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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**BERNARDO CAAL XOL
GUATEMALA**

**JAILED FOR DEFENDING A
SACRED RIVER**

BERNARDO CAAL XOL GUATEMALA

Bernardo Caal Xol holds a whole people in his heart. Through his teaching and trade union leadership, he has made it his mission to empower his people, the Indigenous Maya Q'eqchi' in north central Guatemala. He has also done everything he can to peacefully protect their land and natural resources from plunder and biodiversity loss.

So, when a company licensed by the government dammed the Maya Q'eqchi's Cahabón river to build two hydroelectric power plants, Bernardo and his people protested. The river is one of the longest in Guatemala, and is sacred to the Maya Q'eqchi'. Construction of the power plants had already stripped their forests; now they were losing the precious water they needed to survive. Bernardo demanded a stop to the power plants' activities, saying the authorities had failed to properly consult his people – a requirement under international law.

But his actions put him at odds with the company, and economic and political elites. Bernardo was publicly smeared with repeated and baseless accusations. In 2018, a judge sentenced him to more than seven years in prison, convicting him without any evidence.

“Why am I in jail?” Bernardo asks. “For denouncing what they are doing to the rivers, defending what little is left.”

Tell Guatemala to free Bernardo today.

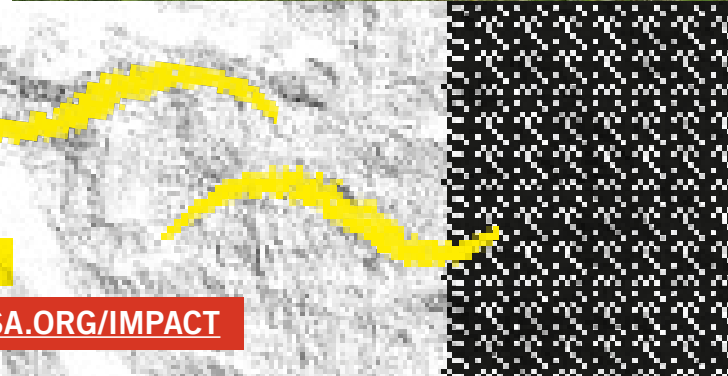
REPORT YOUR LETTERS AT [WRITE.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/IMPACT](https://www.write.amnestyusa.org/impact)

WRITE TO GUATEMALA'S AUTHORITIES

Tell them to drop all charges against Bernardo and free him immediately.

TO: Attorney General of Guatemala
C/O: Ambassador Alfonso Quinonez Lemus
Embassy of Guatemala
2220 R St. NW, Washington DC 20008

TO: Attorney General of Guatemala
EMAIL: carrecis@mp.gob.gt
TWITTER: @MPguatemala
FACEBOOK: @mpguatemala
SALUTATION: Dear Attorney General



SHOW BERNARDO YOU'RE WITH HIM

Send your messages of hope and solidarity, so Bernardo knows he's not alone in his struggle to protect his people's lands.

TO: Bernardo Caal Xol
ADDRESS:
Oficina Regional de Amnistía Internacional
Luz Saviñón 519, Colonia del Valle
Alcaldía Benito Juárez
03100, Ciudad de México
México
TWITTER: @BernardoCaal2
FACEBOOK: @bernardo caal xol
EMAIL: hrdamericas@amnesty.org