



Electronic Press Kit | The Resistance Saga

The Resistance Saga

Life in resistance – ¡Viva la resistencia!

www.resistancesaga.com
www.skylight.is

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#ResistanceSaga #VivalaResistencia

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[TRS Trailer](#) | [Visual Assets](#)

THE
RESISTANCE
SAGA



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Short Description

Skylight has launched The Resistance Saga, a traveling event to celebrate and stoke resistance on the road to the 2018 and 2020 elections. Over the last 35 years, Skylight has developed a wealth of experience in impact storytelling with resistance movements in the United States and Central America. In that legacy, we are excited to co-design local events to exchange ideas, and brainstorm strategies, with a network of newly engaged activists and established grassroots organizations. As The Resistance Saga tour rolls out, we see an opportunity to form a broad intersectional network of solidarity that gathers force across issues, campaigns and movements.

Long Description

Skylight has launched The Resistance Saga, a traveling event to celebrate and stoke resistance on the road to the 2018 and 2020 elections. Over the last 35 years, Skylight has developed a wealth of experience in impact storytelling with resistance movements in the United States and Central America. In that legacy, we are excited to co-design local events to exchange ideas, and brainstorm strategies, with a network of newly engaged activists and established grassroots organizations. As The Resistance Saga tour rolls out, we see an opportunity to form a broad intersectional network of solidarity that gathers force across issues, campaigns and movements.

At each stop, local movement organizations will be our hosts: providing venues, inviting participants from their communities and sharing their experiences and knowledge. Art will anchor and focus the day, with film clips and films pulled from the Skylight archives and tailored to the issues most pressing in the host communities.

Central to the event will be a political dialogue led by the remarkable Mayan activists, scholars, and educators, Andrea Ixchíu and Irma Alicia Velásquez Nimatuj. Both women are re-known freedom fighters who have organized against genocide, colonialism and imperialism for close to four decades. They are both protagonists in Skylights latest film [500 YEARS](#) . From a historic genocide trial to the overthrow of a president, 500 YEARS tells a sweeping story of resistance in Guatemala, through the actions and perspectives of the indigenous Mayans, who now stand poised to reimagine their society.

We hope to conclude each half-day or day-long event with a public screening of 500 YEARS (Sundance Premiere 2017). Workshop sessions will be held in collaboration with local movement organizations as well as filmmakers and artists to explore the ways in which all of our work serves as a form of resistance. One of the workshops will focus on sharing the Skylight \



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model of human rights media activism in order to discuss how storytelling can create and strengthen social impact. The day will conclude with a rousing concert by invited local musicians and when feasible by fast-rising Mayan singer/songwriter [Sara Curruchich](#), celebrating the resilience and beauty of the human spirit!

An advocate for indigenous rights, climate justice, women's rights, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ rights, and immigration reform, Skylight is committed to the long-term defense of human liberty. We strive to build spaces that foster solidarity, empower and energize activists, and create networks for action that will repel the present and looming assaults on our rights. Through the Mayan perspective, The Resistance Saga reminds us that resistance is not a quick fix nor a definitive victory. And it is nothing without a vision for the future. Our rights are never guaranteed, and we must always defend them, nurture them, strengthen them. To #Resist is an attitude, it's a stance, it's a way of life.

Life in resistance – Viva la resistencia!

Participant Bios

Irma Alicia Velásquez Nimatuj, journalist, social anthropologist, and international spokeswoman



Irma Alicia Velásquez Nimatuj is a journalist, social anthropologist, and international spokeswoman. She has been at the forefront of struggles for respect for indigenous cultures. She was Executive Director of the Mecanismo de Apoyo a Pueblos Indígenas Oxlajuj Tzikin (Support Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples) (2005-2013). Dr. Velásquez Nimatuj is the first Maya-K'iche' woman to earn a doctorate in Social Anthropology and she initiated the court case that made racial discrimination illegal in Guatemala. She has won numerous academic fellowships and awards for her journalism. She was a member of the Latin American Consulting Group of Indigenous Leaders for UNICEF and participates in the UN through the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She also served as advisor on indigenous issues for the Latin American and Caribbean office of UN Women (2014-2015). She is the author of “Pueblos Indígenas, Estado y Lucha por Tierra en Guatemala” (2008) and “La pequeña burguesía indígena comercial de Guatemala: Desigualdades de clase, raza y género” (2002). She writes a weekly newspaper column in “El Periódico de Guatemala” and through both her political and academic efforts seeks to create viable and realistic ways to create equality for indigenous people and a truly participatory democracy in Guatemala.

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Andrea Ixchú Hernández, Maya K'iche' leader, journalist, law student, human rights activist



Andrea Ixchú is Maya K'iche' leader, journalist, law student, human rights activist, and a self-professed geek with an expertise in internet security. She was the youngest woman elected as a tribal leader in her highland community, where as President of the Natural Resources Board, she was in charge of protecting their ancient communal forest of Totonicapán from extractive industry incursions. While completing her law degree, Andrea developed a national following while writing a weekly column for one of Guatemala's leading newspapers, "El Periódico" where she focused on issues of national policy, and analysis of the art, culture, nature and human rights of indigenous peoples.

She also creates a news program from a next gen indigenous perspective as a member of alternative online networks, Red Tz'ikin and Prensa Comunitaria.

Andrea is a Nobel Women's Initiative Fellow and was awarded the Sakharov Prize, which honors individuals and groups of people who have dedicated their lives to the defense of human rights and freedom of thought.

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Sara Curruchich, Mayan Kakchiquel singer and composer, women and indigenous rights activist



Sara Curruchich is a Mayan Kakchiquel singer and composer who is an activist in defense of the rights of women and indigenous peoples of Guatemala. Known especially for her song "Resist" , Sara studied at the Normal School for Music Teachers, Jesús María Alvarado, and plays marimba and guitar in addition to composing and singing. In her songs, she mixes Spanish with the Kakchiquel language, a way of reclaiming her mother tongue.

Sara's first individual public performance was in 2012, an invitation from the Orchestra of Germany. In 2016 she held first tour in the United States performing at Bizarre Bushwick in Brooklyn and offering a concert at the United Nations headquarters in New York as part of the Permanent Forum sessions for Indigenous Issues. She is also a contributor to UN Women Guatemala. In January 2017, she presented Ralk'wal Ulew , -Sons of the Earth- accompanied with a video clip made by Skylight Creative Director Pamela Yates whom she met in New York in 2016. The song accompanies Skylight's latest film 500 YEARS . The song is born from the mobilizations that have taken place throughout history, from the indigenous peoples and those that led to the resignation of Otto Pérez Molina and against corruption in Guatemala.

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Pamela Yates, Filmmaker / Creative Director and co-founder at Skylight



Pamela Yates is the Co-founder and Creative Director of Skylight , a non-profit organization dedicated to creating feature length documentary films and digital media tools that advance awareness of human rights and the quest for justice by implementing multi-year outreach campaigns designed to engage, educate and activate social change.

She is the Director of the Sundance Special Jury award winning ***When the Mountains Tremble***; the Executive Producer of the Academy Award winning ***Witness to War*** ; and the Director of ***State of Fear: The Truth About Terrorism*** , which has been translated into 47 languages and broadcast in 154 countries. Her film ***Granito: How to Nail a Dictator***, for which she awarded a Guggenheim fellowship, was used as key forensic evidence in the genocide trial against Efraín Ríos Montt in Guatemala. Her third film in the Guatemalan trilogy, ***500 YEARS*** had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival and is currently in wide release.

Yates is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, Writers Guild of America, and the International Documentary Association.

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Paco de Onís, Producer / Executive Director at Skylight



Paco de Onís grew up in several Latin American countries during a time of dictatorships. He is the Executive Director and Executive Producer of Skylight, a human rights media organization dedicated to advancing social justice through storytelling, by creating documentary films and innovative media tools applied in long-term strategies for positive social change. One of these long-term strategies is Skylight SolidariLabs, a program designed to disseminate Skylight's innovative model for creating human rights media ecosystems in conjunction with committed media makers, artists, technologists and movement organizations, with the aim of building enduring networks of 21st century human rights practitioners.

Paco's film producing credits include 500 YEARS, Granito: How to Nail a Dictator, Rebel Citizen, Disruption, State of Fear, and The Reckoning.

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