

# OTROS MUNDOS A.C.

## GLOBAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2023



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2023 was marked by significant events in Chiapas. Among them, violence of all kinds unleashed by drug cartels throughout the state with terrible results such as disappearances, murders, forced displacement of thousands of people, extortion, forced recruitment of young people, etc. On the other hand, there are thousands of migrants from Central and South America who enter Chiapas every day, which has caused an unprecedented migration crisis in the history of the state and the country. Faced with this situation, in Otros Mundos we struggle to adapt to the context, look for new paths and ways to continue fighting and resisting. For us, 2023 was an incredible year!!

### LAND AND TERRITORY DEFENSE PROGRAM

We held several virtual meetings with teams of lawyers and organizations from Canada and Mexico to follow up on the murder case of **Mariano Abarca** and the lawsuit filed against the Canadian government. For this purpose, we made a visit to Canada and a statement was read at a press conference on the subject. Unfortunately, given the situation of insecurity and violence, we were forced to suspend the selection and delivery process of the 2023 "[Mariano Abarca](#)" Environmental Defense Award in Chiapas.

Likewise, we participated in the act of solidarity with the [Colonia Maya, winner of said Award in its 2022 edition](#), within the framework of the visit of Amnesty International and the presentation of its Report ***Mexico: Land and freedom? Criminalization of defenders of land, territory and the environment***, which highlights the persecution of environmental defenders, among whom are leaders of this neighborhood.

On the other hand, we held a meeting with anti-mining groups from the municipality of Venustiano Carranza who, along with ejidos from both Benemerito de las Americas and Chapultenango, decided to join the Mexican Network of People Affected by Mining ([REMA](#), by its acronym in Spanish), with which we had several virtual coordination meetings all through the year. In a three-day event at the Alter Natos Ecological Center, we hosted the **National Assembly** of said network, with the participation of delegates from 10 states of the country, such as Hidalgo, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Puebla, Chiapas, Ciudad de Mexico, among others. On this occasion, our aim was to develop analysis of the situation and organization and articulation strategies. Likewise, Alter Natos hosted a 6-day workshop on the



preparation of **Ejidal Regulations and Communal Statutes** with members of the REMA from various states of the country. This year we also managed the **Technical Secretariat** project of this network.



Between July and August we organized once again in Alter Natos the [Training School and the National Assembly of the TUMIN Community Currency](#), with delegates from more than 10 states in the country, a 4-day event that was accompanied by the exchange of products, experiences, coexistence and training .

On the other hand, together with the **DESC International Network**, we convened and organized the workshop **Political Economy of Violence**, with the participation of organizations from Honduras, Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico, among other countries, in order to delve into the context and source of the current violence in the region as well as the strategies around human rights and defense of the territory.

We began a process of alliance and strengthening of the Tseltal indigenous organization and autonomy *Defense of the Territory and Life of the Native Peoples of Chilon (DETUVIDA)*, which has a presence in 27 communities of that municipality, and with whom we held meetings, assemblies and training workshops, some in coordination with [the Yax Hun Collective](#). The goal is to support the autonomy processes of indigenous peoples.



At the Alter Natos Center we received the [visit of students from the Postgraduate Program on Rural Development of the Metropolitan Autonomous University \(UAM, by its acronym in Spanish\) Xochimilco Campus](#), whose aim was to share reflections within the framework of the conversation **From the heart of the Altos de Chiapas: social movements, resistances, community governments and autonomy**. With the participation of doctoral students from more than 10 states in the country, we shared our analysis on megaprojects and the defense of land and territories. They also asked us for talks, analyzes and conferences on the situation of Chiapas for students of different careers at the Iberoamerican University (UIA); and several conferences on: extractivism and the environment to students from the Technological Institute of Higher Studies of the West (ITESO, by its acronym in Spanish);



about megaprojects to young people from several states in the country studying at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (**UNAM**, by its acronym in Spanish); several talks on bioconstruction to students of the Faculty of Architecture of the Autonomous University of Chiapas (**UNACH**, by its acronym in Spanish); on economics and politics to students of the Institute of Technology and Higher Studies of Monterrey (**ITESM**, by its acronym in Spanish); and with students from the master's degree in Political Ecology at the **University of Guadalajara** and with students from the Center for Higher Studies of Mexico and Central America of Chiapas (**CESMECA**, by its acronym in Spanish) within the framework of the [8<sup>th</sup> Other Democracies Social Forum](#).



Faced with an urgent need for re-articulation and along with other NGOs we organized, coordinated and carried out the [Mesoamerican Meeting of Social Movements](#) in the Guatemalan Petén where a joint [Declaration](#) was issued from organizations from Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, in addition to the United States and Colombia. With this we achieved the re-articulation of movements from all the countries of the Mesoamerican region, and with the presence of some social movements from South America we shared analysis, experiences, resistance and hopes in the regional struggle for the defense of the territories.



We commemorated the [7th Anniversary](#) of the murder of [Berta Caceres](#), and we continued in the fight to demand justice for her. We also made progress in systematizing the chronology of events in the case. On the other hand, we support an organization in the making of its action protocol against gender violence.

## ALTER NATOS COMMUNITY PROGRAM

In relation to the Network of Users of Biodigesters of Chiapas ([BIO RED](#), by its acronym in Spanish), we installed 10 more **biodigestion systems**, for a total of **42 member families**. The equipment is operating at its maximum capacity, producing **2.4 m<sup>3</sup>** of biogas equivalent to **3 hours** of burning a stove for cooking food. Likewise, at the time being **100 liters of biofertilizer** capable of nourishing **4.5 hectares** of crops annually are produced. Prior to the installations, **four technical and political training workshops** were held for the new user families who became part of the BIO RED. In this way, the good adoption of eco-technology is ensured. **Six technical consultancies** were also carried out, addressing topics such as repair of geomembrane equipment, reinstallation of systems, repair of stoves and changes of hydrogen sulphide filter material.



**20 post-installation** visits were carried out to ensure the proper functioning of the systems installed with the member families, directly benefiting about **210 people from 42 families**, who stopped buying LP gas, reduced firewood consumption by up to 50% and achieved significant savings by no longer requiring chemical fertilizers. Women are the happiest, as their workload has decreased thanks to the availability of biogas for cooking food and water heaters 24 hours a

day.

We close 2023 with several challenges caused by the insecurity generated by organized crime. In this context we were happy to culminate October with the [III Annual Assembly of BIO RED](#), in which the partners of zone XV (Comiteco Tojolobal Plateau) and Zone V (Tsotsil-Tseltal Highlands) participated and where various experiences were shared. The event was complemented with permaculture training with the support of Rancho Lum Ha', an agroecology project located in the municipality of Teopisca. The decision-making about the future of BIO RED was interesting, since the member families proposed three paths to follow. The first one is to continue the technical training in the use and management of the biodigester and biofertilizer; the second one is to look for spaces where they can market their agricultural products; and the third one is to continue weaving bonds of trust between producers to support each other and face current challenges.





Likewise, **BIO RED** participated in the [first Care for Life Alternatives Fair held](#) by the Ojo de Agua Communication, an organization located in Zanatepec, Oaxaca. The opportunity to continue weaving ties of friendship and work with different institutions of civil society that seek to defend the natural assets of the people such as water, energy and food sovereignty was enriching.



Continuing with the **BIO RED**, several member families received visits from groups interested in learning about the experience of biodigesters, including the national delegations of Tumin, REMA, the Itinerant University of Resistance of Haiti (UNIR) and students of the Telesecundaria School # 069 “Luis Donaldo Colosio”, among others.

On October 1st in Otros Mundos A.C. we had the opportunity to participate in the [Corn Fair](#), in which we were able to show the different species of corn that are produced in different regions of the state as well as vindicate the production of native corn in the hands of farmers who defend native seeds.



All throughout the year we supported new members of **Tumin** with talks in order to introduce them to the alternatives of the solidarity economy.

On the other hand, with the support of the Chilean specialist Nicolas Sanchez Rendic, from March to December we organized and carried out an **Acupuncture Training** process for 20



health female promoters from **10 municipalities**, whose aim was to incorporate new health tools into the popular heritage, especially considering that in women hands, and to reinforce the post-covid recovery as well. It was a theoretical and practical training, complemented by several learning materials. It was an unparalleled experience to witness the joy and enthusiasm of the women upon acquiring this new healing tool.

Finally, in the Alter Natos Center workshop we produced two dozen of [dry toilet bowls](#) for many communities and environmental projects. On this same topic, we supported representatives of the [Colonia Maya](#) in training them to make dry bath cups.



## INDIGENOUS LITIGATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAM

This year we launched the Indigenous Litigation and Human Rights Training Clinic (**CLIFODH**, by its acronym in Spanish), headed by indigenous lawyers, to litigate defense cases of indigenous community defenders unjustly imprisoned. Thus we started up with the defense of two Tsetal indigenous companions accused of crimes they did not commit. The clinic has established a strategic alliance with the **Human Rights Center of the UNACH Law School** and with the **Structural Litigation Laboratory** of Mexico City.

On the other hand, we carried out the First **CLIFODH** School with the workshop ***Legal Backpack course for the Defense of Human Rights and the Construction of Autonomous Justice***, with the participation of more than 35 indigenous defenders representing 27 communities of the Rainforest Region. Our goal was to support the construction of indigenous justice mechanisms, peace processes and conflict resolution, with a view to the creation and strengthening of the autonomous justice structure.



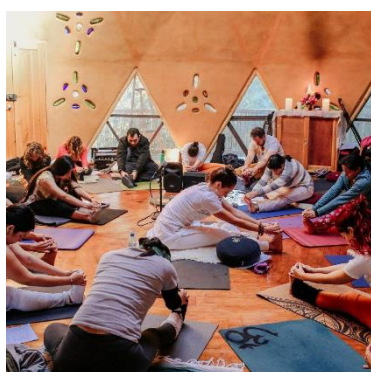


## ALTER NATOS ECOLOGICAL CENTER PROGRAM

The Alter Natos Ecological Center experienced intense activity this year with four visits from students from the UNACH School of Architecture, from the Tuxtla Gutierrez campus. Likewise, from May to June four students from the UIA from the Leon, Guanajuato campus performed their social service by carrying out various maintenance and improvement tasks at the facilities. We also received visits from various groups: from UAM students; from members of the Inlakesh eco-village; from the collective ALTER NATIVAS, who arrived with a group from the United States; and other groups of visitors interested in seeing with their own eyes a successful bio-construction model.



On the other hand, at the end of November we hosted the regional assembly of producers organized by The Southern Border School (**ECOSUR**, by its acronym in Spanish); and, finally, at the beginning of December a retreat for yoga practitioners was held, with the participation of 40 people from all over the country, who were totally fascinated with the experience.



We were also pleased to receive the visit of representatives of several international networks and institutions, such as the Fund for Global Human Rights, the International CESC Network, the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), and several delegations from the United States.

In relation to the maintenance of the Alter Natos Center, the bamboo structures were repaired with the cleaning and varnishing of all buildings. Improvements were made to the water filters and the capitation tanks were washed. The 230 W polycrystalline photovoltaic systems were



located on the roofs to capture as much energy from the sun as possible for pumping and recirculating water. In the months of January, February and March, the geomembrane roofs, which are living roofs, of the five buildings in the center were restored. General maintenance was carried out on the electrical systems throughout the center and the security mechanisms were improved with cameras distributed in strategic spots as well as the installation of a remotely interconnected lighting system. Signage was also placed in different spots of the center. All this was achieved with the collaboration of volunteers from Germany, Switzerland and the United States.



## COMMUNICATION AND POPULAR EDUCATION PROGRAM

In this area, 2023 was a very productive year. In relation to our social networks, we have experienced a significant increase in the informative impact. Our [Facebook](#) page has seen an amazing growth, with an increase of **12,949 "Likes"** and **13,557 followers**. On [Twitter](#), we have reached a total of **4,136 followers**, while on [Telegram](#) we have added **139 followers** to our community, and on [YouTube](#) we have a total of **1,113 subscribers** on our channel.

This year we launched our [Instagram](#) account, achieving **217 followers**. On the other hand, we created the [Alter Natos Instagram](#) account, reaching **128 followers**, we also opened the BIO RED [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts, reaching **61 followers**, **45 "Likes"** and **74 followers**, respectively.



In addition, we developed the [website](#) of the Mesoamerican Meeting of Social Movements "Rediscover ourselves in the resistance" and its social networks on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#), now X.

In 2023, we have recorded a total of **890,417** visits to our website, with **148,559 visitors**. We published a total of **186 articles** on our [website](#), replicated on our social networks, which have been widely disseminated. We published statements from our sister networks, such as REMA, COPINH, RECOMA, ATI, ATALC, STAY GROUNDED, among others, as well as important reports on territorial defense issues, impacts of megaprojects and construction of alternatives. We have also supported the dissemination of statements from movements and organizations that

we have accompanied, in addition to joining internationalist solidarity with several countries such as Palestine, Haiti, Honduras, Ecuador, Panama and Nicaragua, to name a few.

Unfortunately and as mentioned before, this year we were not able to present the fifth "Mariano Abarca" Environmental Defense Award in Chiapas, due to the complex situation of violence in the state. However, we published [a statement](#) recognizing and dedicating this recognition to all the people who, through social and community organization, resist this wave of violence and continue working every day for a more just and dignified Chiapas.



EL ESCARAMUJO No. 121

EL ESTADO MEXICANO CONTRA SUS JÓVENES  
Dos casos: el movimiento estudiantil de 1968 y la Noche de Iguala  
(Primera Parte)

Ana Cristina Vázquez Carpio  
Otros Mundos Chiapas  
11 de Octubre de 2023, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, México  
<https://otrosmundoschiapas.org/>



We prepared [10 analyse articles](#) in **El Escaramujo** on topics related to the situation of violence in Chiapas, the paramilitaries, the self-defense groups, drug trafficking violence, the militarization of aviation, the alleged civil war in Chiapas, the anniversary of the military coup in Chile and student repressions.

We produce [24 radio spots](#) about the Tumin alternative community currency, currently available on our [Spotify account](#).

From the **Voices in Resistance Series**, we have produced and disseminated **3 chapters**, one on [corporate power and extractivism](#) within the framework of the Annual Assembly of the Mexican Network of Women and Men Affected by Mining; another on the [Tumin community currency](#) within the framework of its Annual Assembly; and the third on [Resistance to Oil Palm in Mesoamerica](#). We have also developed [the Series: Green Autonomy: Rurales Stories of Sustainability with Biodigesteres](#), which presents testimonies and experiences of users of the BIO RED in Chiapas. We have produced **4 videos** on this last topic to date.





Likewise, we presented the book "[The Earth We Are/Good Living and Defense of Territory in Mesoamerica](#)", prepared by the Mesoamerican Caravan. We also supported the edition of the magazine "[The Tumin ABC](#)" to strengthen the solidarity economy, as well as the edition of the manual "[Mother Earth in the Sacred Scripture](#)", by the Yax Hun Collective, which rescues the Mayan glyphs to deliver them to the native peoples and rescue their spirit and identity to strengthen the territories.



We prepared and disseminated [9 informative and training messages](#) about the danger of extinction of hummingbirds in protected areas; [58 BIO RED messages](#) on the use of family biodigesters; and [31 "Tuminsajes"](#), whose aim is to reinforce the training and principles of the solidarity economy.



We have increased the presence of our priority issues in the press media. We improved our relations with **local, national** and **international media**, having a list of media contacts of 202, of which 51 are international.

On the other hand, we gave numerous **interviews** to different media outlets from Spain, Argentina, France, Mexico, Italy, Colombia, Haiti, Costa Rica and Germany on several topics of the reality of Chiapas, the country and human rights defenders and the environment. We also participated in an episode of the [podcast "Elemental"](#).



We participate in multiple **webinars** and **virtual meetings** for coordination, training and information with the Popular University and other networks, such as Friends of the Earth, Stay Grounded, Latin American Network Against Tree Monocultures (RECOMA), Coalition for Rights in Development, the Itinerant University of the Resistance of Haiti (UNIR), the REMA, the Save Temaca Committee and the Permanent Solidarity Forum of the Alforja Network on Militarization and Dispossession of Territories, with the participation of organizations from several Latin American countries. In addition, we were invited to join the Global Campaign for Climate Justice network.

Along with the area of Defense of the Land and Territory, we have accompanied processes with documentation in photographs and videos, such as the Annual Assembly of the REMA, the Annual Assembly and Training School of Alternative Economy Tumin, Workshop "Legal

Backpack for the Defense of Human Rights”, the BIO RED Annual Assembly, among other activities, workshops and meetings held at the Alter Natos Center. We have also documented group visits to BIO RED families to learn about biodigesters. We have shared some of these photographs on [Alter Natos'](#) Instagram account.

Likewise, we received recognition from the Kinoki Cultural Center for the work that Otros Mundos has carried out in recent years to disseminate alternative information on various current issues.



We have held [10 editions](#) of the "Permanent Sustainability Seminar", where we presented several documentaries with special guests and different topics such as oil palm, mining, the situation in Palestine, migration, energy, forests, mega-tourism, defense of the territory, among others. Around 200 people have participated in these debates. Invitations to our "Permanent Sustainability Seminar" reached 460 people.

We have carried out a total of [8 broadcasts](#) of the **El Escaramujo radio program** with relevant topics such as mining, the situation in Colombia and Haiti, the Berta Caceres case, indigenous childhood in Chiapas, Tumin, the Colonia Mayan and women. Likewise, the **Barrio Bicicletero radio program** had a total of **12 broadcasts**.



We also held [two conversations](#) on the situation in Israel and Palestine, in order to provide better tools to understand the holocaust of the Palestinian People; and workshops and analysis talks on the reality of Chiapas with a group of women, with people from different groups and organizations, as well as in a neighborhood of the City of San Cristobal de Las Casas.

Furthermore, through communication, we supported the demand for justice from the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH, by its acronym in Spanish) for the murder of its coordinator Berta Caceres on March 2, 2016. We shared [8 informative notes](#) and **reports** on the subject and published [a statement](#) at the global action commemorating Berta's murder. We placed an [offering](#) in Alter Natos on the Day of the Dead, that we Mexicans celebrate on November 2, in her memory. We [broadcasted](#) El Escaramujo



**radio program** to remember her as well. We have also followed and shared information about the trial against David Castillo in the search for #JusticeForBerta.



Generally speaking, in our communications we seek actions to vindicate our feminist vision and contribute to the dismantling of patriarchy. We participated and covered the feminist march on March 8 in San Cristobal de Las Casas and published [a statement](#) on the matter.

We finished our activities for the year with a workshop on the development of internal regulations for ejidos and agrarian communities, with the participation of 22 REMA representatives and liaisons.



This year was a very complex one, with multiple problems, being the most worrying the growing violence in the entity and in many other states of the country. 2024 looks like another difficult year, in which most likely and much to our regret, we will continue to deal with this terrible situation. However, at Otros Mundos we are determined to continue working with the communities and organizations we accompany, in a creative and purposeful way. For the entire operational team, this is, more than a challenge, a new opportunity to strengthen the path we have taken and improve our performance.