No more evictions! Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala in defence of nature, lands and territories

by Lazar Konforti and Joanna Cabello Friday, 20 April 2012

On March 27th 2012, several thousand people marched into the Guatemalan capital in solidarity with the struggles of the indigenous farmers and landless workers who had made the 214-kilometre, nine day journey along the highway from the town of Cobán on foot. The main objective of the Marcha indÃ-gena y campesina en defensa del agua y de la Madre Tierra, organized primarily by the Comité de Unidad Campesina (CUC) and the Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA), was to bring the land struggles to national attention and demand a solution to some of the most pressing problems facing small farmers in Guatemala, including violent evictions, landlessness, and crippling debt. These are all symptoms of a highly unequal land ownership structure now being compounded by a corporate land grab driven by extractive industries and agribusiness.

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