



PEACE BRIGADES INTERNACIONAL – GUATEMALA PROJECT

Monthly Information package on Guatemala

Number 19, April 2005

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1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

Impunity

Creation of public prosecutor to substitute CICIACS

Following the failed attempt to establish a Commission for the Investigation of illegal structures and Clandestine security apparatus (CICIACS), authorities in the Public Ministry will in the coming week compile a document which will form the basis of the creation of a public prosecutor for the investigation of crimes against humanity. The government of the former President, Alfonso Portillo, had signed an agreement with the United Nations on the creation of the CICIACs. However, the Parliament voted against the creation of such a Commission on the basis that it was contrary to the Constitution of the Republic.

First sentencing for racism

On 4 April the Tenth Tribunal sentenced 5 FRG members (including the nephew of former president Rios Montt) to three years and two months imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 Quetzales for crimes of racism against Nobel peace prize winner Rigoberta Menchú. The accused were not charged with the crimes of threats and coercion on the basis of insufficient evidence.

Clandestine Cemetery discovered in military zone of El Quiché

On 27 April, the Foundation of Forensic Anthropologists of Guatemala (FAFG) began exhumations in a clandestine cemetery located in the former military base 22 in Playa Grande, Ixcán in the department of El Quiché. In the first of 13 graves to be exhumed, the remains of 15 victims were found all of whom were killed during the internal armed conflict.

Parliament in favour of the opening of an office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

On 28 April the Commission for legislation of Foreign Affairs voted in favour of the opening of an office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala.

Latin America: A dangerous region for human rights defenders

Latin America was the most dangerous region for human rights defenders in 2004, according to the annual report of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. A total of 1,154 human rights defenders from approximately 200 organizations were subjected to acts of repression in almost 90 countries throughout the world, a result which represents double that reported in 2003. The Observatory denounced “the increasing criminalization of social protest” and “arbitrary legal proceedings directed against organizations working on the defence of economic, social and cultural rights.”

Land

Members of CNOC occupy the offices of FONTIERRA

On 6 April members of the National Coordination of Peasant Organizations (CNOC) occupied the offices of the National Land Fund (FONTIERRA) located in Guatemala City. Amongst their demands was a solution to the problem of land tenancy as well as an end to the legal processes against indigenous leaders.

Land evictions in Alta and Baja Verapaz

The National Coordination of Peasant Organizations (CNOC) denounced the illegal actions of security forces in carrying out evictions, reportedly with falsified legal orders, against various families who had occupied state owned land. In a press release, CNOC, stated that the evictions took place in the village of Xacalté, Purulhá in Baja Verapaz and in the community Colonia Maya, Fray Bartolomé de las casas, Alta Verapaz. Furthermore, on 29 April 50 families were evicted from Xacalté from land belonging to the local municipality which was under investigation by the Legal Technical Unit of the Land Registry.

Globalisation

Further demonstrations against DR-CAFTA

On 7 April, thousands participated in a further demonstration against the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement. The demonstration was organized by the Indigenous, Peasant, Trade Union and Popular Movement (MICSP). As with other similar demonstrations, security forces prevented the demonstration from gaining access to the Parliament buildings. Delegates of the MICSP submitted a document to the parliament outlining their demands which were related to agrarian reform, social development, fiscal policy and CAFTA.

Ministry for Education: 90 cases against teachers who participated in demonstrations

Towards the end of March the Ministry for Education reported that it had raised 90 cases against teachers who, in participating in the anti-CAFTA demonstrations, neglected their teaching obligations.

Delegation from the World Bank to verify mining project

Three mining experts, members of the CAO-Ombudsman’s office of the World Bank, arrived in Guatemala on the 25 April to investigate complaints about the negative impact of the gold extraction project in San Miguel Ixtahuacán, San Marcos by the mining company with Canadian capital Montana Exploradora S.A. For ten days the experts will visit the area meeting those involved with or affected by the project. The complaint was placed by “Colectivo Madre Selva” at the beginning of the year on the grounds that the communities affected by the project had not been consulted, as required by Covenant 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and ratified by Guatemala. According to Madre Selva, the gold mine places water sources in the area at risk and exposes the communities to contamination from cyanide.

Sources: *Prensa Libre, Siglo Veintiuno, El Periódico, Infopress Centroamericana, La Semana en Guatemala, Informe Semanal Sobre Derechos Humanos*

2. ACTIONS OF PBI GUATEMALA – WITHIN GUATEMALA

Current Team: Vincent Castagnino (France), Melosa Aiyana Granda (USA), Fionuala Cregan (Ireland), Sander Otten (The Netherlands), Matthew Fawcett (Great Britain), Helen Woodcock (Great Britain) and Silvio Kohler (Germany)

2.1 MEETINGS WITH GUATEMALAN AUTHORITIES AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

Meetings with the authorities and members of the diplomatic corps in Guatemala are an essential component of PBI's work, strengthening the support for the project throughout the country. Throughout the month of April meetings were held with the following authorities:

Guatemalan Authorities:

Francisco De La Peña, Assistant Director of Migration
Francisco Aguirre, Acting Mayor of Zone 21, Guatemala City
Héctor Horacio Cana, Governor of Chimaltenango
Felipe Méndez País, Mayor of Río Hondo
Patricio Paz Chacón, Municipality of Río Hondo
Erick Ariel Flores M., Regional Coordinator of the Presidential Commission for Human Rights (COPREDEH) Zacapa, Izabal and Chiquimula
Thelma Schaub, Head the Unit for attention to victims of human rights abuses of the office of the Ombudsman (PDH)

Diplomatic Corps

Åsa Björklund, Representative of the European Initiative for Human Rights and Democracy, European Commission.
Claude Robert Ellner, German Ambassador and Sebastian Werther, Third Secretary of the German Embassy.

2.2 MEETINGS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The PBI Guatemala Project team holds regular meetings with civil society organizations. This enables us to monitor the situation of human rights defenders and to exchange information on the work being carried out, as well as to gather information which helps us to develop our analysis of the internal political situation.

Civil Society Organizations:

Carlos Aldana, formerly a member of the National Commission for Indemnification
Carlos Paz and Alfredo Che of the National Coordination of Peasant Organizations (CNOC)
Cristina Laur De Pérez Co-director of the Centre for Legal Action in Human Rights (CALDH)
Nery Ródenas, Executive Director and Mario Domingo, Legal Co-ordinator of the Office of Human Rights of the Archbishop of Guatemala (ODHAG)
Nelton Rivera, Delegate, Indigenous, Peasant, Union and Popular Movement (MICSP)

International Organizations:

- Monitoring Commission for the Peace Accords and Relations with Civil Society of the Forum of International Non-Governmental Organizations (FONGI)
Dennis Martínez of the Dutch platform against Impunity in Guatemala

Ulrike Bickel, Human Rights Representative of Misereor and Brigitte McBain-Haas, Human Rights Researchers, FIAN

Sage Radachowski, Representative of PBI Nepal Exploratory Mission.

The Asia Pacific Representative of the Project, Eva Scarfe, participated in the various events to mark the VII Anniversary of the assassination of Monsignor Gerardi in Guatemala City.

Courtesy visits were carried out to the following organizations:

Coordinating Body of National *Campesino* Organizations, CNOC
Coordinating Body of Indigenous and *Campesino* Organizations, CONIC
Centre for Legal Action in Human Rights, CALDH
Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences in Guatemala, AVANCSO
National Coordination for Human Rights in Guatemala, CONADEGUA
Rights Action
Families of the Detained and Disappeared of Guatemala, FAMDEGUA
Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation, FRMT
Sons and Daughters for justice and identity and against silence and indifference, HIJOS
National Movement for Human Rights, MNDH
Confederation of Evangelical churches of Guatemala, CIEDEG

International Organisations:

Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala, CAIG:
- Austria Accompaniment Project, ADA.
- Québec-Guatemala Accompaniment Project, PAQG.
- Accompaniment Project for the witnesses of the genocide cases, ACOGUATE.
- Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, NISGUA
- Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation, SWEFOR

2.3 ACCOMPANIMENTS

We accompany **Members of the Indigenous Municipality of Sololá**. On the 25th of March in the village of El Tablón, Sololá, unidentified persons doused the vehicle used by Carlos Humberto Guárquez, representative of the Indigenous Municipality of Sololá, in petrol and set it on fire. Death threats specifically naming Mr. Guárquez, Ms Domingo Vásquez (Indigenous Mayoress of Sololá) and her husband, Alfonso Guárquez, were found scattered around the vehicle. Part of the threat stated: "For your stupid meddling in society, tomorrow will be the day you disappear from this world." As a result of this threat we decided to activate our **Support Network (RdA)**. During the month of April we raised our concern for the life and physical integrity of the Members of the Indigenous Municipality to the following authorities:

Francisco Antonio Reyes, Head of Substation of the National Civil Police of Sololá.
Esteban Toc Tzay, Mayor of Sololá
Silvia Vásquez, Deputy Minister for Community Support, Ministry of the Interior
Nicolasa Procopio, Representative of the Presidential Commission for Human Rights (COPREDEH) for Sololá and Chimaltenango
Ovidio Paz, Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH), Sololá

Troy Fitrell, Human Rights Representative of the Embassy of the United States of America
Ginette Martin, Economic, Social and Cultural Advisor, Embassy of Canada
Pietro Lazzetti, Head of Joint Mission and Miguel Moerth, Representative for Human rights and Development, Embassy of Switzerland
Hans Magnusson, Advisor, Embassy of Sweden, Tobias Lorentzon, Second Secretary and Ulla-Britt Hedvall, Head of Programmes of the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation (ASDI)

Background: Following the confrontations in the Department of Sololá on the 11th of January 2005 between the National Civil Police and the Guatemalan Army and the communities of Sololá, who were protesting against the transportation of a cylinder (which was to be used for mining purposes) through their villages, which left one person dead and over 30 injured, the authorities issued an arrest warrant against five community leaders and representatives of the Indigenous Municipality of Sololá, including the Indigenous Mayoress, Dominga Vásquez. The Indigenous Municipality is a non-governmental body representing indigenous communities in Sololá, which works to defend the rights of the Maya – including the right to speak their own language and to practice their traditional ceremonies and customs – as well as to ensure the development of the communities. Mrs. Vásquez has received threatening phone calls accusing her of having led the movement against the granting of mining licenses. On 29 January, the human rights ombudsman requested precautionary measures from the Inter American Court for Human Rights on behalf of the Indigenous Mayoress and five other communities' leaders.

We have been accompanying members of the **Trade Union of Workers in the NB Assembly Plant, SITRA NB** in Guatemala City.

Background: We have been accompanying the Union members since 27th of July 2004, providing a presence outside of the NB factory in Guatemala City as well as during various other activities within the Capital. There was a period of increased hostility in January 2005 against the Union's Executive Committee, which peaked on 20th of January when a member of the committee was assaulted, inside the factory, in front of her fellow workers. by the factory's General Manager. As a result of the physical aggression suffered by a member of the SITRANB Union, we activated the projects support network (RdA) between the end of January and beginning of March 2005.

We continued to accompany the **Coordination of Widows of Guatemala, CONAVIGUA**. On 28 and 2 of April we accompanied various members of the organization during an exhumation in the community of Marbach, Cahabon in the department of Alta Verapaz.

Background: CONAVIGUA continues to facilitate the process of exhumations and inhumations in various departments throughout Guatemala although largely in Quiché, Chimaltenango, Guatemala and the Verpases..

We continued to carry out regular visits to the office of the **National Coordination of Residents of Marginal Areas in Guatemala, CONAPAMG**.

Background: CONAMPAMG works on the question of access to housing and the legalization of illegally occupied land. On 18 April we accompanied the organizations director, Roly Escobar, to meet community leaders of the shantytown of Esquipulas in zone 21 of Guatemala City where a member of the community and of CONAPAMG Miguel Zapeta Gonzalez was murdered in March.

We accompanied **Eloyda Mejia**, Legal Representative of the **Association of Friends of Lake Izabal** in her activities in the village of El Estor in the Department of Izabal and in Guatemala City.

Background: Eloyda Mejia has suffered a number of threats as a result of her work to protect Lake Izabal, in the province of El Estor, East Guatemala, as well as to inform local residents of the possible damaging effects of the re-opening of the EXMIBAL mining operation in the area. The threats against her became particularly serious during a forum on the future of the lake which took place in El Estor on 21 February following which she lodged an official complaint with the Ministry of Justice and the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH).

We carried out weekly visits to the offices of the **Madre Selva Collective** and accompanied Jose Manuel Chacon in Sipacapa on 21 and 22 April.

Background: Madre Selva is an environmental organization which holds regular workshops on the negative impact of mega-projects and in particular those involving opencast mining and the installation of hydroelectric power plants. Members of the organization regularly receive threats because of their work.

We have carried out periodic visits to the offices of the **Communities of Popular Resistance, CPR Sierra**.

Background: the organization has been under surveillance and several of its members have been followed and have received intimidating phone calls at home well as in the office.

We have maintained regular contact with the **Centre for Human Rights Legal Action, CALDH**. On the 16th of March 2005, CALDH's driver, Edwin Galicia, was assaulted and the car and various documents pertaining to CALDH were stolen. CALDH do not believe that it was common crime- given that Galicia was followed by a car with blacked out windows and without number plates. The attackers insisted that he tell them the name of the organisation he worked for and threatened to kill him. Furthermore CALDH have received a number of other threats this month.

Background: We accompanied Edwin Garcia between September and December 2004 after he publicly denounced with the Public Prosecutors office (MP), his kidnapping in March 2004. On 11 January 2005, one day after the organisation had returned to work, they received an anonymous phone call warning them that a bomb had been placed in their offices. Throughout the following months, they have received further threats and been subjected to various acts of harassment.

We maintained regular contact with **Angélica Macario** of the **Council of Ethnic Communities "Ranujel Junam", CERJ**.

Background: Eusebio Macario, father of Angélica Macario who has been accompanied by PBI on various occasions, was murdered on 27 September 2003. According to CERJ the individuals most likely responsible for the assassination are former Civil Defence Patrol (PAC) members and persons linked to the FRG (Guatemala Republican Front). Following the killing and in view of the serious threat it represented to other CERJ leaders working on compensation for victims of the armed conflict, the PBI-Guatemala Project activated its Support Network.

We carried out periodic visits to the **El Maguey** plantation.

Background: The plantation used to belong to a company for whom relatives of the current residents of El Maguey worked for under extremely exploitative conditions. The signing of the

Peace Accords in 1996 opened up the possibility of reclaiming land based on historic rights. The residents of El Maguey formed the Associative Peasant Company of San Antonio (ECA) and in 2002 attempted to register the land legally in their name with FONTIERRA. However during this process it emerged that the land belonged to the Ministry of Defence. Towards the end of 2002 the FRG Government, under pressure from a number of members of parliament granted the community access to the land. Nonetheless in April 2003 the army violently evicted the community, burning their homes and their school and forcing them to set up camp on the roadside outside the plantation with the few belongings they had salvaged. The eviction was publicly denounced by the Human Rights Ombudsman who also sent advisors to the site who denounced the behaviour of the army towards the community, including acts of harassment and intimidation and denial of access to water and firewood. Shortly afterwards a Governmental Decree withdrawing the community's right to the land was issued. This Decree was appealed before the Constitutional Court which, in May 2004, decided in favour of the community. Reconstruction of the community has begun and they are currently awaiting the finalization of their title to the land.

2.4 . OBSERVATION

On 7 April we were present as international observers during a demonstration of a large number of civil society organizations against the ratification by the Parliament of the Dominican Republic and Central America Free Trade Agreement with the United States (DR-CAFTA). Unlike the demonstrations in March, there were no confrontations between demonstrators and security forces.

3. ACTIVITIES OF PBI-GUATEMALA OUTSIDE OF GUATEMALA

The European Representative of the Project, Kerstin Reemtsma, gave a talk on the human rights situation in Guatemala and PBI's work on the invitation of Amnesty International in Hamburg on 2 April to mark the opening of a photography exhibition of exhumations by Jonathon Moller.

Kerstin Reemtsma also participated in a meeting of the working group on Guatemala of the CIFCA on 12 – 13 April in Brussels. Belgium.

The Project Co-ordinator Montse Garcia, participated in an event organised by the CAIXA Foundation Barcelona on 27 – 28 April entitled "Indigenous peoples in Latin America- Challenges and Realities."

Montse Garcia and David Raboso of the PBI Catalonia office met Lorena Fernandez of the Catalonian Agency for Cooperation and Development to discuss possible funding for PBI and in particular for the PBI Guatemala and Colombia Projects.

A joint training session for potential volunteers for the PBI Guatemala and Mexico projects was held in San Francisco on 24 April to 1 May in which 5 potential volunteers for the Guatemala project and 9 for the Mexico Project participated. The training was organized by Elizabeth Hewson, Luisa Palmer and Fermin Rodrigo. Ex-volunteer Tara Ward who is currently the North America Representative of the Project also took part.

During the month of April we received the good news from PBI Canada that the PBI Guatemala Project has received the support of the Canada Social Justice Fund.

4. PUBLICATIONS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (IN SPANISH)

In this section we publish several press releases written by human rights organisations in which they express their concerns regarding recent events in Guatemala.

La Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala

-CONAVIGUA-

A LA OPINIÓN PÚBLICA NACIONAL E INTERNACIONAL EXPRESAMOS:

1. Ante el fallo emitido por el Tribunal Décimo de Sentencia por el delito de discriminación y desorden público del que fue víctima la Doctora Rigoberta Menchú Tum, el 9 de octubre de 2003 en la Corte de Constitucionalidad de Guatemala, condenando a los responsables y actores de estos hechos delictivos, quienes son miembros del partido político Frente Republicano Guatemalteco (FRG). NUESTRA SATISFACCION POR LA APLICACIÓN DE LA LEY.
2. Expresamos nuestra solidaridad con la Dra. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, premio Nobel de la Paz 1992, por su lucha por lograr la aplicación de justicia a estas acciones denigrantes que viven a diario las mujeres, jóvenes, niñas y niños y hombres indígenas en los diferentes ámbitos de la sociedad guatemalteca, consideramos esto como un inicio para sentar las bases de la búsqueda de justicia a las violaciones a los derechos de los pueblos indígenas contenido en las leyes nacionales, convenios y tratados internacionales.
3. CONAVIGUA, hace un llamado a todas las autoridades y operadores de justicia para la aplicación adecuada de las leyes que protegen los seres humanos sin distinción alguna. Y a la sociedad en general para que juntos construyamos una nación multiétnico, multilingüe y pluricultural, con dignidad, justa y de respeto mutuo.

¡Por la dignidad y la unidad de la mujer! CONAVIGUA Presente.

Iximulew 9 K'at. Guatemala, 06 de abril de 2005.

- COMITÉ DE UNIDAD CAMPEESINA -

POR EL DERECHO A LA TIERRA
OCUPAMOS LAS INSTALACIONES DEL FONDO DE TIERRAS

El Comité de Unidad Campesina CUC hace saber que hoy 6 de abril a las 10:30 de la mañana y como parte de la jornada de protestas contra el TLC, ocupamos pacíficamente las instalaciones del Fondo de Tierras ubicado en la zona 9 de la Ciudad Capital

Nos vimos en la obligación de ocupar dichas instalaciones debido a que desde hace muchos meses, la Procuraduría General de la Nación y el mismo Fontierras no le han agilizado los trámites para la entrega de fincas de las cuales ya hay resolución a favor de decenas de familias campesinas. Entre las fincas no entregadas están las de El Maguey y San Basilio, que estuvieron ambas en manos de ejército y que logramos recuperar para la población indígena y campesina sin tierra.

Hemos solicitado la presencia del la Junta Directiva del Fondo de Tierras, su gerente y el representante de la Procuraduría General de la Nación para que resuelvan los alrededor de 15 casos que se encuentran estancados en las dependencias gubernamentales.

Comité de Unidad Campesina - CUC -
Cabeza Clara, Corazón Solidario, Puño Combativo
de las y los Trabajadores del Campo
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Guatemala, Centroamérica

- PDH -

LLAMADO DE ALERTA TEMPRANA

El día 13 de abril fuerzas policíacas desalojaron a unas 25 familias de la comunidad Cumbre de Sulín, del municipio de Purulhá, y a igual número de familias de la comunidad Suquinay, ambas del departamento de Baja Verapaz.

Se tiene certeza del desalojo de la comunidad Chiquín Guaxcux, del departamento de Alta Verapaz, a más tardar para el 14 de mayo de 2005. Esta comunidad está formada por unas 70 familias campesinas.

Autoridades gubernamentales y estatales se han propuesto acelerar acciones de desalojo de familias campesinas que habitan tierras sin registro preciso de límites. En Guatemala no existe ningún registro catastral confiable que permita definir las propiedades y los límites de estas tierras, el actual registro de la propiedad es obsoleto y no garantiza la delimitación de tierras.

Dirigentes de la Unión Verapacense de Organizaciones Campesinas –UVOC-, han denunciado ante la Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos, que las autoridades pretenden realizar 38 desalojos de igual número de comunidades campesinas en los departamentos de Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz e Izabal. Las familias campesinas que habitan estas comunidades son familias pobres, a quienes durante años se les han violado los derechos más fundamentales.

En la actualidad a la exclusión y marginación, la violación, entre otros, del derecho a la alimentación, se agrega la persecución que pone en riesgo su derecho a la vida. La persecución de líderes campesinos, tal el caso de los dirigentes de la UVOC, se pone al orden del día por parte de grupos armados no identificados.

Estas acciones de desalojo, arbitrarias aunque dentro del marco legal guatemalteco (*delito de usurpación*) obstaculizan las labores de las mesas de diálogo presentes en algunos departamentos con conflictividad agraria, como en el caso de Alta Verapaz.

A las entidades interesadas en la protección de los derechos humanos hacemos un llamado de solidaridad para que presenten respectivos mensajes de atención al Gobierno de la República y demás entidades estatales pertinentes a fin de que tomen seriamente en consideración las medidas necesarias para encontrar soluciones verdaderas a la problemática agraria en el país, en primer término poniendo un alto a los desalojos de tierras actualmente en curso y aprobar de urgencia nacional la ley de Catastro; igualmente investigar y detener las amenazas y persecución de la que son objeto líderes campesinos cuyo presunto delito es reivindicar sus más elementales derechos humanos.

Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos de Guatemala

Guatemala, 26 de abril de 2005.

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MAS DESALOJOS QUE VIOLAN LOS DERECHOS DE LOS PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS Y CAMPESINOS EN LAS VERAPACES, SON RESULTADOS DE LAS MEDIDAS DISCRIMINATORIAS QUE EJECUTA EL ACTUAL GOBIERNO

Cientos de familias indígenas y campesinas de la Colonia Maya, ubicado en el municipio de Fray Bartolome de las Casas, Alta Verapaz; y en la aldea Xacalté del municipio de Purulha, Baja Verapaz, fueron víctimas de desalojos ejecutados ayer y hoy por elementos de la Policía Nacional Civil, las que fueron implementadas sin orden judicial.

Aproximadamente 800 elementos de las Fuerzas Especiales de la Policía y más de 50 agentes civiles llegaron a tempranas horas ayer a la Comunidad Colonia Maya, quienes durante 30 minutos obligaron a 60 familias indígenas a retirar sus casas en terrenos que desde hace mas de 25 años eran de dominio comunitario del Municipio de Fray Bartolome de las Casas.

Cinco mujeres y dos hombres sufrieron heridas de gravedad, ya que además de las fuerzas públicas presentes, varios hombres civiles se encargaron de actuar violentamente, arrancar las champas construidas y retirar las maletas. En un principio, el comisario de la policía de apellido Orellana Orellana indicaba que llevaba una orden judicial, sin embargo, los delegados de la Procuraduría de los Derecho Humanos y de la Comisión Presidencia de Derechos Humanos constataron que dicho expediente era falsa, por lo que era ilegal el desajolo perpetrado.

Por aparte, más de cincuenta familias de Xacalté, Purulá , Baja Verapaz, fueron despojados hoy de sus terrenos por elementos de la Policía Nacional Civil, dónde nunca existió diálogo para evitar el conflicto. Esta propiedad es de la municipalidad, la que esta en proceso de investigación Registral y Catastral por la Unidad Técnica Jurídica que cuenta con el aval de la municipalidad de la localidad. Sin embargo, ahora aparece un supuesto dueño de la tierra que está presionando a los compañeros campesinos y a la vez ha logrado apoyo gubernamental para ejecutar desalojos sin fundamento.

Por lo acontecido, **DEMANDAMOS:**

1. La inmediata intermediación de la Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos entre las partes, ya que es urgente y necesario encontrar un lugar dónde puedan vivir las víctimas de los desalojos.
2. **No más Desalojos.**
3. **No mas represiones, intimidaciones y amenazas a dirigentes campesinos.**
4. **No a las ordenes de capturas**
5. **Exigimos la aprobación Inmediata de la ley de Catastro**
6. Creación de políticas publicas para contrarrestar la problemática Agraria.

Guatemala 28 de abril de 2005.

EL COMITÉ DE UNIDAD CAMPESINA
- CUC -

DENUNCIA QUE FUERZAS OSCURANTISTA ALLANAN OFICINAS DE CNOC

El día de ayer domingo fueron allanadas las oficinas de la Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas - CNOC - donde fueron robadas computadoras que contienen información sobre planes estratégicos, planes operativos, memorias de actividades, bases de datos, las propuestas sobre desarrollo rural, seguridad alimentaria, reformas al código de trabajo, propuesta alternativa de la agricultura. Este allanamiento se da en los momentos en los que se discute en el Congreso la Ley de Catastro que, a pesar del consenso llegado entre organizaciones campesinas y cámara del agro, está siendo arbitrariamente modificada por los legisladores.

Llama la atención que los allanadores no se llevaron impresoras, fax, fotocopidora, teléfono y otros artículos sino únicamente las computadoras. Otro elemento que hace más sospechoso ese allanamiento y nos lleva a calificarlo como una acción política y represiva es el hecho que a dos casas de las oficinas de CNOC se encuentra una institución que tiene medidas cautelares y que permanentemente cuenta con la presencia de al menos de efectivos de la Policía Nacional Civil.

Los oficinas de CNOC, además de ser la sede de la coordinadora de organizaciones campesinas, también ha servido al Movimiento Indígena,

Campesino, Popular y Sindical - MICSP - que lideró las protestas contra el TLC.

El Comité de Unidad Campesina alerta a las organizaciones integrantes de CNOC, a organizaciones populares y sociales, ONG's nacionales e internacionales, embajadas, solidaridad internacional y demás organizaciones de la sociedad civil de que la información sustraída es altamente sensible y puede dar lugar a hechos represivos en contra del movimiento indígena y campesino, sindical y popular.

Los únicos sectores que pueden estar detrás de este hecho son el gobierno y el sector empresarial que se ha opuesto al desarrollo rural con justicia social por lo que desde ya los hacemos responsables de las consecuencias que pueda traer para las organizaciones de la sociedad civil el robo de información de que ha sido objeto CNOC

Solicitamos el apoyo a la solidaridad internacional, organizaciones internacionales y embajadas para presionar al gobierno de Guatemala y a mantener la observación de la situación en Guatemala.

Exigimos al gobierno la investigación y esclarecimiento de este hecho y la captura de los responsables.

Comité de Unidad Campesina
- CUC -
Cabeza Clara, Corazón Solidario y Puño Combativo.

Comité de Unidad Campesina - CUC -
Cabeza Clara, Corazón Solidario, Puño Combativo
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ALLANAMIENTO A LAS OFICINAS DE LA COORDINADORA NACIONAL DE ORGANIZACIONES CAMPESINAS -CNOC-, SOLO PUEDE SER ACCION DEL GOBIERNO, DE LOS EMPRESARIOS Y DE LOS FINQUEROS.

Haciendo un recuento de las acciones represivas del actual gobierno, éstas comienzan con 36 desalojos de familias campesinas ejecutadas en distintos puntos del país a partir del 19 de enero hasta finales del mes de julio del año 2004. Estos hechos se dieron con

tal saña que nos recordó la famosa tierra arrasada en segunda fase, donde los policías y en otros casos el ejército llegaron a actuar como bestias contra las familias campesinas indefensas, esto produjo ranchos quemados, centros comunales desaparecidos, granos básicos incendiados, animales domésticos sacrificados y luego quemados, asimismo hubo campesinos desplazados como en los tiempos de la guerra, y terminó con un sinnúmero de compañeros capturados severamente golpeados.

Esta fase solo es el preludeo de la estrategia futura del Estado, y como muestra de poder y de querer acallar las distintas demandas el actual gobierno y su sequito de asesinos consuman la primer masacre el 1 de Agosto cuando se ejecutan extraoficialmente a 8 compañeros campesinos, quienes son víctimas de muerte por su afán de buscar justicia ante el secuestro del compañero Reyes, administrador de la Finca Nueva Linda, Retalhuleu, hecho por demás comprobado que fue realizado por dos guardas de seguridad a petición del terrateniente, y de manera cínica el señor presidente Berger sale defendiendo como empresario de bien. De esto existe un análisis y un dictamen documentado por la Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos, caso que hasta el momento sigue atrapado en la impunidad por la falta de justicia contra el finquero y los agentes policíacos que participaron en el desalojo violento.

Como si esto fuera poco, las persecuciones a dirigentes campesinos en la capital y en interior del país no se dejaron esperar. A finales del mes de septiembre, varios líderes campesinos de comunidades de Izabal, Retalhuleu y Quetzaltenango denunciaron amenazas de muerte, las que evidentemente eran planificadas por trabajadores y fuerzas privadas de finqueros. Por aparte, Daniel Pascual, dirigente del Comité de Unidad Campesina CUC, sufrió una persecución en la capital, que terminó con el despojo de su vehículo, mientras su compañero Aparicio Pérez recibió amenazas telefónicas por el apoyo que brinda a las comunidades que exigen tierra.

La muerte de 4 campesinos por la fuerza privada del Finquero Pedro Fernandez en la Finca el Corozo, Suchitepequez, fue otra masacre donde la Policía Nacional Civil nunca actuó a favor de los Campesinos, mucho menos se hizo justicia contra el hijo del finquero, quién disparó directamente contra dos de las cuatro personas fallecidas.

La muerte de Raúl Castro, campesino asesinado por la policía en los Encuentros, Sololá el 18 de enero de 2005, comenzó la ola de represión gubernamental contra aquellas comunidades y dirigentes sociales que adverbaban las explotaciones mineras en el occidente del país, asimismo perseguir a las personas que rechazaban la aprobación de Tratado de Libre Comercio. Después de una larga jornada de protestas en la capital para rechazar y repudiar el TLC, las acciones de lucha continuaron con más manifestaciones en varios departamentos, las que dejaron como resultado la muerte de Juan López Velásquez, quién fue acribillado a balazos por la policía y elementos del Ejército en el Puente Los Naranjales, Colotenango, Huehuetenango.

Durante los últimos días han habido amenazas y desalojos en las Verapaces. Carlos Morales, dirigente de la Unión Verapacense de Organizaciones Campesinas UVOC, fue perseguido y víctima de constantes difamaciones por personas allegadas a finqueros del lugar, y que pudo salvar su integridad gracias a la intervención directa de la PDH. Mientras tanto, el 27 de abril se ejecutó el desalojo de 60 familias en una finca comunal del municipio Fray Bartolomé de las Casas, Alta Verapaz; y el 28 de abril se concretó otro desalojo a 50 familias indígenas en la comunidad de Xajalte, Salamá de Baja Verapaz.

En este contexto, la lucha contra el TLC y las demandas más sentidas de la población más vulnerable que sobrevive en la pobreza y extrema pobreza culmina con el allanamiento y saqueo de información valiosa en las instalaciones de la Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas –CNOC-, a sabiendas que las represiones continuarán, pero que nuestra lucha sigue y que no nos acallarán.

Ante ello, hacemos un llamado a todas las organizaciones amigas para que se solidaricen y denuncien estos actos represivos y de intimidación que sólo pueden provenir del Gobierno, los empresarios y de los finqueros.

!!! NO AL TLC !!!

!!! NO A LA LEY DE CONCESIONES !!!

!!! SI A LA LEY DEL CATASTRO NACIONAL!!!

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