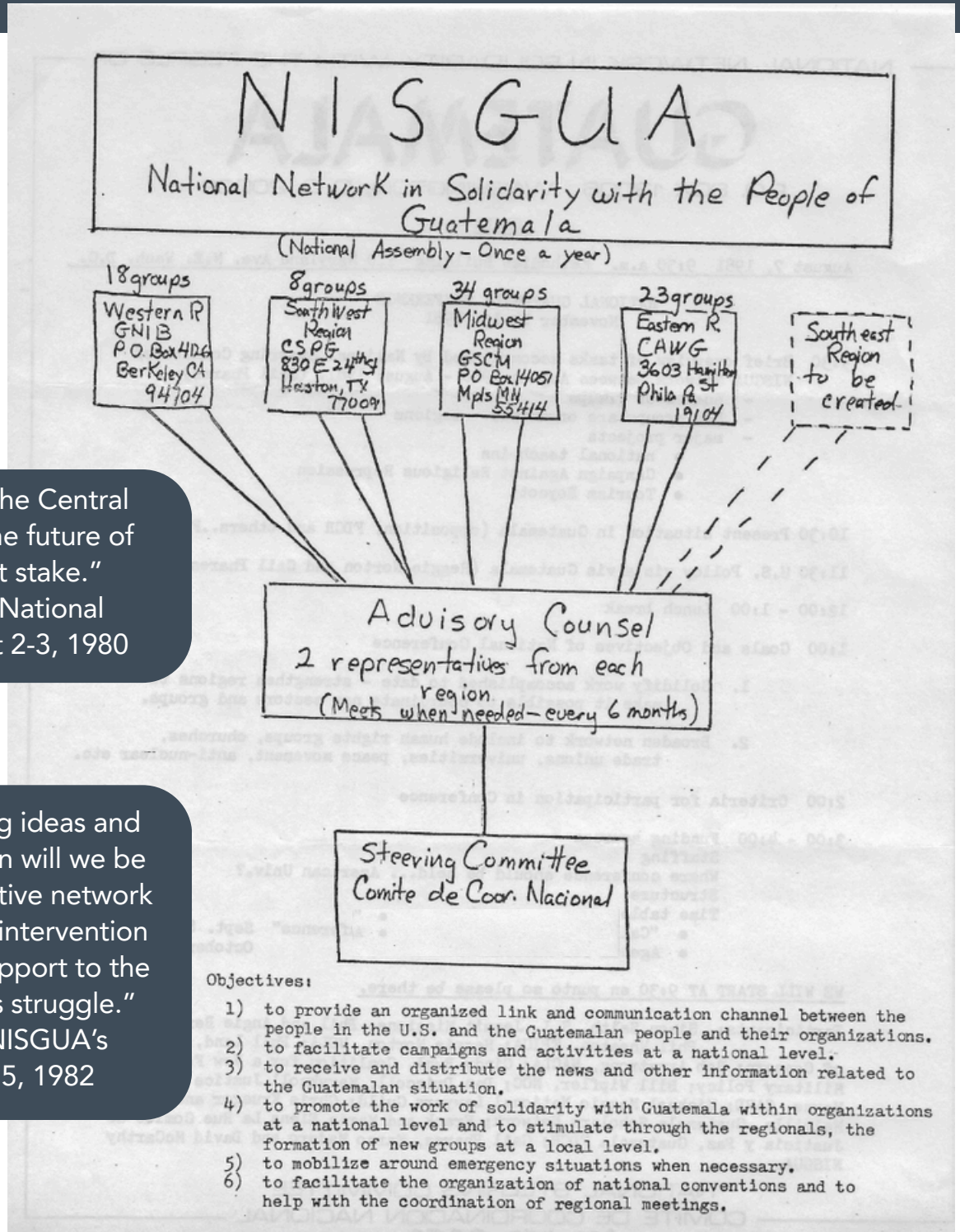


NISGUA: 45 YEARS OF RESISTANCE AND SOLIDARITY



NISGUA

Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala



"In the struggle of the Central American people, the future of Latin America is at stake."
- NISGUA's First National Conference, August 2-3, 1980

"Only through sharing ideas and increased coordination will we be able to build the effective network needed to block U.S. intervention and to provide real support to the Guatemalan people's struggle."
- First edition of NISGUA's Newsletter, July 15, 1982

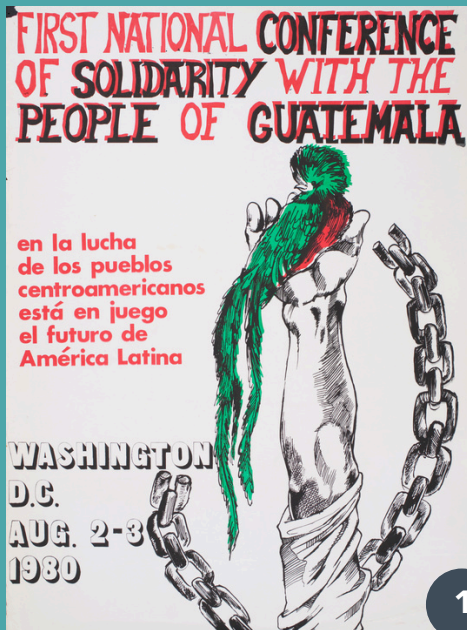
One of the first, if not the first, diagrams of NISGUA's founding structure and objectives from 1981, at the height of the U.S. dirty wars in Central America. Author unknown.

Moments that have woven NISGUA's path

NISGUA has woven solidarity between communities in Guatemala and networks in the U.S. for more than four decades in defense of life and dignity. Since 1981, this work has been grounded in accompaniment, justice, and internationalism. The following moments reflect part of that collective journey:

I. A Network Takes Root

NISGUA emerged as a national solidarity network in the U.S., connecting communities committed to justice in Guatemala.



1981 — Solidarity groups across the U.S. formed the NISGUA national network to support Guatemalans fleeing violence and Guatemalan's resisting U.S.-backed dictatorships.

1991 — NISGUA joined the 500 Years of Resistance campaign, linking Indigenous and popular movements across Abiyala (a.k.a. the Americas).

1997 — The National Guatemala Solidarity Conference in Washington D.C. brought together 300+ activists and academics to reflect on post-Peace Accords solidarity.

II. Accompaniment as Protection

Internationalist accompaniment became a powerful tool for protection, memory, and the pursuit of justice.

1992 — Guatemalan refugees negotiated their return, with NISGUA helping ensure an international presence as communities rebuilt and continued their struggle for justice.

1993 — CPRs (Communities of Population in Resistance) emerged after years in hiding in a historic public reappearance, accompanied by NISGUA and other international observers.

2001 — The AJR (Association for Justice and Reconciliation) filed genocide and crimes against humanity charges against former military leaders, with international accompaniment supporting survivors.



III. Weaving Internationalism and Trans-Territorial Organizing

Solidarity continues to reach across borders, deepening relationships among peoples and territories in resistance.



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2019 — By coordinating delegations, NISGUA connected organizers and leaders across movements and territories, centering Indigenous leadership and strengthening movements in Guatemala and the U.S.

2022–2023 — NISGUA’s Trans-Territorial Tables connected organizers in Guatemala and the U.S. diaspora to share social change strategies.

2025 — A North Carolina speaking tour with Xinka leader Shený Lemus shared reflections on her people’s successful defense against the Escobal mining project.



Scan the QR code or visit:
<https://bit.ly/45timeline>

45 years of solidarity and struggle cannot fit on just two pages.

Explore the full timeline and dive deeper into the histories, struggles, and victories that shape NISGUA’s work.

Each milestone here is a thread in a broader tapestry of resistance — woven together by people, communities, and movements committed to defending life, dignity, and justice.

This journey continues — with you.

CAPTIONS

1. Poster from NISGUA’s founding conference: In English: “Latin America’s future is at stake in the struggle of Central American peoples”. Courtesy of Lincoln Cushing / Docs Populi & Todd Kolze / Guatemala News and Information Bureau (GNIB).
2. Poster in support of the organized return of refugees from Mexico to Guatemala. In English: “The true path to peace... begins with the dignified, safe, and organized return of our brothers and sisters.” Courtesy of Lincoln Cushing / Docs Populi and Todd Kolze / GNIB.
3. Shený Lemus speaks at a university event during NISGUA’s North Carolina speaking tour in 2025. Photo by Roderico Díaz, October 2025.

Historic struggles that NISGUA accompanied



An important step for justice: The 2013 Maya Ixil genocide sentence

AJR members celebrate after hearing the sentence of the Ríos Montt Genocide Trial. Photo by James Rodríguez, May 2013.

On May 10, 2013, Efraín Ríos Montt was found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity and sentenced to 80 years in prison. It was the first time a former head of state was convicted of genocide in the national courts of the country where the crimes were committed. The verdict marked the culmination of 12 years of work by the Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR) and its legal team at the Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH). This historic victory showed that survivor-led struggles can challenge impunity and bring even the most powerful to justice.

After a seven-year consultation process, the Xinka people formally rejected the El Escobal mining project, saying “NO” to mining in their territory by the Canadian company Pan American Silver. On May 8, 2025, they formally submitted their resolution to the government. This victory comes after more than 15 years of resistance against the mine, during which the population faced human rights violations and fought hard to be recognized as an Indigenous people. This victory shows how community resistance can challenge powerful corporate interests.

Members of the resistance against the Escobal mine present community consultation results rejecting the project. Photo by NISGUA, May 2025.

The Xinka people said NO to mining in their territory!

