

Protect O'odham Sacred Lands March 31, 2007 Gathering in Quitovac, Sonora Mexico

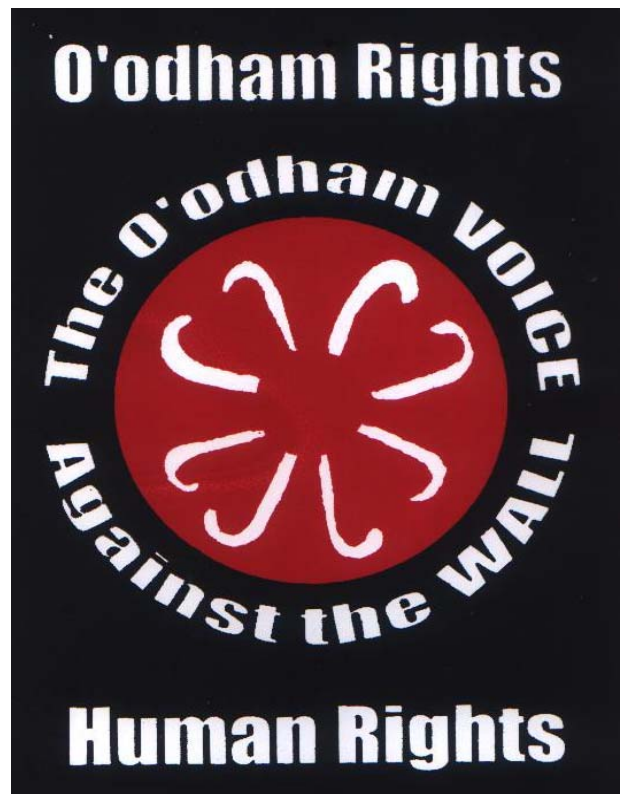
In March 2003 two O'odham sisters and their younger brother walked two days from Ali Jegk community to Quitovac carrying a blessed offering prepared by the ceremony Elders. This sacred action to protect our sacred ceremonial grounds stopped a group of Mexican Universities from excavating O'odham ceremony grounds, burial sites, and the sacred pond. The O'odham Him'dag (the O'odham way of life) is continued to day. The protection of Mother Earth is a main directive given to the O'odham from our Creator. We are to maintain the continuation of ceremonies to keep the earth in balance.

Today our sacred land is again threatened by a proposal to build a hazardous waste dump eight miles from Quitovac

CEGIR/ Centro Intergral de Residuos, S.A. wants to dump 45,000 tons of hazardous waste on O'odham lands close to the sacred site of Quitovac. This project has been conducted without the involvement of the indigenous O'odham communities in the decision-making process.

The proposed dump would desecrate the sacred ceremonial grounds of Quitovac and devastate the culture, traditions, sacred sites and spiritual well being of the O'odham indigenous peoples in both Mexico and the United States.

The dump would also expose children at the Quitovac boarding school to dangerous contaminants and would expose the nearby communities of Caborca, Cu:Wi I-gersk, Son Oidagk (Sonoyta), Totssagi, Nepodagk, and Hodai Ku'uk (Puerto Penasco) to toxic poisoning released in the land, air and underground water.



The Gathering on March 31, 2007 is an invitation to our supporters and organizations opposed to the chemical waste dump to join us in Quitovac to stop this project.

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