

Weaving a Life After Chixoy: Rebuilding the Social and Economic Fabric of Guatemala



Date: Thursday, April 2, 2009 from 6:30-8:00

Place: Benjamin Banneker Room, located in Stamp Student Union

In 1975 the Guatemalan government's decision to build a large hydroelectric dam on the Río Negro River required the "resettlement" of Maya Achí villagers whose lands would be flooded. Local opposition resulted in the massacres of nearly 500 people. The construction of the hydroelectric Chixoy Dam, which was built in Baja Verapaz in Guatemala, has drawn a great deal of attention over the past decade, as it is considered to be the bloodiest hydroelectric project in the world. Fifteen weavers created textiles to commemorate family members who died during a series of genocidal massacres perpetrated by the Guatemalan Army in and around the Maya Achí village of Río Negro between 1981 and 1982. Alicia Tito who is a student at the University of Maryland and is volunteering as the Latin American Outreach Intern for The Advocacy Project will present the quilt, along with staff from the Advocacy Project, and review the history behind the massacres, as well as the state of the Río Negro negotiations.

**Sponsored by: Latin American Studies Center, Latino Student Union,
and The Advocacy Project**