PART IV

APPENDICES
Greeting in Tzotzil
To the women in the world,
To the women in this meeting
To the International Organizations of Human Rights
I am greeting with respect and solidarity all of the women in this meeting. My name is Rosalinda Santiz Diaz. I am indigenous, tzotzil, from the community Bayalemò, municipality San Andrés Sakam’chen de los Pobres, Highland region of Chiapas. I am the president of a women’s artesan cooperative called Jolom Mayaetik, in English: Mayan weavers.

In Chiapas and all over Mexico the indigenous people have been exploited for the last 508 years. We’re not taken into account, we’re not recognized. There is no good education for us and the health service in not sufficient and bad. A lot of women die of curable diseases or giving birth. Not in all communities exist drinking water or electricity. We’re not paid a good price for our work. For women there are few possibilities: or you get married or you work in the domestic service in the cities. In the cities our clothes and our language are despised, that’s why some indigenous women lose their clothing and feel shame when they speak their language.

That’s why in January of 1994 the Zapatista Army of National Liberation started an armed uprising. Parts of Civil Society joined the fight for our rights and the indigenous culture. In these moments thousands of women and men cross different places of Mexico, to make a weaving of voices, thoughts, fights and protests to construct our dignity.

From 1994 on, young indigenous women have been fighting, so that our words are heard, that we follow our hearts and thinking. During these years a lot of us have suffered from persecution, militarization, paramilitary groups, hunger, death threats, sexual violations, forced displacements as consequences of the so called Low Intensity Warfare. More than 20,000 indigenous people have lost their bits of land, their