

OLLI Guatemala to Champaign, The War and its Legacy, PPT 5



El Shaddai Church,
Champaign Oct 27, 2022

IGLESIA DE FE ESPERANZA Y AMOR



El Shaddai, Champaign.

The rise of Evangelical Christianity in Guatemala

- from 4% of the population in the 1970s to more than 40% today.
- both a global phenomenon (both left and right Christianity) and the legacy of the war years in Guatemala.
- a mark of US cultural imperialism or a transformation of hierarchies?

“There has, in a sense, been a grassroots revitalization of Christianity in various forms – pentecostal, Catholic charismatic, liberation-theology base communities – making Christianity perhaps more rooted in the masses than it ever was when it enjoyed state protection.”

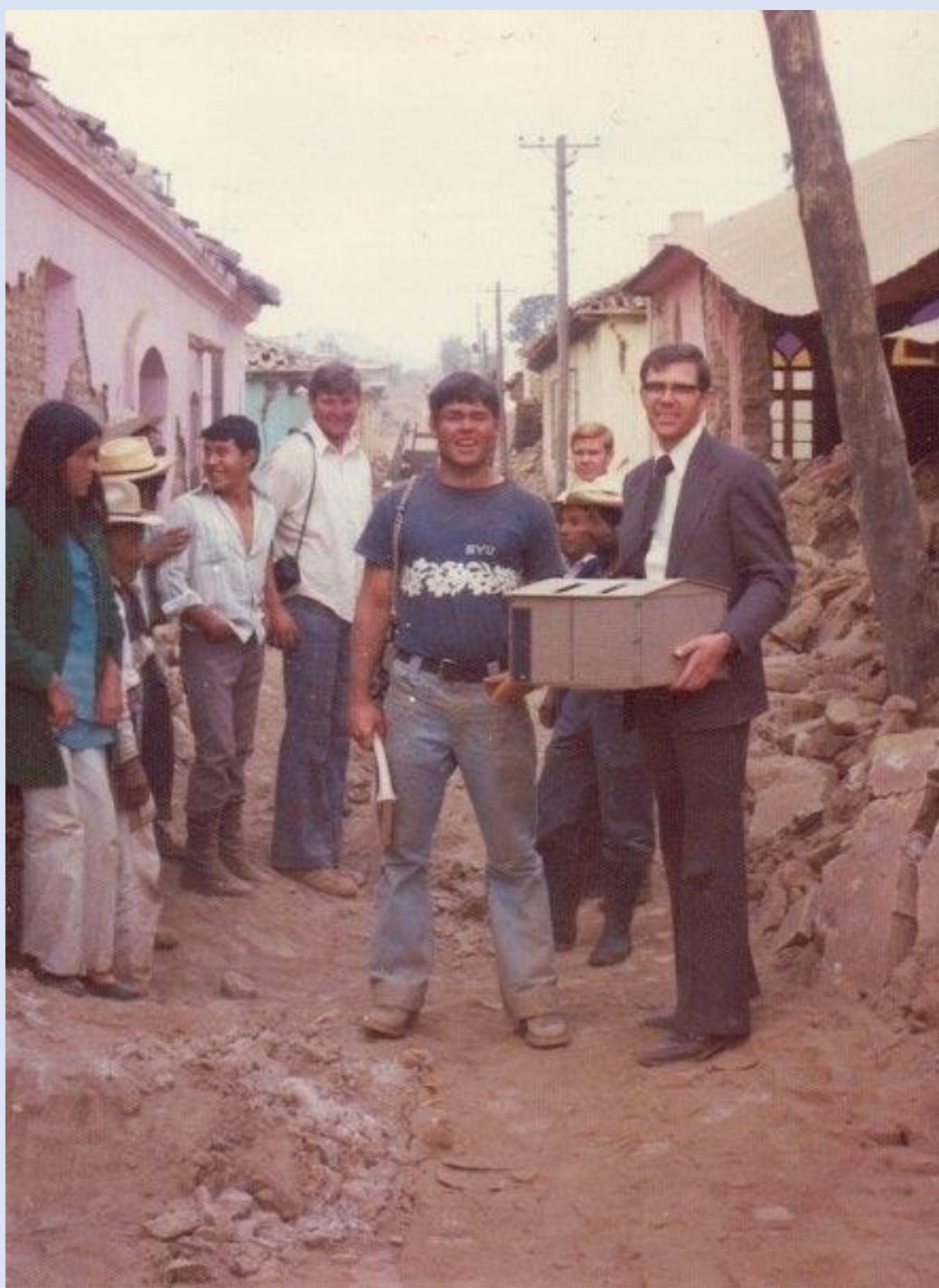
Paul Freston, Pew Research Forum <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2006/04/06/christianity-and-conflict-in-latin-america/>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2006/10/05/historical-overview-of-pentecostalism-in-guatemala/>




- 1880s: Protestants first invited by President Barrios as part of the modernization campaign
- 1976 Guatemalan earthquake accelerated US protestant church outreach.

Mormon aid after the 1976 earthquake
<http://larryrichman.org/lds-camp-patzicia/>



1970s-1980s: Catholicism became a dangerous religious choice during the war years. Associated with Liberation Theology and under suspicion of sympathy with the Left.

YouTube Search



Tema
HOMENAJE AL PADRE GUILLERMO WOODS


DIONISIO MATEO (PADRE NISHO)

ALABANZAS RÉCO

PADRE NISHO - HOMENAJE AL PADRE GUILLERMO WOODS

This is a YouTube video thumbnail. It features a man in a light blue shirt standing in a church, looking at a statue of the Virgin Mary. The background is a sunset sky. Text overlays include 'Tema HOMENAJE AL PADRE GUILLERMO WOODS', 'DIONISIO MATEO (PADRE NISHO)', and 'ALABANZAS RÉCO'. The video title at the bottom is 'PADRE NISHO - HOMENAJE AL PADRE GUILLERMO WOODS'.

YouTube Search

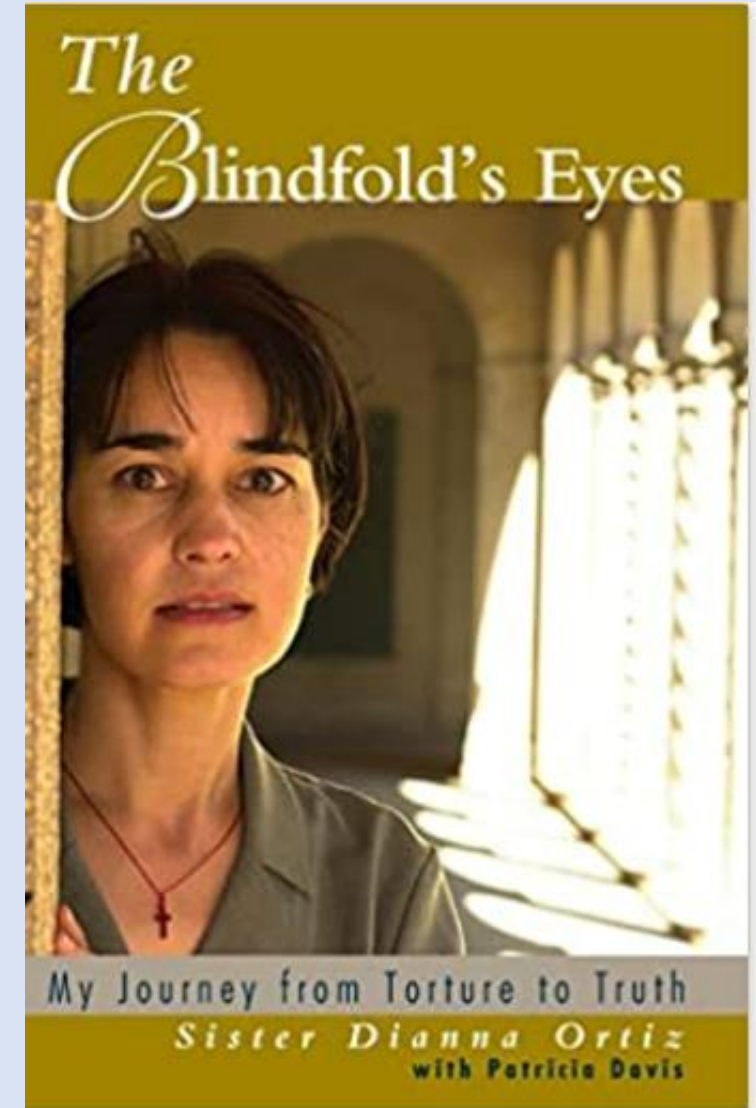


PADRE GUILLERMO woods

Josefa Petronila Pascual Andrés
10 subscribers

Subscribe

This is a YouTube video thumbnail. It shows a man in a light green shirt standing outdoors in a rural setting, surrounded by various containers like blue jerrycans and yellow buckets. The video title is 'PADRE GUILLERMO woods'. The channel name is 'Josefa Petronila Pascual Andrés' with 10 subscribers. There is a 'Subscribe' button.



Inauguration of Evangelical President Efraín Ríos Montt after a military coup in 1982 attended by Pat Robertson himself.

“. Despite mounting evidence that his campaign against Guatemala’s “communist insurgency” involved the mass killing of indigenous Mayans, evangelical groups argued that the dictator’s Christian faith would compel him to improve the country’s human rights situation. Neo-Pentecostal missionaries and their Guatemalan brethren played a key role in the Ríos Montt regime, shaping the dictator’s discussions with the Reagan administration, factoring into his internal strategic planning, and guiding his understanding of his role as a Christian leader. Support from U.S. and Guatemalan evangelicals for Ríos Montt and for the Reagan administration’s efforts to extend military aid to Guatemala became significant factors shaping relations between the two countries.”

Source: TUREK LF. To Support a “Brother in Christ”: Evangelical Groups and U.S.-Guatemalan Relations during the Ríos Montt Regime. *Diplomatic History*. 2015;39(4):689-719.
doi:10.1093/dh/dhu039

What exactly was going on in the countryside?

1960s/Post Cuban Revolution: intensification between government anti-communism and primarily urban guerilla movements.

1970s Conflict intensifies with government expansion into Northern Development projects. Government blames rural resistance on guerillas.

1980-83 Height of violence in rural areas. 1982 Rios Montt coup followed by “pacification” campaigns. Scorched earth and “model” villages in the north.

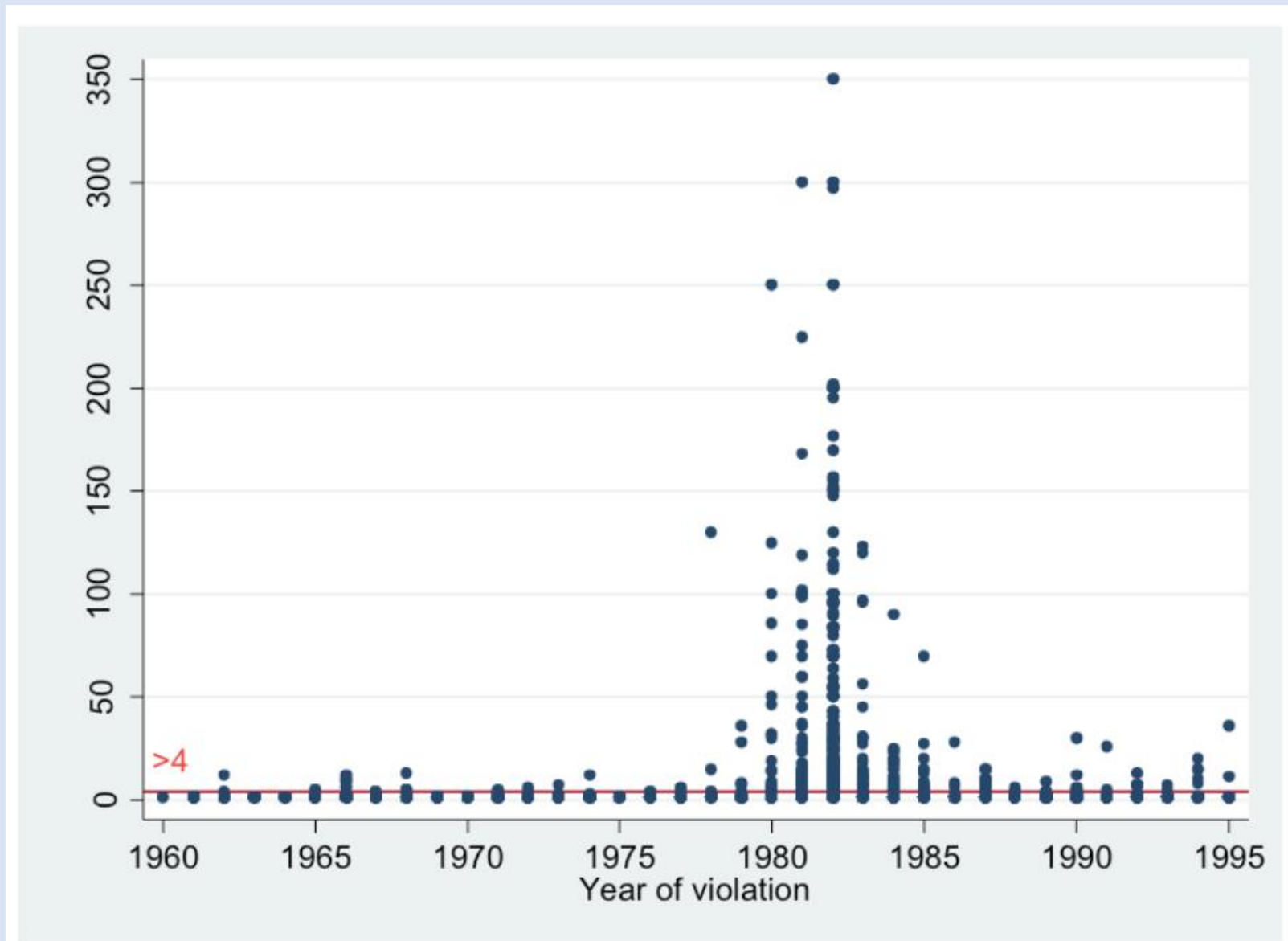
Source: Maryknoll video on Woods:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UPJb_b9tFfY



1980-1983 The most violent years of State Repression.

Only 4% of killings committed by guerilla forces – is “Civil War” really the correct term here?

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/humanrights/2016/02/18/genocide-is-the-tip-of-the-iceberg-reviewing-the-guatemalan-case/>



*Number of victims per violent event. Observations above the red line are mass killings (i.e. four or more victims per event). Data was obtained from a convenience sample.
Source: Author, with data from the AAAS/CIIDH (1999) database.*

Connections with US evangelical churches helped fund “model cities (rural relocation camps), lobby Congress and even fund military supplies when denied by the US. (Turek)

New Life and International Love Lift (evangelical US groups) coordinated aid to Rios Montt.

MacNeil-Lehrer, Oct 1982 6-12 minute.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka2sGBwSWXE>

(Rios Montt, model villages – apostolic church connections)



TERROR
IN THE LAND
OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT

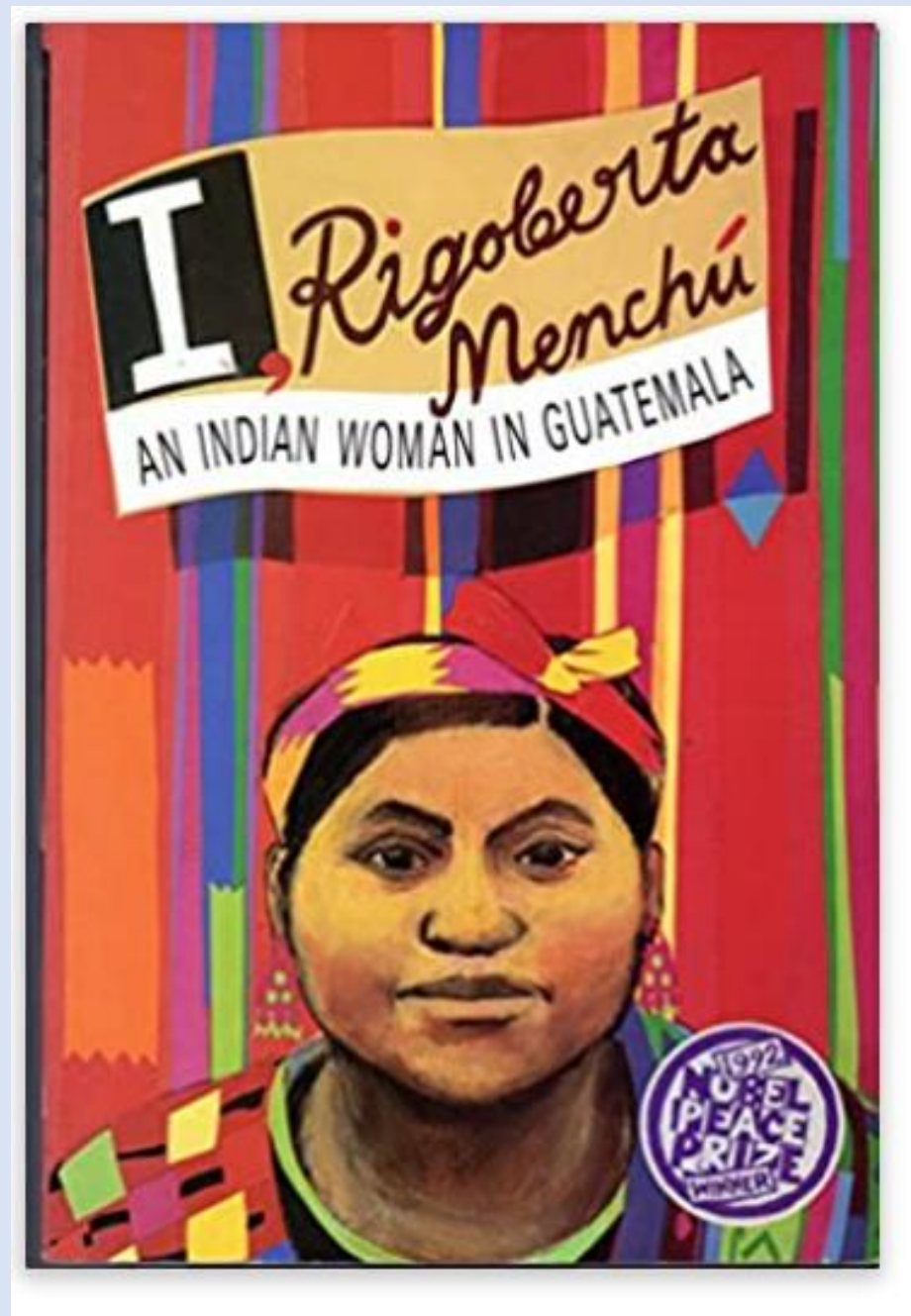


Guatemala under
General Efraín Ríos Montt
1982-1983

VIRGINIA GARRARD-BURNETT

2010 book on
evangelical
connections of
Montt Virginia
Garrard Burnett,
*Terror in the
Land of the Holy
Spirit.*

The 1984
memoir of
Menchu had an
impact similar to
*Uncle Tom's
Cabin*





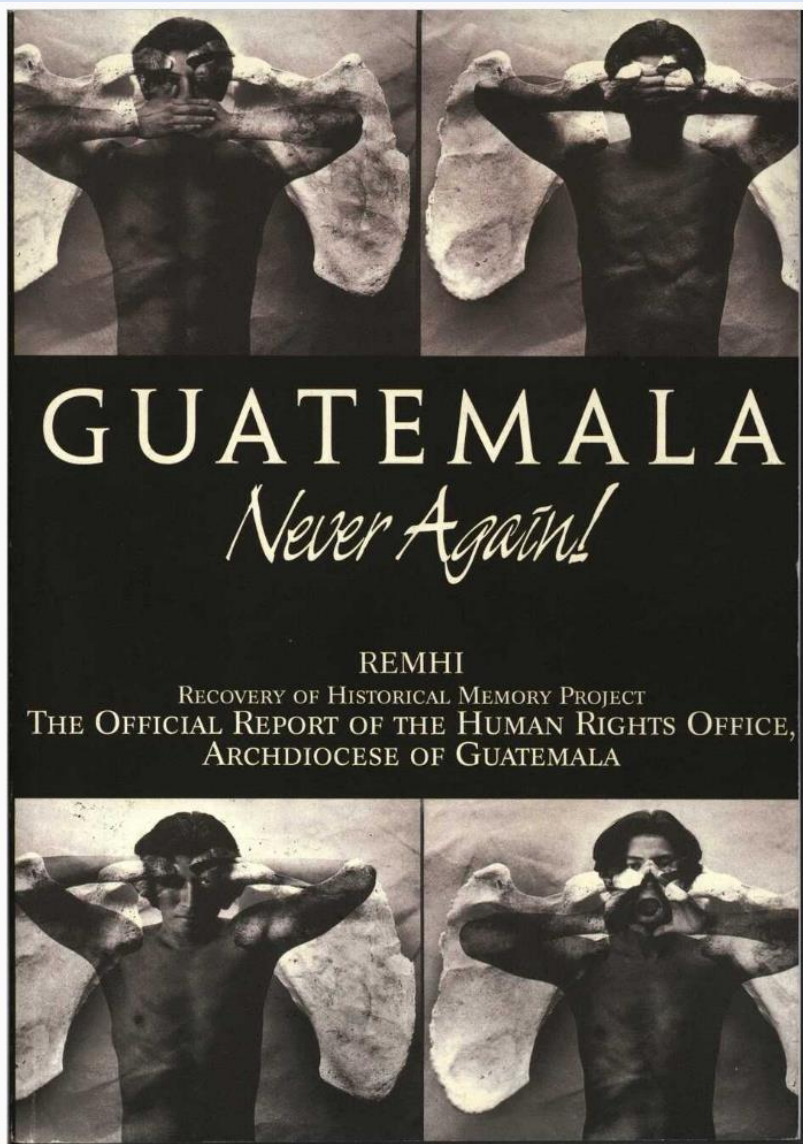
Ixil refugee and children in the New Life "model village", partly financed by U.S. evangelical groups, near Nebaj, Quiché, 1984. Photograph courtesy of Jean-Marie Simon, *Guatemala: Eternal Spring, Eternal Tyranny.*

“Army Directing the Annual Mayan Festival, Nebaj, Guatemala,(a “model community”)
1984 Jean Marie Simon.
<https://news.berkeley.edu/2014/09/03/envisi-oning-human-rights-2/>



Interrogation of woman and child, suspected subversives, at army garrison, Chajul, Quiché, 1984. Photograph Jean-Marie Simon.





The Ixcán

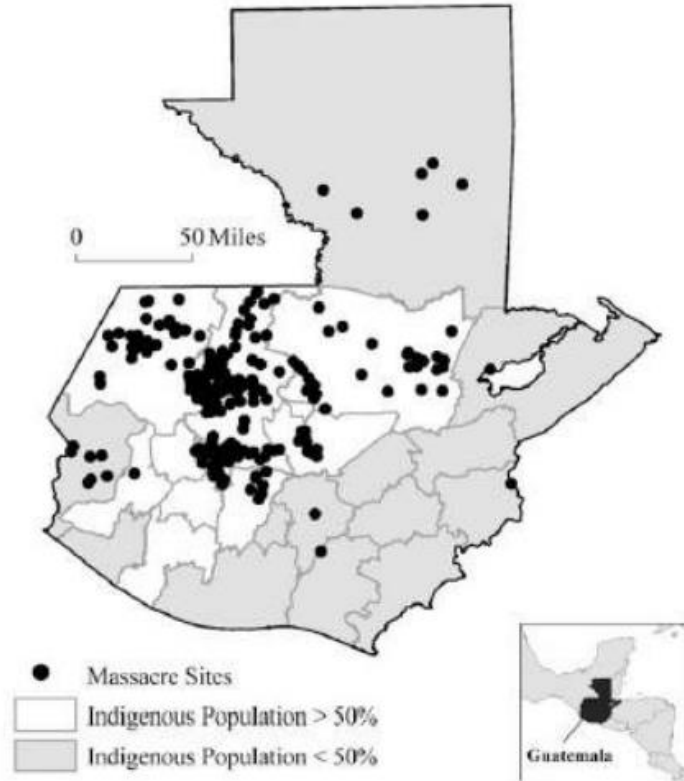
Following the March 23 coup d'état, the military zones of Cobán and Huehuetenango were added as points of army penetration into the Ixcán region in the department of El Quiché. These points intersected at Playa Grande. "The offensive was intended to force the EGP to retreat in precisely the same place where it had made its entrance eleven years before" (Falla 1987).

The army established its stronghold in Playa Grande, whence it coordinated operations, including reinforcements arriving from the capital, Petén, Huehuetenango, Cobán, and the east. They trained the "butchers" there, military intelligence specialists who became known for their cruelty during the massacres. Playa Grande, first a military base and later a military zone, was also a control center to monitor the population entering and leaving that side of the Ixcán. Numerous testimonies compiled by REMHI refer to the strict monitoring of provisions and transportation.

p. 233. On the events of 1983 campaign to "clean out" the border region of Barillas and Ixcán.

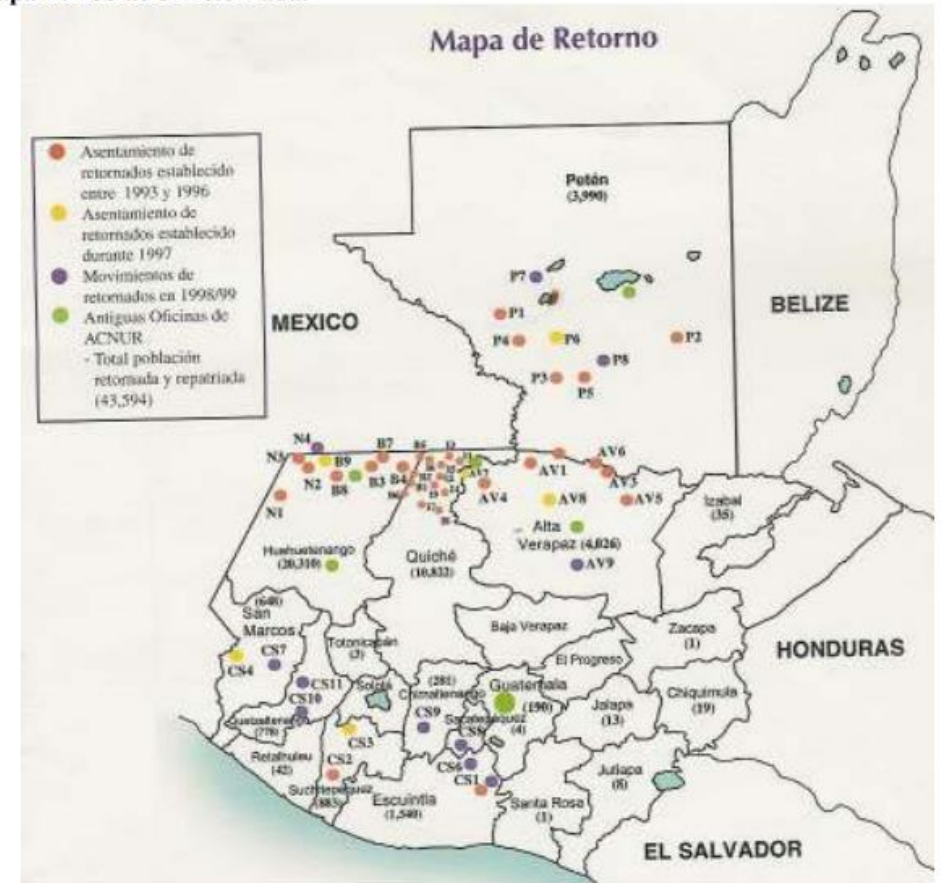
The report concluded more than 200,000 were killed during the war years, only 4% of the deaths linked to guerillas.

Mapa B. Masacres ocurridas entre 1978 y 1995



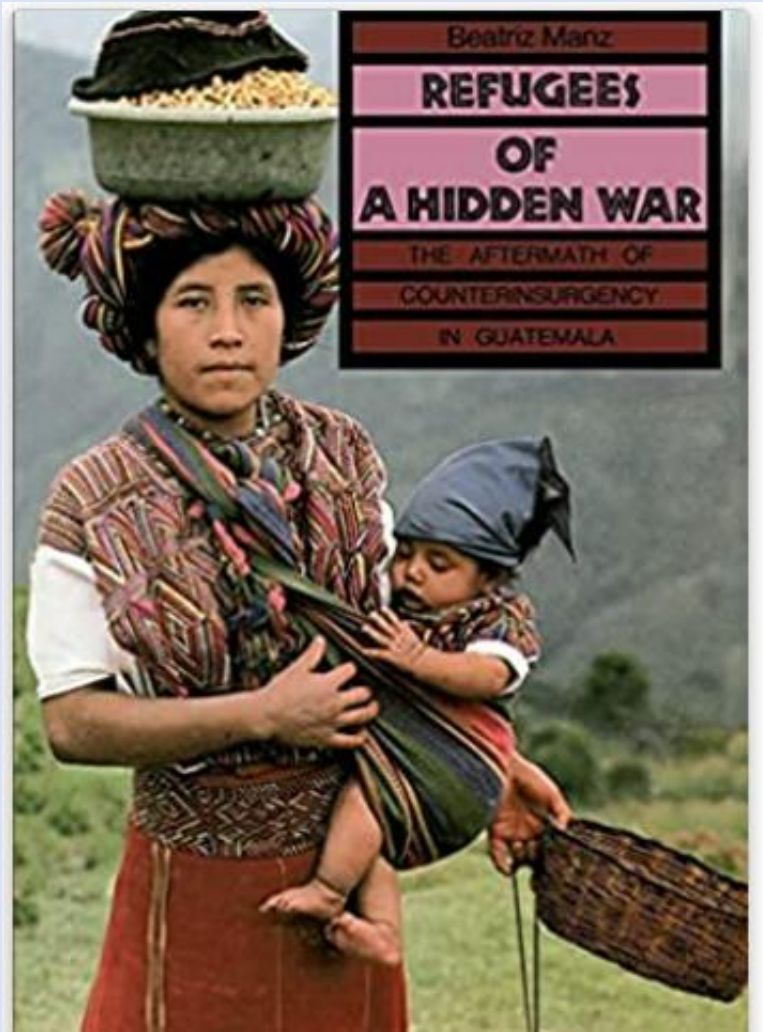
Fuente: Michael K. Steinberg, Carrie Height, Rosemary Mosher and Mathew Bampton. Mapping massacres: GIS and state terror in Guatemala. Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, United States. Southern Maine Technical College, United States. University of Southern Maine, United States. Págs. 62-68.

Mapa D. Población retornada.



Fuente: Worby, Paula. Lessons learned from UNHCR's involvement in the Guatemala refugee repatriation and reintegration programme (1987-1999). Sponsored by: Regional Bureau for the Americas, and Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit. December 1999 (Rev. 10/2/00). Anexo 1C, pág. 62.

Map of Documented Massacres (over 600) and UN data on refugee returns from Mexico after Peace Accords (1996) show activity in Barillas/Santa Eulalia.



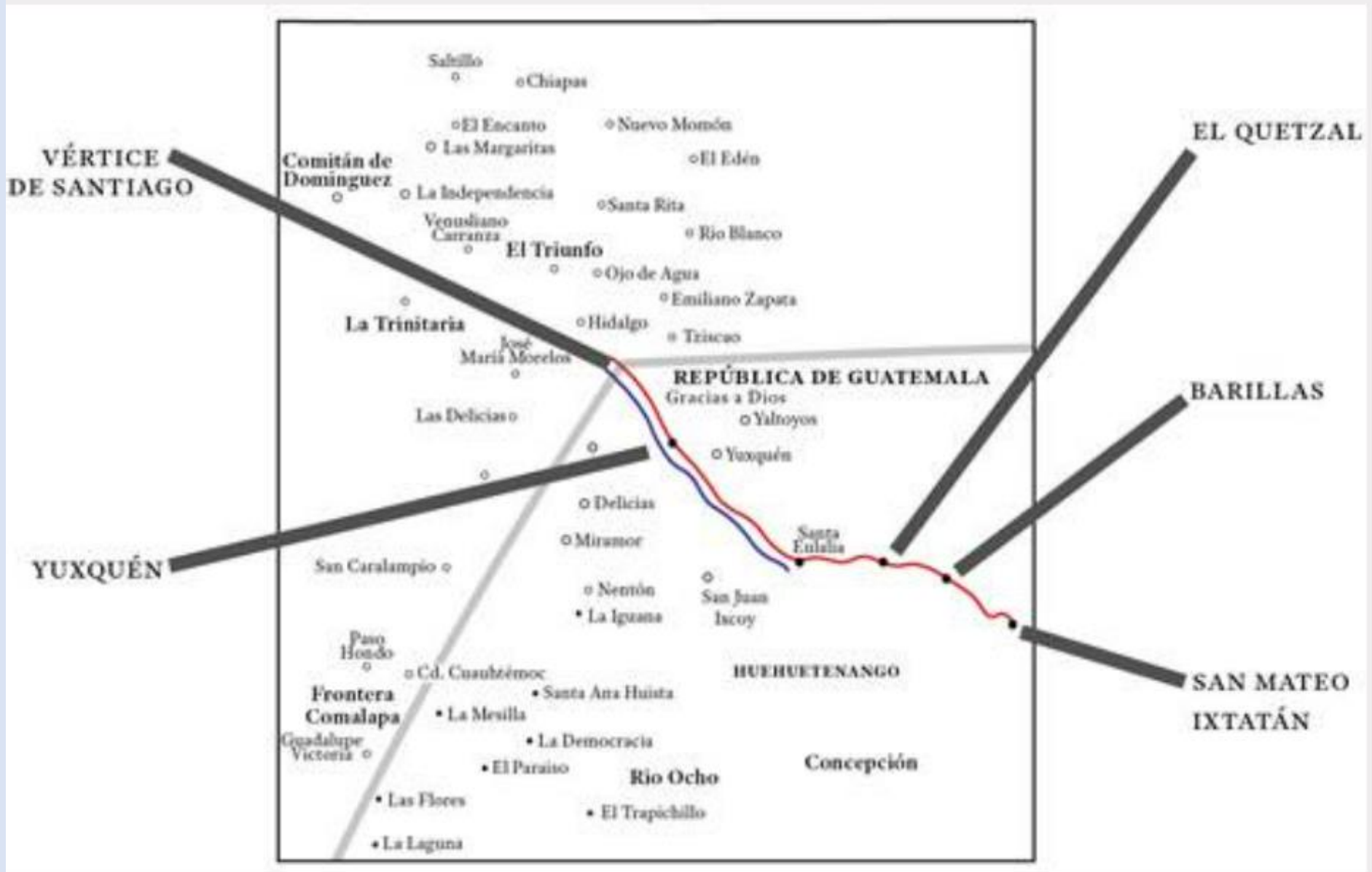
Anthropologist Beatriz Manz worked in Barillas in the early 1980s

Guatemala's Commission for Historical Clarification (ceh) estimated that in the Department of Huehuetenango, at least 80% of the villagers had abandoned their communities temporarily, especially during the final months of 1981 and early 1982.²⁶

- Up to 1 million internally displaced by war 1980s; 100,000-200,000 in Mexico at the height of conflict in 1982-83.
- Migration to Mexico had a long history in the northern highlands. An estimated 25,000 from Barillas worked part time in Mexico in the 1970s
- Some (50,000) fled to remote areas within Guatemala: "Communities of Popular Resistance" (CPRs).

Refugee Camps in Southern Mexico and main route (through Barillas and Santa Eulalia)

<https://www.redalyc.org/journal/811/81167109008/html/#f1>



Map 3



Camp Ixcan, Chiapas, Mexico
<https://digital-collections.csun.edu/digital/collection/p17169coll1/id/2304/rec/1>

Richard
Cross,
Refugees
in Mexico,
1983

<https://digital-collections.csun.edu/digital/collection/p17169coll1/id/3099/rec/28>





Antonio Turok,
Guatemalan
Refugees in
Chiapas, 1982.

Community
meeting
objecting to
UN/Mexican
plan to move
refugees to the
Chetumal
region.

Antonio
Turok. The
Widows of
Guatemala,
1982





Guatemalan Refugees in Chiapas, Mexico, Christmas 1982 Richard Cross.

Richard Cross, 1950-1983.

LANDMINE & CLUSTER MUNITION
MONITOR

International TO BAN
CAMPAIGN LANDMINES



Landmine/UXO Problem

In February 1999, a senior Guatemalan military official told Landmine Monitor that there were probably only hundreds of landmines that still posed a threat in Guatemala.^[8] In its March 2001 Article 7 report, Guatemala stated that no zones were mined or were suspected of being mined.^[9]

Unexploded ordnance still poses dangers to civilians. Thirteen departments are considered at high-risk (Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, Chimaltenango, Escuintla, Huehuetenango, Petén, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, Retalhulehu, San Marcos, Solola, Suichitepequez and Totonicpan) and another two departments are considered low-risk (Jutiapa and Santa Rosa).^[10] In 1997 the government estimated that there were between 5,000 and 8,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance in Guatemala.^[11] In February 2001, the PADCA Guatemala Coordinator estimated 5,000 UXO remained.^[12] Most of the UXO contaminated land is agricultural, however, explosive artefacts have been found within communities. The economic impact of UXO is reflected in the low level of agricultural productivity in the 13 high-risk departments. The population in these departments is estimated at 300,000.^[13]

The Clearing, (written by Ixcan community members during their days in hiding)

Here I am under the jungle cover, One day I hope to exit into the clearing

Leave the shade, leave the hillsides, And see the horizon smile

*In the wilderness life is hard, One has many needs
Hunger and sickness surround us, And so does the army and its oppression*

But even though the struggle is lengthy in time, Such sacrifice I must commit to

Because after such sorrow and need, A new world we will encounter

*Such thoughts comfort me, And fill my heart with joy
Because my children will be happy, In a non-oppressed Guatemala
The crops will belong to everyone, And my country won't go hungry anymore*

No one will live the hardships which our people now experience

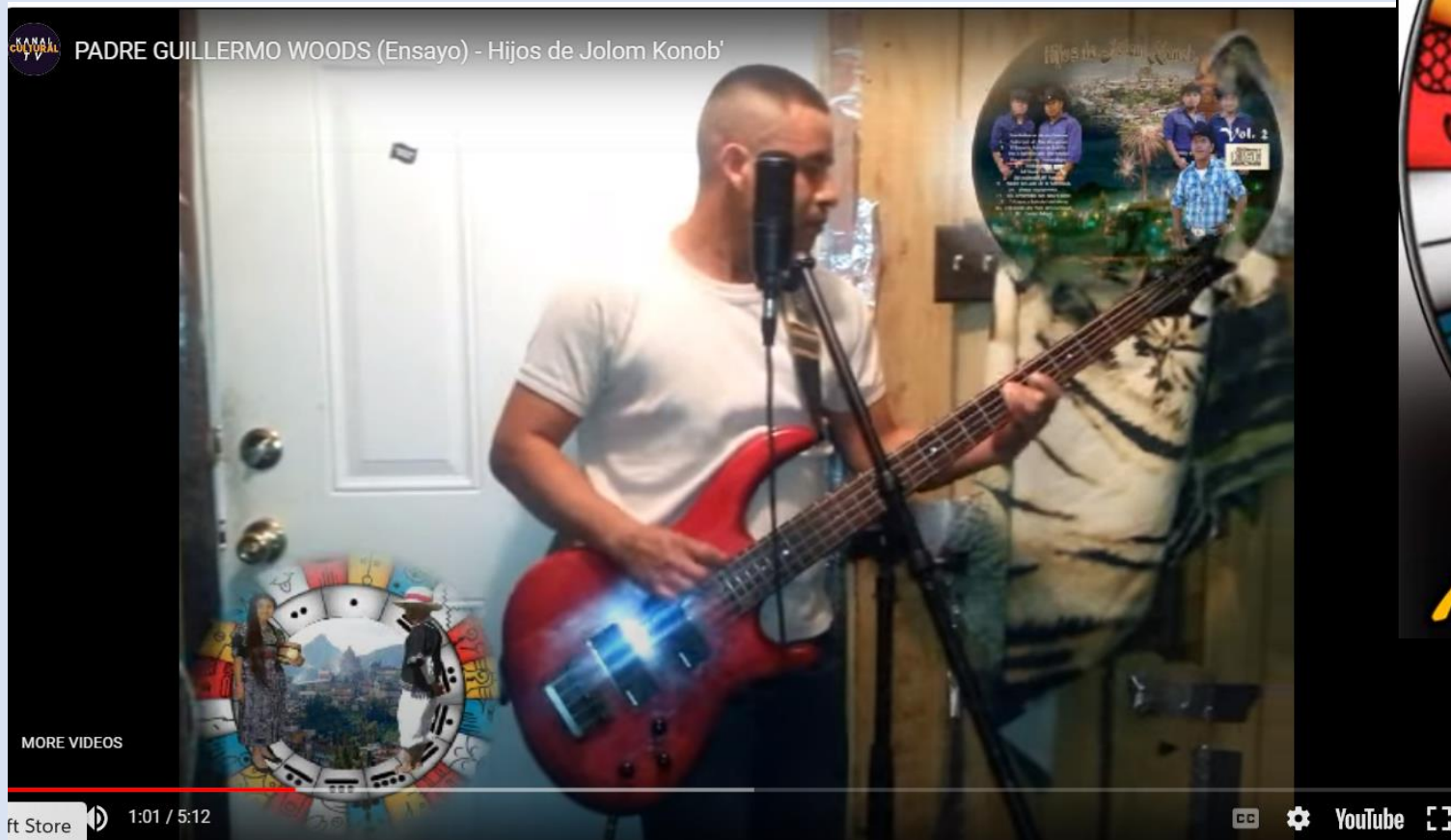
*That's the clearing I most want, The clearing I want to live in
When my children, my grandchildren, In liberty they can live*

2007 Celebration of Resistance in Ixcan



Hijos de Jolom Konob (Birmingham AL but from Santa Eulalia)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQQVA651th8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81>



Feria de Santa Eulalia, February 25, 2023



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtJHWzkbUdA>