

Commemoration of the Guatemalan Rio Negro Massacre

March 11th 9am-12pm CST (Guatemala) Zoom

Please join the families and community in commemorating those killed in Rio Negro genocide on March 13, 1982.

We honor the ancestors through our intentions and actions and by creating virtual space where we can all gather to listen to the history, testimonials and to share stories.

7am- 9am CST - Mayan Ceremony in Guatemala, at Qachuu Aloom in Pacux. Please join in spirit by lighting candles in your home when you wake up on the 11th.

9:00-9:15 - Welcome

9am - 9:30am - History of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Dam and the Massacres of Rio Negro, testimonies from survivors.

9:30-10:30 - Rio Negro Now and Then, elders speak out about their experiences before and after their relocation.

10:30-11:00 - Sharing Healing Prayers and Solidarity, Seed Travels delegates share videos, photos, poems and reflections on their visit to Rabinal and participation in 2020 in the commemorative pilgrimage to the site of the Rio Negro massacre.

11:00-11:30 - Children of the survivors share their stories.

11:30-12:00 - Closing words, reflections and prayers.

In 1975, the National Institute of Electrification (INDE) in Guatemala decided to dam the Rio Negro, to generate electricity. This plan would flood 31 miles of river valley, farms, homes, burial grounds and sacred sites. Funds from the Inter-American Development Bank, Italian company Cogefar-Impressit, and the World Bank were used to build the dam. Many communities did not want to leave their homelands which led to a series of brutal massacres in the region. On March 13th 1982, Civil Patrols massacred 177 women, children, and elders from the village of Rio Negro. Each year, the community walks to the site of the massacre to remember their family members and preserve their memory and story.

