Maudilia López is a Mam-Maya activist and Catholic nun who brings together her Indigenous roots and a hybrid Christian mysticism in her work defending Indigenous lands and culture in northern Guatemala.

Her talk will focus on the work she has been doing for the last 20 years in defending 18 communities in Mam territory near the municipality of San Miguel Ixtahuacan from the devastating effects of a gold mine and its threats to Indigenous sovereignty.

Maudilia will discuss how the North American extractive industry has brought strife to the community, jeopardized the well-being of the land, contaminated the water and livestock, and has threatened to tear apart the very social fabric that has held these communities together for centuries.