

Guatemalan women who survived sexual violence by the military and civil defense patrols during the Internal Armed Conflict have done groundbreaking work to achieve public recognition of sexual violence as a crime against humanity. Yet another historic case is in process: **36 Maya Achí women have fought to tell their stories of survival in the face of systematic sexual violence committed by state forces in the Rabinal region from 1982-1985.** The women, some of whom were young girls or pregnant at the time, were subjected to repeated acts of sexual violence at the local military base. In 2018, following decades of organizing and investigating by the women and the [Rabinal Legal Clinic](#), six low-ranking former military commissioners were [arrested and charged with crimes against humanity](#), including sexual violence, torture, and illegal detention.

This week, on April 22 and 23 – nearly a year after the initial arrests – the case’s intermediary phase began. In this phase, High Risk Court “A” led by Judge Claudette Domínguez will decide whether there is enough evidence to move forward to a public trial.

### **Take Action in Solidarity with the Maya Achí Women’s Fight for Justice**

NISGUA and BTS are jointly organizing the webinars, “In Our Own Skin:” Maya Achí Women’s Fight for Justice.

On both May 8 and 9, Paulina Alvarado (survivor and witness in the case) and Gloria Pérez (lawyer with the Rabinal Legal Clinic, and upcoming BTS tour speaker) will speak about their work towards justice. On May 8, the webinar will be held in Spanish. The May 9 webinar will feature interpretation to English. The webinars will take place at 3PM Pacific/6PM Eastern.

Register for the May 9 webinar in English here: [bit.ly/MayaAchiStruggleforJustice](https://bit.ly/MayaAchiStruggleforJustice)

- **Host a webinar party:** Share this blog with friends and comrades, then invite them over to learn more from some of the women most involved with the case.
- **Show your support for the women:** Take a selfie with the message, “Si hubo genocidio y violencia sexual en Rabinal,” or “Justice for Achí Women,” or with a message of your own. Share it by email to [martha@nisgua.org](mailto:martha@nisgua.org) to make sure that the women see the worldwide support and solidarity with their work for justice.
- **Fundraise:** At your webinar party and in the coming weeks, ask friends to [support NISGUA’s accompaniment](#) of sexual violence survivors.

Have more ideas? Want help getting started? Reach out to Guatemala Accompaniment Project (GAP) Coordinator Martha Schmitz at [martha@nisgua.org](mailto:martha@nisgua.org) to learn more today!