



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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## UN IN ACTION

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### GUARANI FIGHT FOR RIGHTS IN BOLIVIA

#### VIDEO

MISTY MOUNTAINS / INES LIGHTS  
FIRE, CARRIES WATER

INES RIBERO ON CAMERA

INES BY FIRE

INES RIBERO ON CAMERA

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

4.30 a.m. After working all her life, Ines Ribero finds herself – at 72 – in miserable poverty. Like her parents before her, she has spent her life in servitude, toiling for long hours on a privately-owned ranch for no pay. (15.5)

INES RIBERO: (Spanish) F

*"It was still dark when we started work in the mornings. We worked until 8, 10 o'clock at night."* (8)

##### NARRATION

As a small child, Ines says she was forced to work in the hacienda kitchen, always in fear of the master of the house. (6.5)

INES RIBERO: (Spanish) F

*"I was 8 yrs old – a little girl! // We were planting seeds, once, and he said we were doing it wrong, so he took us to the hacienda, two of us, and he beat us – like we were dogs,*

*he beat us.” (17)*

NARRATION

GUARANI GIRLS IN STREAM

Ines is Guarani. Her people have always lived in the sub-tropical forests in this remote corner of southern Bolivia. Today, an estimated 2000 families live on large ranches and estates in semi-feudal servitude and debt bondage. It's a system that goes back to colonial times. (17)

GUARANI WORKERS ON RANCH

MIRIAM CAMPOS: (Spanish) **F**  
*“It's a very subtle form of exploitation, of domination.” (4)*

MIRIAM CAMPOS ON CAMERA

NARRATION

MIRIAM WITH GUARANI / GUARANI VILLAGERS

Miriam Campos is a lawyer with the Bolivian government's Ministry of Justice and an advocate of Guarani rights to a decent wage and living conditions. (8)

MIRIAM CAMPOS: (Spanish) **F**

MIRIAM CAMPOS ON CAMERA

*“People live in really miserable conditions, and we see that they have lost their self-respect.” (6.5)*

NARRATION

MIRIAM CAMPOS WITH GUARANI

Being paid for their labours is crucial to retrieving their self-respect. Due to pressure from people like Miriam, the system is beginning to change and some workers have received retroactive lump sums for their years of labour. But Miriam has also found children labouring on ranches for just 30 cents a day; women working for less than a dollar, and some people receiving nothing at all. (22)

GUARANI WORKERS / CHILDREN AND WOMEN WORKERS

## PRIVATE RANCHES

Last year, the Bolivian government passed a contentious new land redistribution law.

Portions of privately-owned land can now be handed back to the Guarani if it is proved that workers are being exploited. The issue of land-ownership is tearing the country apart as ranch-owners claim equal rights to the land they were also born on. (19)

## ROMAN REYNAGA WALKS, ON HORSEBACK

Roman Reynaga was born here and now owns the hacienda where Ines and her family live. Roman denies that he is exploiting his workers. (8)

ROMAN REYNAGA: (Spanish) **M**

## ROMAN REYNAGA ON CAMERA

*"If I was a bad boss, who exploited his workers, I wouldn't have anyone working for me. They would have all left me!"* (8.5)

NARRATION

## ARCHIVE FOOTAGE CLASHES BETWEEN LAND-OWNERS, GUARANI AND AUTHORITIES (MARCH 2008)

Some ranch-owners have taken the law into their hands, recruiting armed thugs to keep government land inspectors out of their properties, thus halting the redistribution of land. Confrontations have been violent. (11.5)

## ADOPTION OF DECLARATION AT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, GENEVA

Last year, a Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous was adopted at the United Nations. It calls for the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples to be respected... and recognises the ownership of their lands as the key to their survival. (14.5)

And some Guarani have recently received land

ITAKISE VILLAGE – MEN BUILD  
SCHOOL

of their own, for the first time in their lives.  
Deep in the forest in Bolivia, a group of 22  
Guarani families are building a new village on  
land that used to be privately owned. (13)

PAULINA SERVES FOOD TO HER  
CHILDREN OUTSIDE SHELTER

Paulina, her husband and five children left their  
house on the hacienda 10 months' ago to live  
under this plastic sheet. In spite of the  
hardships they are enduring, she relishes her  
new-found freedom and the fact that her  
children can now go to school. (13.5)

PAULINA MOLINO ON CAMERA

PAULINA MOLINO: (Spanish) **F**  
*I tell my children that, no matter what, they  
must study so that, when we die, they don't fall  
back into the hands of the boss.” (7)*

GUARANI CHILDREN AT SCHOOL

NARRATION  
For the first time in centuries, the chance of a  
better life is on the horizon for the Guarani. But  
theirs is not the only claim to these lands. (8)

ROMAN REYNAGA ON  
HORSEBACK, ON CAMERA

ROMAN REYNAGA: (Spanish) **M**  
*“We're both Bolivians, we both deserve these  
lands where we are living. I was also born  
here. We need to find alternatives where we  
work together.” (9)*

MOUNTAINS / GUARANI WOMAN /  
ROMAN REYNAGA

NARRATION  
How Bolivians resolve the issue of dividing the  
land will be the key to a better future for the  
Guarani... and for their former masters. (7.5)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Gill Fickling for  
the United Nations.