CHAPTER TWO

‘FOR A LIFE WITH JUSTICE AND DIGNITY’: INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND VOICES IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

We demand that indigenous rights and our rights as women are respected (President of Jolom Mayaetik Rosalinda Santiz Diaz 2001).

I always say that globalization can only thrive on the grave of democracy. So we ask the people of the North to discipline their governments and their corporations…. The day you resurrect democracy in the US, we resurrect democracy here (Vandana Shiva 2001).

Rosalinda Weaves Resistance to Exploitation

On International Women’s Day, 2001, Rosalinda Santiz Diaz, the young, Mayan president of Jolom Mayaetik, delivered a testimonial before the World Court of Women against War and for Peace in Capetown, South Africa (See full text in Appendix 1). The Court, comprised of 3,800 women and men from the different provinces of South Africa and regions of the world, was assembled to hear global testimonials to the genocidal violence of the world’s wars. Roundtables presented on March 6–7 explored global contexts and personal texts on the themes of understanding the roots of war including the role of globalization, nation states and boundaries, racism and wars against indigenous peoples, trafficking and the war against women, and refugees and war. Roundtables for the second theme explored alternative notions of justice and peace and discussed truth and reconciliation commissions, international war crimes tribunals, reconciling memory, healing and peace building, and ending poverty. These roundtables prepared the assembly to hear the personal testimonials of 40 women on the next day organized in five sessions including Wars as Genocide, Wars without Borders, Wars against Civilizations, Wars against Women, and Voices of Resistance.
Figure 5. San Cristóbal de Las Casas Wall, 2005. Photographer: Katherine O'Donnell.