

NISGUA's "500 Years of Resistance" Tour



We are currently planning NISGUA's 2005 Fall Speaking Tour. This year, four Guatemalan civil society leaders will be traveling across the U.S. to share stories of resistance and struggle against oppression. The tours will run from mid-October to mid-November.

In the Northeast, **Claudia Acevedo from Lesbiradas will talk about resistance to gender based violence and oppression of the GLBT community in Guatemala.** The alarmingly high level of violence, including rape and murder, of Guatemalan women continues to climb as authorities fail to investigate or prosecute perpetrators.

In the Midwest, **Miriam Jocop from the Alianza por la Vida y la Paz in the Peten will talk about the struggle to end oppressive economic models like the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).** She will talk about how people are building economic alternatives to, such as the Nuevos Horizontes cooperative that she works with in northern Guatemala.

In the Northwest, **Rolando Lopez of AJCHMOL will talk about Mayan communities' resistance to mining in San Marcos.** A recent internal World Bank evaluation heavily criticized the World Bank's support of the Canadian/U.S. operated Glamis Gold mine in San Marcos. In the past months, Ajchmol has been working with communities in organizing referendums proving overwhelming opposition to the environmentally and socially destructive effects of mining operations.

And across the Southeast and Southwest, **Carlos Lopez from the Mesa Nacional para las Migraciones en Guatemala (MENAMIG) will talk about migration issues.** The Guatemalan-Mexico border has increasingly militarized as Guatemala has become a major transit point for people headed to the United States. Economic and political violence continually forces Guatemalans to leave their communities, and trend that will most likely increase with the enactment of CAFTA. This tour will explore some of the effects of migration in Guatemalan society.

Tour stops are already being planned in over 20 cities across the U.S. To help organize events in your town, contact Andrew de Sousa at <nisgua@igc.org> or call 202-518-7638.

