

LONG HAUL STRUGGLE

2024 Accomplishments in Review

The struggle for justice and life is long and painful, but also joyful and beautiful. Defending Guatemalan democracy took a 106-day national strike. Sending a war criminal to trial required years of organizing. The cost of defending land from transnational corporations is paid in blood. Solidarity with Palestine is forged in the fires of resistance to US-backed genocides. As you read NISGUA's 2024 accomplishments, we hope you are moved to continue to struggle with us for the long haul - and invite others to join!

Ixil Genocide Trial. April 2024. Photo by NISGUA.

Accomplishments in Numbers

NISGUA's organizing is based on strong relationships of trust with our partners, allies, and base of support. Our 2024 numbers reflect this reality.

- 700+ points of direct contact with our partners
- 50+ meetings with partners to strategize and plan actions and projects
- 50+ meetings with civil society organizations to exchange information and build collaborations
- 30+ physical visits to territories, at partner's invitations
- 18 translations of *communiqués* from our partners
- 8 political education events: webinars, workshops and teach-ins
- 8 meetings with allied accompaniment organizations

GUATEMALA ACCOMPANIMENT PROJECT: INTERNACIONALISTA

NISGUA continues its decades-long commitment to recruit, train, and assign international volunteers to accompany our local partners on the front lines of struggle. This year we have hosted 6 companions: 2 outgoing, 3 incoming, and 1 short-term former companioner.



Copal AA youth lead march to Chixoy river to emphasize urgency of addressing environmental crisis. June 2024. Photo by NISGUA.



Maya Ixil Accompaniment Project delegation hikes down after visiting a trial witness in the Ixil region. July 2024. Photo by Juan V.



Memory and Resistance delegation meets with AJR plaintiffs in Guatemala City. September 2024. Photo by NISGUA.



AJR leaders with former NISGUA accompanier and staff, who returned short-term to accompany the trial. May 2024. Photo by NISGUA.

IXIL GENOCIDE TRIAL

Former Guatemalan army general, Benedicto Lucas Garcia (1981-1982), faces charges of genocide, crimes against humanity, forced disappearances, and sexual violence against the Maya Ixil People. The plaintiff of the case is NISGUA's long-time partner: The Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR).

While we hope that truth and justice prevail in the courts, NISGUA celebrates the AJR's historic accomplishment of keeping historical memory alive, no matter the outcome. For decades, the AJR has organized hundreds of genocide survivors, and coordinated coalitions of local and international allies, to bring cases such as this one to trial. We honor the AJR's example of dignified, long-term struggle.

NISGUA **accompanied 90+ trial hearings** in solidarity with Maya Ixil genocide survivors who gave testimony to the atrocities that they lived through.

International news covered the trial thanks to NISGUA's internacionalistas, increasing attention and therefore transparency in the process.

NISGUA hosted a **webinar with AJR** to provide context for international audiences. Scan the QR code to watch the recording:



NISGUA organized **two international delegations** to accompany the AJR and continue building a strong, wide, intergenerational network of solidarity.

1. *Maya Ixil Accompaniment Project*: Co-organized with Chicago Religious Leadership Network, we hosted Guatemalan **youth from the migrant diaspora!**
2. *Memory and Resistance*: This delegation hosted NISGUA partners from the Xinka community, and **activists from the United States and Puerto Rico!**

A verdict is expected this November. Find updates by scanning the QR code or going to: nigua.org/nisguablog





Reflections from Patricia Gregorio de Arriaga, Xinka Parliament Authority

**“WE WERE BORN HERE, WE WILL DIE HERE,
AND NO ONE WILL DISPLACE US”**

For over 12 years, the Xinka people have maintained peaceful resistance against a Canadian mine that is destroying their territory. Now, they are in a community consultation process, which is the legal right of Indigenous People to decide with free, prior and informed consent, if extractive projects can be present in their territories. A Xinka authority shares her reflections:

“We are in the process of informing communities so we can carry out the consultation. Several of them have already been consulted, and 99% or 90% said they do not want the mining project in our territory. At the end of November we have to deliver all the information to the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) so that they can see the documents that were written in the communities and make a decision about the mining project. We have full confidence that the project will indeed leave our territory.

NISGUA has supported the resistance from the beginning. We are very grateful that they care about us, that this information can be disseminated in the USA. The mine sends its monthly report, telling about the nice things they do. But the truth is, we who live in our territory can attest that they have acted in a bad way - they have divided the communities, there have been deaths, people have been criminalized, organizers have been displaced, there has been migration.

We are fighting against this mining project of El Escobal, in San Rafael Las Flores, and we are going to continue until the end of our lives because we were born here, we will die here and no one will displace us from our territory. [We invite] all women [to] join this struggle, to not be afraid, [because] the struggle is ours, we are already empowered, we can make our own decisions. We continue in this struggle and we thank NISGUA, who has accompanied us to this day.”

SEEDS OF LIFE: GUATEMALA BEYOND ELECTIONS

January through March, NISGUA published this interview series with Indigenous leaders involved in the 106-day national strike for democracy.

“Together, the interviews in this series affirm that the indefinite national strike is the blooming of seeds planted by ancestors decades ago, as well as the confirmation that springtime is on the horizon. The coming spring can be facilitated by governments, but it exists beyond them, too.” - *Seeds of Life: Guatemala Beyond Elections*



Scan to read the full series

SOLIDARITY AGAINST GENOCIDE, FROM GUATEMALA TO PALESTINE

“[NISGUA] cannot with integrity accompany genocide survivors and land defenders in Guatemala, and remain silent as Palestinians are exterminated and their land stolen.” - NISGUA Solidarity Statement (October 7, 2024)

NISGUA has collaborated with the Palestinian solidarity movement to draw the connections, and build solidarity, between Palestine and Guatemala, through 3 teach-ins, 2 fundraisers, and 1 healing space.



NISGUA/SJP teach-in and fundraiser, *Imperial Genocides from Palestine to Guatemala*. May 2024. Photo by NISGUA.

ALIVE IN OUR MEMORY: The Past Guides and Inspires Us
MEMORIA VIVA: El pasado nos guía y nos inspira



2025 NISGUA CALENDAR



This year we celebrate historical memory and the struggle to keep it alive! Our stunning images feature marches, altars, and more.

Get yours today!
(And some holiday gifts, too!)

END OF YEAR FUNDRAISER

***Dignified Struggle:
Resisting Genocide and Defending
Democracy in Guatemala***

Thursday, December 12
5-7 pm PST / 8-10 pm ET.
Zoom (scan to register)



This year's fundraiser is an interactive event where you can chat with our partners, allies, and staff about their dignified struggle for democracy and against genocide!



REGISTER NOW