



**CHAPTER 6: Protecting Indigenous Rights through Law and Activism**  
**Guided Notes**

**CHAPTER SUMMARY:**

*Write 3-5 sentences to explain the main points of the chapter.*

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**CONVERSATION:**

*Write a one-sentence description for each of the contributors to this chapter.*

*Write the main points from each contributor's response.*

**PARTICIPANT: José Francisco Calí Tzay, Guatemala**

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**TOPIC: Main Activities as Special Rapporteur**

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**TOPIC: Activities as Special Rapporteur**

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**TOPIC: *How the creation of protected areas for conservation purposes has led to Human Rights violations for Indigenous peoples.***

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**TOPIC: *Core Recommendations***

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**PARTICIPANTS: Cynthia Dacanay, Cordillera Women's Education, Action Research Center (CWEARC) and Audrey Corce, Secretary General of Innabuyog (the Regional Alliance of Indigenous Women's Organizations in the Cordillera)**

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**TOPIC: *Activism against Large-Scale Dam Projects***

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**PARTICIPANT: Pablo Mis, Belize**

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**TOPIC: *The Decision to Bring a Court Case***

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**TOPIC: *Legal Support to Bring a Case in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights***

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**TOPIC: *Caribbean Court of Justice***

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**TOPIC: *Implementation of the Decisions from the National and International Courts***

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**TOPIC: *Lessons Learned***

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**QUESTION: *You mentioned that in your case with Maya communities, one of the positive things is having your own governance system. What do you recommend for communities that don't have their own system of governance that have to work within a system that is not acting in favor of their human rights?***

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**QUESTION: *What is the impact of the CCJ decision on the community?***

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**QUESTION: *Have other communities learned from what you have done?***

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**QUESTION:** *What is the relationship of the Maya people and the government of Belize given this long, drawn-out struggle?*

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*Be prepared to answer the following discussion questions/questions for further research. Write a few points that could be used to support your answers from the chapter summary, chapter discussion, and your own knowledge/research.*

1. **What kind of challenges are encountered when indigenous communities assert their rights before the courts?**
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
2. **Why do you think the Maya of Belize relied on domestic and international law, while the Cordillera people in the Philippines mostly have relied on organizing and social movements?**
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
3. **What steps could the UN Special Rapporteur take to support the people in Belize and the Philippines?**
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
4. **Why has the Maya Leaders Alliance been successful in defending their traditional lands and resources? What actions were taken to achieve these successes?**
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

5. What obstacles do indigenous peoples face in implementing their rights at the domestic and international levels?
- a.
  - b.
  - c.
6. Do indigenous peoples have special rights over and above those held by others?
- a.
  - b.
  - c.
7. After reading the conversations, how do you think you can apply what you have learned to other situations/human rights issues?
- a.
  - b.
  - c.

**TAKE ACTION:**

*Write a few ways you can take action regarding Protecting Indigenous Rights.*

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**CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION**

**If you were to talk to José, what would you ask?**

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**If you were to talk to Cynthia, what would you ask?**

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**If you were to talk to Audrey, what would you ask?**

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**If you were to talk to Pablo, what would you ask?**

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*Pick one participant and do some more research regarding their work.*

**Participant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notable Facts:**

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**Who is another individual knowledgeable about this topic that you know of and would like to see speak/hear their story?**

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