

## HOUSING

Forced Evictions in Guatemala.

## RIGHTS

## NEWS



*I am sad because my little home is gone*



*Photos by James Rodriguez*

### **Canadian Mining company forcibly evicts impoverished Mayan-Q'eqchi' communities**

17 January 2007

On 8 January 2007, the GAR (private police forces) and the armed forces evicted 80 Mayan-Q'eqchi families from the community of La Pista and 228 families from La Union, in the region of El Estor, Izabal, Guatemala.

On 9 January, the community of La Revolución, also in El Estor, Isabal, was forcibly evicted, rendering 175 Q'eqchi families homeless.

The eviction was carried out by 650 soldiers and police, accompanied by a private gray, white and blue helicopter, which flew low over the communities, intimidating the inhabitants.

The evicted families lost 18 homes which were burned and destroyed by chainsaws in the hands of individuals hired by the Guatemala Nickel Company (wholly owned subsidiary of Skye Resources Inc.), which claims to own the land on which these families have lived for generations.

Canadian Mining Company, Skye Resources, holds an exploratory mining license for 300 square kilometres of land in the municipality of El Estor. According to indigenous elders in the area, Skye is not the responsible mining company it claims to be. Many Q'eqchi Maya say the company has fallen flat on its promises of corporate social responsibility, as these forced eviction illustrate.