

# CENTRAL AMERICA

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## Learn a Mayan Language in Guatemala

### Iximché Language Center

The Iximché Language Center (CLI) is a project of Cojib'iyin Riq'uin Catinamit, which in Caqchiquel means "we walk with our people". We are an association of Maya Caqchiquel Indian professionals, workers, farmers and craftspeople who are taking up the challenge of conserving and promoting our culture and our identity.

We have created the language school as part of an integrated program of sustainable development. At CLI, we offer proven language instruction techniques, as well as the opportunity to share our Mayan spiritual traditions and our way of living.

The school is located in the town of Chimaltenango, in the central-western region of the highlands. Unlike the larger cities where

tourists congregate, Chimaltenango presents the opportunity to witness the true life of an Indian town.

The program offers the student a choice of instruction in the Spanish language, or in one of two Mayan languages: Caqchiquel and Quiche. It features individual, one-on-one classes with teachers who are carefully trained and dedicated to sharing the cultural values of our community.

While studying at CLI, students are encouraged to stay with a Maya-Caqchiquel family to practice their language skills. A portion of the proceeds of the Linguistic Center Iximché is dedicated to the development of an educational and cultural center for Caqchiquel Maya children.

**For more information please contact:**

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## Kunas Protest Land Invasions

On April 15, 1993 colonizers destroyed a house within Kuna territory which had just been constructed by members of the Ibedi Kuna community in collaboration with the Association of Kunas United for Nabguana. The house, in the Kuna district of Madungandi (Alto Bayano), was to be used by Kuna villagers who were planning to begin work on demarcating this part of Kuna territory.

Because the law which establishes the Kuna District of Madungandi is languishing in the National Assembly and the government claims it does not have the money to demarcate the land, the community members decided to do the job themselves.

There has been poaching of endangered animals, indiscriminate logging and the

pollution of the rivers in the Alto Bayano region. The Kunas feel that demarcation of the land is the first step toward gaining respect for the boundaries of their territory.

The following is an excerpt from a statement made by the Association of Kunas United for Nabguana responding to the destruction of the house:

"We condemn this hostile act by the colonizers who want to sabotage any activity which might bring about a real solution to the problems the Kuna people face in Alto Bayano due to illegal invasions of our territories by people who care little about conserving nature and who are trying to provoke our people so they can later accuse us of being the instigators."



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