



Mexico

Human rights at risk in La Parota Dam project

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Cover image Peasant and indigenous people celebrate UN World Food Day on 15 October 2006 with a traditional Nahuatl ceremony in honour of the Papagayo River, where the La Parota hydroelectric dam is to be built.
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Back cover images Opponents to the project gather before the 6 May 2007 assembly in Cacahuatlán, Mexico.
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Human rights at risk in La Parota Dam project

The project to build La Parota hydroelectric dam in Guerrero State, Mexico, is a massive undertaking. It has been projected that La Parota dam would provide sufficient electricity to meet eastern Mexico's peak-time electricity needs and so help reduce Mexico's expenditure on other sources of energy. However, it is estimated that the project would lead to the displacement of several thousand people, primarily poor Indigenous people and peasant farmers. Local human rights defenders have expressed serious concerns about the manner in which the government is preparing to implement the project. There have been consistent reports that the consultation process with affected communities has been marked by irregularities and a lack of accurate and accessible information.

Tensions around the project have led to violence in the affected communities. Since 2003, three people have been killed, three leaders of groups opposed to the dam have been temporarily detained, and several others have been injured in incidents reportedly related to the conflict arising from the dam project. Those campaigning against the building of the dam have also been threatened and intimidated.

Human rights at risk in La Parota Dam project highlights Amnesty International's human rights concerns about the preparation and implementation of the project. It focuses in particular on the rights of affected communities to full, accurate, accessible and impartial information; consultation and genuine participation without discrimination in decisions on development projects. It also highlights concerns about the displacement of local communities, which may amount to forced eviction. It ends with recommendations to the Mexican authorities on the steps which they should take to meet their obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of affected communities.

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