

## Guatemalan Genocide

The Maya, a remarkable native civilization of Central America, has been suffering to escape oppressive government control since Spanish explorers conquered their land in the 1700s. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Mayan people brought on a civil war to demand equality for their culture and people. In the 1980s, the Guatemalan army retaliated against their guerilla warfare tactics with “Operation Sophia,” which demolished the civilian base in which the Mayans hid. This was followed by the Guatemalan army’s forces destroying hundreds of villages and killing or kidnapping more than 200,000 people. As is the case in many ethnic attacks, the terrorists not only attack the people, but their homes and culture. The government inflicted a policy of destroying all livestock, water supply, and traces of culture from their villages. 1.5 million people were displaced as their homes were destroyed or in fear of the violent policies enforced by the army. Armed conflict finally ended in 1996 when the government signed a peace treaty, but no paper can resolve the extraordinary suffering of the Mayan culture. Even today, discrimination against the indigenous is evident in economic marginalisation and supremacist attacks. The Maya was once a formidable empire, but because of hate and greed, their people were tragically torn apart.



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- [Guatemalan Army Waged 'Genocide,' New Report Finds | New York Times](#)
- [The Guatemala Genocide Ruling, Five Years Later | National Security Archive](#) current status (2018)
- [Guatemala's history of genocide hurts Mayan communities to this day](#)