



1 May 2014

An Expression of Solidarity in Response to the Death of Merylyn Topacio Reynoso

The violent shooting death of a 16 year-old student activist in Guatemala is only the most recent of too many fatal attacks against rural and Indigenous people who are defending a way of life and a relationship with the land that is often in conflict with the objectives and activities of large scale resource extraction projects.

Merylyn Topacio Reynoso was killed in an armed attack in Mataquescuintla, Jalapa, Guatemala, late on Sunday April 13, on her way home from a community meeting. Her father, Edwin Alexander Reynoso, was also shot and is in critical condition. Both were active in the resistance against Canadian company Tahoe Resources' Escobal mine, in San Rafael las Flores, Santa Rosa. Topacio was the Youth Coordinator of the Resistance in Mataquescuintla, Jalapa.

KAIROS extends sincere condolences to Topacio's family, friends and community. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them, as they go out to all those killed defending life and working for justice.

As an organization committed to intergenerational work and to supporting youth activism, KAIROS is profoundly troubled and saddened by this ongoing violence. KAIROS resolves to continue working to ensure that those responsible for these crimes are brought to justice. As a first step, KAIROS has co-signed [an open letter to Guatemala's Attorney General](#), Claudia Paz y Paz, calling for a full and impartial investigation.

We hope this act of solidarity and the call for action in Canada will contribute to positive change in Guatemala, and to the realization of a world where young people have the freedom and opportunity to participate fully in the development of their communities, and are able to enjoy their right to self-determination without fear of reprisal.

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