINNERS GUIDE TO GUATEMALA OPTIONAL INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP 30 mins
0930 – 1010	WELCOME AND OPENING PLENARY ‘A’ 40 mins Shane Enright (Chair) June Holmes AIIS Jean-Marie Simon Yolanda Oqueili
1010 – 1020	BREAK 10 mins
1020 - 1110	OPENING PLENARY ‘B’ 50 mins Maya Alvarado Alex Praça José Cabrera
1110 – 1140	QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH PANEL 30 mins
1140 – 1240	WORKSHOPS 1st Session 60 mins GSN/PBI: Working with human rights defenders TUC/BANANA LINK: Trade union rights/solidarity CAWN: Guatemalan women: legacy of genocide LAMMP: Role of women in environmental struggles
1240 – 1340	LUNCH 60 mins
1255– 1325	BEGINNERS GUIDE TO GUATEMALA OPTIONAL INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP #2 30 mins
1340 – 1440	WORKSHOPS 2nd Session 60 mins (Same workshops – 2 nd choice)
1440 – 1500	TEA BREAK 20 mins

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CONFERENCE DAY DRAFT SCHEDULE - continued

- 1500 – 1520 **PLENARY WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS** 20 mins.
Georgia Booth (Chair)
Shane Enright
- 1520 – 1550 **CONFERENCE SOLIDARITY ACTION** 30 mins
(TBC – e.g. photo action with banner / petition)
- 1550 – 1615 **CLOSING PLENARY** 25 mins
Georgia Booth (Chair)
ACTION POINTS, NEXT STEPS
Shane Enright
- 1615 – 1830 **INFORMAL SOCIAL**
Attendees, speakers, organisers for post-conference networking
and wind down.
Old Blue Last public house (50 Metres from AIUK). 180 mins
Wheelchair access ground floor only

GUATEMALA: NO GOING BACK!**SPEAKERS**

YOLANDA OQEILI is a Guatemalan human rights defender and has been paramount in the establishment and continued running of the peaceful protest camp 'La Puya'. Yolanda has faced death threats, acts of intimidation and is currently facing criminal charges for her continued role in defence of the environment and human rights. In 2012 whilst returning from 'La Puya' Yolanda survived an assassination attempt, one bullet remains lodged above her liver. In 2013, she received the Human Rights 'Quetzal' Award.
<http://nisgua.blogspot.co.uk/2014/04/urgent-action-from-la-puya-call-for-end.html>

MAYA ALVARADO will be representing the *Covergencia de Derechos Humanos*, the coalition of Guatemalan Human Rights Groups. Maya is currently Executive Director of UNAMG, the National Union of Guatemalan Women. She has been a feminist and human rights activist since 1998. As an activist, along with the women's movement, she has supported legislation that ensures the human, political and legal rights of women. She is also a columnist and member of the editorial board of the feminist newspaper *La Cuerda* (The Rope). Within UNAMG and prior to this engagement, she has been focused on women's historical memory, and efforts towards access to justice for those who experienced human rights violations, especially sexual violence suffered during the civil conflict in Guatemala.

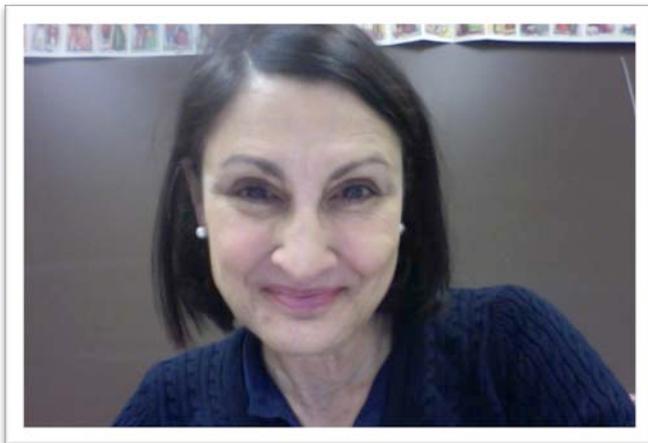
www.unamg.org

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JOSÉ PAULINO MARTINÉZ CABRERA is the Secretary General of SITRAGUA, the Trade Union of the Workers of the Municipal Water Company of Guatemala. He serves as the national coordinator of public sector unions affiliated to Public Services International in Guatemala. In his position as secretary of CONTAGUAS, PSI's Latin-American Confederation of water, sanitation and environment workers, he is responsible for collective bargaining and freedom of association.

Short documentary on trade union rights violations in Guatemala :
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9j01lI6ifg&feature=youtu.be>

PSI's work in Guatemala:
<http://www.world-psi.org/en/issue/solidarity-guatemala>



JEAN-MARIE SIMON is a former consultant at Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. Her photographs have appeared in Time, Geo, and many other publications. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and Harvard Law School. In 2010 Simon won an Open Society Institute Audience Grant to partner with the Guatemalan Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado de Guatemala and Estudio A2 to create a newspaper supplement and a multi-lingual DVD based on her book Guatemala: Eternal Spring, Eternal Tyranny, which documents the height of Guatemala's civil war in the 1980s.

primavera-tirania.com

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ALEX PRAÇA is a Human and Trade Union Rights advisor for Latin America at the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) where he oversees the campaign Guatemala Decent Work, Decent Life. Previously, he supervised the Communications department at the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas.

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is the global voice of the world's working people. It represents 176 million workers in 161 countries and territories and has 325 national affiliates.

contact: info@ituc-csi.org

www.ituc-csi.org

JUNE HOLMES has worked as a campaigner with the Central America Team at Amnesty International for seven years. June has worked with Sections across the movement on the issue of the criminalization of all forms of abortion in Nicaragua, and on the high levels of sexual violence against girls in Nicaragua. She has interviewed young survivors and worked with them to present their cases and their demands to government in an empowering way, She is currently working on an Amnesty project challenging the total abortion ban and high levels of gender-based violence in El Salvador, and has recently returned from a research mission there.

contact: june.holmes@amnesty.org

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SHANE ENRIGHT is Amnesty International's global trade union adviser and a life-long union activist. Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of three million supporters who campaign for all our human rights wherever justice and freedom are denied. Amnesty's campaigning on Guatemala has focused on the challenge of impunity and on protection for human rights defenders.

contact: shane.enright@amnesty.org.uk



ENRICO TORTOLANO who will be leading the 'Beginners guide to Guatemala' workshop, has reported extensively on political, industrial and economic developments in Latin America for the last fifteen years. Between 2005 and 2007 he based himself in Guatemala whilst reporting on presidential campaigns and elections in Central America. Enrico comes from a research background and has been published widely in both academic journals and political magazines including Tribune. He is also a trade unionist, educationalist and activist designing and tutoring political education courses. He is also working his way through a doctorate in the field of work and political economy.

contact: enricoct@hotmail.com

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ORGANISING COMMITTEE GROUPS

GUATEMALA SOLIDARITY NETWORK (GSN) supports the people of Guatemala who continue to struggle for change after centuries of oppression, violence, racism and exploitation. We work in solidarity with Guatemalan organisations and communities striving for human rights, social and economic justice and the empowerment and participation of indigenous peoples and all marginalised groups. GSN is a network of individuals based in the UK who work in a voluntary capacity to promote solidarity with particular organisations and communities in Guatemala. As part of a network of International solidarity organisations, GSN supports volunteers who accompany individuals, organisations and communities at risk in Guatemala.
contact: info@guatemalасolidarity.org.uk
<http://guatemalасolidarity.org.uk>

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK (AIUK) is one of 70 national Amnesty sections which bring together over 3 million supporters worldwide to promote human rights change. AIUK has an especially strong tradition of collaboration with trade unions. Our current priorities on Guatemala include challenging impunity and supporting human rights defenders. In the UK this work is facilitated by our country coordinator, Georgia Booth who acts as the contact point between the International Secretariat, AIUK and the local and student groups who campaign nation-wide on these issues.
contact: georgia.booth@amnesty.org.uk
www.amnesty.org.uk

TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC) The TUC is the voice of Britain at work. With 54 affiliated unions representing 6.2 million working people from all walks of life, we campaign for a fair deal at work and for social justice at home and abroad. Guatemala is one of the key countries where the TUC and its affiliated unions engage in active solidarity.
contact: SRussell@TUC.ORG.UK
contact: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/>

BANANA LINK is a not-for-profit co-operative working for a fair and sustainable banana and pineapple trade. We campaign to improve the poor living and working conditions faced by plantation workers and small producers in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America, including direct solidarity with our Guatemalan trade union partner SITRABI.
contact: solidarity@bananalink.org.uk
<http://www.bananalink.org.uk/>
<http://www.makefruitfair.org.uk/>

CENTRAL AMERICA WOMENS' NETWORK (CAWN) contributes to uphold the political, social, cultural and economic rights of Central American women. It works to raise awareness, strengthen advocacy and campaigning efforts, and promote solidarity links with women groups and organisations. Fundamental for CAWN's work is the promotion of gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
contact: campaigns@cawn.org
www.cawn.org

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LATIN AMERICAN MINING MONITORING PROJECT (LAMMP) Our mission is to inspire women and girls affected by mining developments to take action and unleash their potential to transform themselves into actors that lead social change. Our priorities are to raise awareness of safety and protection issues faced by rural and indigenous women defenders of environmental rights; to document human rights violations against them and to help activists living in remote and isolated geographical areas to overcome isolation through a regional network known as Union Latino-Americana de Mujeres (ULAM).

contact: info@lammp.org
www.lammp.org

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL (PBI) works to protect and promote the work of human rights defenders. We operate teams of international volunteers who provide protective accompaniment to individuals and communities at risk, and by advocating nationally and internationally for their security. We currently work in Mexico, Guatemala, Kenya, Colombia, and Honduras.

contact: www.peacebrigades.org.uk

WORKSHOPS

Working as Guatemalan human rights defenders. GSN/PBI

Facilitator: Rob Hawke, Advocacy Officer PBI UK
contact: : www.peacebrigades.org.uk

Strengthening the link of international solidarity between the trade union movements of the UK and Guatemala. TUC/BANANA LINK

Facilitator: Stephen Russell, Policy Officer European Union & International Relations Department, with support from Bert Schouwenburg of the GMB
contact: srussell@tuc.org.uk
<http://www.tuc.org.uk/>

The role of women in position of leadership in the anti-mining movement. (LAMMP)

Facilitator: Glevys Rondon with Yolanda Oqueili
contact: info@lammp.org

Guatemalan women: the legacy of genocide and violence. (CAWN)

Facilitators: Virginia López Calvo and Maisie Davies.
contact: campaigns@cawn.org

A Beginners guide to Guatemala

Facilitator: Enrico Tortolano
contact: enricoct@hotmail.com

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Plenary workshop highlights

Facilitator: Shane Enright, chair Georgia Booth

Closing plenary

Next Steps – a session focused on practical action and collaboration.

Facilitator: Shane Enright, chair Georgia Booth

Photography exhibition

'From Grief to Resistance'

Photographer: Kevin Hayes

<http://progressdigital.photoshelter.com>

GUATEMALA: NO GOING BACK!**THANKS****Conference organising committee**

Georgia Booth, Margarita Rebolledo, Shane Russell, Sam Gurney, Glevys Rondon, Anna Cooper, Jane Pelly, Kevin O'Dell, Enrico Tortolano, Shane Enright, and Kevin Hayes

Supporting organisations

Amnesty International (AI), Guatemala Solidarity Network (GSN) Central America Women's Network (CAWN), Banana Link, Latin America Mining Monitoring Project (LAMMP), Trades Union Congress (TUC), Peace Brigades International (PBI), Stephen Cotton General Secretary, and Stuart Howard Assistant General Secretary, International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Public Services International (PSI) and GMB.

Sponsor

The International Transport Workers' Federation is the global union bringing together 4.5 million affiliated transport workers from 150 countries. It's key functions are representation, information and practical solidarity.

www.itfglobal.org

For advice and guidance

Apolo Santana, Carrie Stengal, Bridget Brehan, NISGUA, ACOGUATE, Maureen Russell and Tim Hollins.

Special thanks

Amnesty International UK for kindly agreeing to host our event and Claire Pearce and Gianmaria Bandiera, the HRAC events and facilities team.

To the Association of Justice and Reconciliation (AJR) whose struggle to bring the genocide cases to court was the inspiration for bringing this conference together.

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SUPPORTERS AND SPONSOR LOGOS



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Venue

Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London
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