

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- * To act as the official spokesgroup/representative in Canada for the Mayan Indian people.
- * To collect and distribute information on the situation of the Mayan Indians to Indian Bands and organizations, churches, human rights groups, schools, universities, colleges and the general public.
- * Raise funds and/or apply for projects for the Mayan Indians of Guatemala.
- * To arrange, where possible, for sponsorship of Mayan Indian families to enter Canada.
- * To assist Guatemalan Mayan Indian families who are admitted to Canada.
- * To liaise with Indian organizations and other support groups.
- * To provide Mayan Indian speakers for groups wishing to know more about the situation in Guatemala.

YOU CAN HELP!

- * Become a member of the Guatemalan Mayan Indian Support Group.
- * Make available your time, talents and energy to the group.
- * Make a donation.

For further information and/or membership, please contact:

GUATEMALAN MAYAN INDIAN SUPPORT GROUP

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The Mayan Indian Philosophy is based on the concept that man is part of a delicately balanced universe created by the Great Spirit in which all components - all life forms and natural elements - interrelate and interact, with no part being more or less important than another. Therefore, the Mayan Indian Nations have these perpetual goals - self-determination, coexistence in peace and harmony with other peoples and freedom from domination.

BIOGRAPHY

The Mayan Indian Nations are the majority of the population in Guatemala (79%). For more than 450 years the Mayan Indian people have been subjected to a repressive system of colonial and neo-colonial domination. The active genocide of the Mayan people of Guatemala has typified the relationship between the Indians and their oppressors.

The Indian struggle in Guatemala, like the struggle of other Indian Nations in other countries, is based on Indian philosophy and ideology which rejects both Capitalism and Marxism alike as being Western foreign ideologies. The Mayan Indian people have struggled for their right of self-determination since the time of the Spanish invasion and are still struggling.

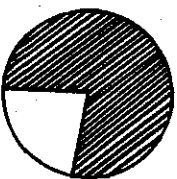
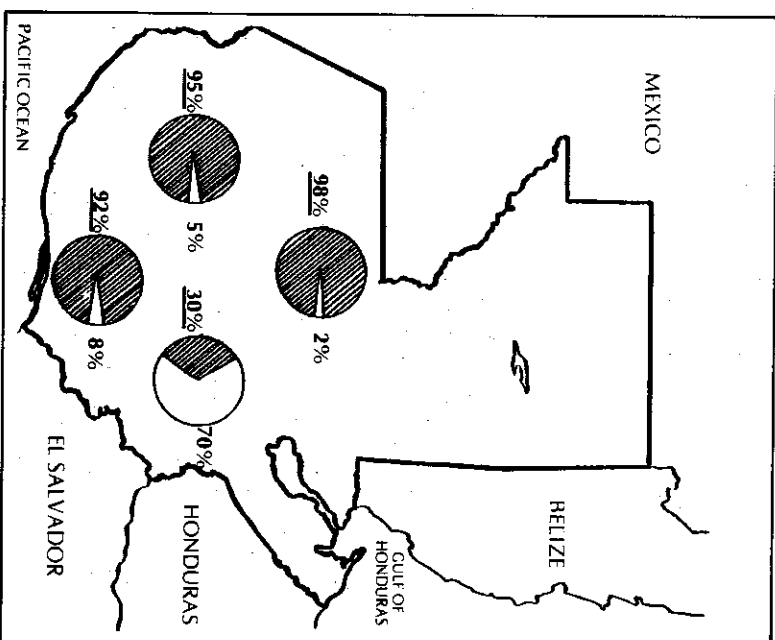
The Guatemalan Mayan Indians are not officially represented by a Canadian support group. The Guatemalan Mayan Indians living in Vancouver requested their own support group to act as an official spokesperson/representative in solidarity with the Indian Nations in Canada. Therefore, the Mayan Indian Support Group declares that our goal and purpose as official representative/spokesgroup must be in accordance with the Indian Nations ideology. The Mayan Indian Nations' liberation struggle, with its own philosophy and ideology, must be recognized.

GUATEMALA

and

THE MAYAN INDIAN

POPULATION



79% MAYAN INDIAN POPULATION

21% NON-INDIAN POPULATION

GUATEMALA IN BRIEF

POPULATION

Most populous of Central America with 7,500,000 people (area 1/2 size of Britain).

LANGUAGE

Official language Spanish, but four main Mayan Indian groups (Quiche, Kekchi, Mam and Cakchiquel) speak 22 languages with over 100 dialects.

MOST INDIAN PEOPLE DO NOT SPEAK SPANISH.

80% of the Indian people are illiterate.

LAND DISTRIBUTION

389 families (all non-Indians) own 75% of all fertile lands. These lands produce annually \$1 billion.

THE PER CAPITA INCOME FOR INDIAN PEOPLE IS \$100/YR. 600,000 INDIANS ARE WITHOUT ANY LAND.

65% of land is in large commercial farms (all owned by non-Indian people). 30% of these farms uncultivated. 18% family-sized farms. 16% are small plots too small to support a family.

HEALTH

Life expectancy: 56 (45 for the INDIAN PEOPLE). 4 out of every 5 Guatemalan children under 5 are malnourished.

GOVERNMENT

Guatemala has been ruled almost without exception by a succession of right-wing military dictators.

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION, THE MAYAN INDIAN PEOPLE HAVE NEVER HAD ANY PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT AND HAVE BEEN DOMINATED AND COLONIZED SINCE 1521.

INDIAN HOLOCAUST

The government through the army has institutionalized terror in the countryside, keeping Indian communities under military control, (Model Villages and Civil Patrols).

The Revolutionary Organizations, led by non-Indians (Latinos) have promoted the guerrilla movement and their Marxist ideology in the Indian areas.

THESE TWO SITUATIONS HAVE CAUSED THE DEATH OF MANY INDIAN PEOPLE.