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NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 24, 1998

Contact: Paul Ryan, UM Latin American Human Rights Network, (406) 728-5538.

CHIAPAS UPRISING SUBJECT OF MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION

MISSOULA--

“The War Next Door: Mayan Uprising in Chiapas, Mexico,” will be the subject of a multimedia theater presentation Friday, March 6, at The University of Montana.

Presented by the UM Latin American Human Rights Network, the event begins at 7:30 p.m. in Room 122 of the Gallagher Building. The public is invited to learn more about the struggle of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation.

“There is a war being waged in southern Mexico and very few residents of the United States know anything about it,” said Paul Ryan, network member.

Billing the event as “edu-tainment,” the network will combine slides, video, audio and live theatrics in an effort to entertain and educate the audience about events in Chiapas. An information fair will take place in the lobby, with many local organizations distributing information and answering questions.

Ryan is one of several UM students who spent last summer in Chiapas doing independent study and acting as human rights observers.

“The Zapatista rebellion is directly related to U.S.-promoted international trade negotiations ... and international economic policy,” he said. “These economic policies have a direct impact on U.S. employment, too, such as the Dana Designs backpack production jobs that were moved from Bozeman to Ensenada, Mexico, in 1996.”

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Chiapas.rl--2

The network's mission is to educate the Missoula community about human rights issues throughout Latin America, as well as the connection between human rights violations and U.S. foreign policy.

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