



PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALA PROJECT

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1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

Impunity

GAM PRESENTS HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

Between January and July this year, human rights defenders have been the victim of 17 office raids and 27 incidents of death threats, indicates a report by the Mutual Support Group (GAM).

Mario Polanco, director of the organization, quoting the report stated that “during this period 94 violent acts directed at human rights defenders were recorded, including 2 murders.” He added that in this period a total of 1,580 murders had been recorded, 260 of which were of women.

Of these murders, GAM has categorized 1,294 as part of a social cleansing strategy. According to Polanco this current year has been characterized by this strategy, which is being used by members or former members of public or private security operations by groups linked to organized crime amongst others.

UNDP REPORT REVEALS THAT 75 PERCENT OF VICTIMS DO NOT REPORT CRIMES

A report by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has revealed that lack of confidence, fear of reprisals, lack of knowledge, bureaucracy or because they “take justice into their own hands”, Guatemalans do not report the crimes of which they have been victims.

Those that do report (47.9 percent) do it for procedure, 34 percent do it so that there is justice and 18.1 percent do it because they hope for compensation.

CONGRESS TO REVIEW REFORMS TO THE MILITARY CODE

Members of the National Defense Committee of the Republic of Guatemala’s Congress have agreed on a new methodology with the aim of continuing the review and analysis of four legal proposals that have been put forward regarding the modification of the Military Code. The legal initiatives which aim to reform the Military Code are: Law regarding the Functioning and Organization of the Military Jurisdiction, Military Penal Law, Penitentiary Law and Penal Process Law. The members of Congress have agreed to inform the Attorney General, Juan Luis Florido and the President of the Supreme Court before making any modifications to the legal proposals. Member of the Congress have

stated that they are aware of the fact that this branch of the legislation, as with all other laws of the Republic, fall within the framework of the Political Constitution and the Peace Accords.

Globalisation

PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AGAINST GENERAL WATER LAW

Demonstrations of trade unionists, campesinos and indigenous groups from Quetzaltenango, Totonicapán y Sololá took place without any incidents. The demonstrators marched peacefully but showed their resistance and inconformity with the proposed General Water Law stated Oswaldo Saquix, of the Workers Quetzaltenango (UTQ). Debates regarding the law have been postponed by members of the Congress. Saquix called on all citizens, particularly those in urban areas to recognize the actions of the trade union, campesino and indigenous sector given that they were protesting in favor of the nation and this was their only way of being heard. In this context, the Indigenous Mayoress of Sololá, Dominga Vásquez, stated that signatures had been collected, which would be sent in the form of a petition to the Government demanding that it abstain from approving a law which would concession vital water supplies. Road blocks took place in Cuatro Caminos, San Francisco El Alto, Huehuetenango and Zunil, Quetzaltenango.

EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY POSTPONEMENT OF MINING LICENCES

Although only temporarily, to comply with the recommendation made by the High Level Commission on Mining, the Government announced that it would not grant any further mining exploration or exploitation licenses. The measure, according to the Vice President, Eduardo Stein, will be in place until modifications are made to the legal standards regarding the extraction of minerals. "The recommendations are the foundation on which we will prepare a legal initiative for Congress (...) We are sitting on a gold mine and we can't afford not to take advantage of this especially in a region with so much poverty," stated President Berger. Both the President and the Minister of Energy and Mines, Luis Ortiz, indicated that the proposals put forward by the High Level Commission would be taken into account. The document entitled "Lineaments in the Politics of Mining" which put forward proposals for changes to the Mining and the Environment Law as well as the Promotion and Development of Export activities, was presented during the plenary of the Government's mobile cabinet. The proposed changes would promote the regulation of privileges, the amount of social inversion made by the private sector, territorial planning and the protection of certain areas. The document was complied by Cardinal Rodolfo Quezada Toruño, Raquel Zelaya, Magalí Rey Rosa, José Barnoya, César Barrientos and Jorge Cabrera among others.

CHURCH CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO BE MADE PERMANENT

Monsignor Álvaro Ramazzini, who forms part of the High Level Commission on mining called on the Government not only to make its decision regarding the postponement of mining exploration and exploitation license permanent, but also to include stricter regulation regarding privileges. "We have called on the Executive to make a direct petition to Congress that it declare the suspension of all licenses," he stated. Days earlier the President had expressed his approval of the work being carried out by the mine in San Miguel Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa in the Department San Marcos and encouraged locals to work for it.

Land

CAMPESINOS CALL FOR AN AGRARIAN CODE

The Land Registry Law requires magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ) to create agrarian tribunals with specific codes to ensure their functioning. Nonetheless, the legislation is not clear regarding what kind of cases they would hear. Decree 41-2005 of the Land Registry Law which came into vigor in August this year, calls on the SCJ to draft an agrarian code. However, the Magistrate responsible for this project have stated that the main problem is that they are still not clear as to what kind of cases the tribunals would hear. For this reason the SCJ has stressed the importance of legislation a code which includes these issues, and in this way prevents conflicts of jurisdiction as already all that relates to land possession is heard in the civil courts.

CONCENSUS AMONG SECTORS

Ingrid Urizar, of the Agrarian Platform confirmed that proposals have been put forward to the SCJ by various sectors of the campesino movement regarding which cases should be heard by the tribunals. Gilberto Atz of the National Coordinating Body of Campesino Organizations stated that the main problem with the civil courts is that they do not have a legal basis for resolving land conflicts. "There are cases regarding land pertaining to a municipality or to residents which was passed into private hands because the judges based their decision on documents and do not even visit the area to investigate the case properly." The proposal put forward by the Agrarian Platform is that there be coherent legal standards which correspond to the reality of the agrarian situation on the country. For CNOC the problem should be resolved in a structural way and for this reason are urging the Congress to legislate within this framework.

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

2. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA: WITHIN GUATEMALA

Team: Melosa Aiyana Granda (United States of America), Sander Otten (Netherlands), Matthew Fawcett and Helen Woodcock (United Kingdom), Silvio Köhler and Ulrike Beck (Germany), Estefanía Sarmiento (Colombia), Didier Califice (Belgium).

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. During the month of August meetings were held with the following authorities:

Guatemalan Authorities:

- ξ Gustavo Adolfo Leal Klug, Mayor of Cobán, Alta Verapaz
- ξ Victor Hugo Godoy, Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH)
- ξ Ricardo Isaias Caal, Tribunal of Peace, El Estor, Izabal
- ξ Mario Estuardo Gordillo Galindo, Vice Minister of Work and Social Security
- ξ Rony Méndez Caal, Auxiliary of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH), El Estor, Izabal
- ξ Ruben Dario Martinez García, Auxiliary Mayor of the zone 18, Guatemala City

Diplomatic Corps:

- ξ Bea ten Tusscher, Ambassador of the Dutch Embassy and Harman Idema, head of the Joint Mission of the Dutch Embassy
- ξ Jean-Louis Servais, Second Political Secretary of the Belgium Embassy for Central America
- ξ Susie Kitchens, Second Political Secretary of the Embassy of the United Kingdom
- ξ Eduardo López Sabogal, Ambassador of the Colombian Embassy

2.2 MEETINGS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

The PBI Guatemala Project team holds regular meetings with civil society Organisations. 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 Organisations:

- ξ Mario Polanco, Mutual Support Group, GAM
- ξ Rafael Gonzales, *Campesino* Unity Committee, CUC
- ξ Alfredo Che, Coordinating Body of *Campesino* and Indigenous Organizations of Petén, COCIP
- ξ Mario Tema Bautista, Association of Indigenous Peoples
- ξ Iduvina Hernández, Security and Democracy, SEDEM
- ξ Cristina Laur de Pérez, Center for Human Rights Legal Action, CALDH
- ξ Irene Barrientos, Syndicated Guatemalan Workers Union, UNSITRAGUA
- ξ Ana Gladis Ollas, National Human Rights Movement, MNDH
- ξ Members of the Committee of Victims of the community of El Jute, Chiquimula
- ξ Walter Valencia, Technical Unity for Accompaniment, Relations and Consultation for the Social Movement of Guatemala, UTARA
- ξ Hilda Mérida, Association of Journalist for Development

International Organisations:

- ξ Christina Buczko, Accompaniment from Austria, ADA
- ξ Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG)

Courtesy visits were also made to the following Organisations:

- ☞ Citizen's Coordinating Body for Sexual Diversity
- ☞ Religious Confederation of Guatemala, CONFREGUA
- ☞ Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala, FAFG
- ☞ National Council for Displaced Persons of Guatemala, CONDEG
- ☞ Mama Maquín
- ☞ United Union and Popular Action, UASP

2.3 ACCOMPANIMENTS

Since the 13th of May we have accompanied Carlos Morales, leader of the **Union of Campesino Organisations for the Verapaces (UVOC)**, on a 24 hour basis. During the last month, we accompanied him during his activities in the Verapaces as well as in the Capital.

Background: Carlos Morales, leader of UVOC, has been victim of death threats, acts of intimidation, and persecution by unknown individuals. Due to a serious increase of personal death threats at the end of April 2005, which led to a genuine fear of his life, Carlos Morales was forced into hiding in Guatemala City for a month, following which he requested 24 hour accompaniment from Peace Brigades. UVOC is a campesino organisation from the Verapaces (the departments of Alta and Baja Verapaz) and works principally on the theme of access to land for campesinos and to provide support in the process of legalisation of the communities' titles to land. UVOC also offers training for communities affiliated to UVOC and supports development projects within those communities. According to Gilberto Atz, leader of the National Coordinator of Campesino Organisations (CNOC), the persecution of Mr. Morales could be related to claims by large estate owners to land that has been occupied by landless campesinos.

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

Background: CONAPAMG works on the question of access to housing and services and the legalization of illegally occupied land. We've accompanied CONAPAMG since the 4th of July 2004, when their office was broken into and inventories, bills, computer discs and money were stolen. CONAPAMG's community leaders suffer threats by local actors regularly. In March of 2005 Miguel Zapeta González, resident and leader of the community "Esquipulas" in zone 21 of Guatemala City, was assassinated. The communities of CONAPAMG are evacuated frequently, while many more evacuations are pending. PBI meets with Guatemalan authorities in the local zones where there are CONAPAMG communities.

We accompanied **Eloyda Mejia**, Legal Representative of the **Association of Friends of Lake Izabal (AFLI)** in her activities in the town of El Estor in the Department of Izabal. During the month of September we accompanied her during a manifestation against the mining which was organized by the Defensoría Q'eqchi.

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 her work to inform local residents of the possible damaging effects of the re-opening of the Guatemalan Nickel Company (subsidiary of Skye Resources INC, Canada) mining operation in the area. We began accompanying Eloyda shortly after a forum on the future of the lake, which took place in El Estor on 21 February, 2004.

We carried out regular visits to the offices of the **Madre Selva Collective** and had frequent contact with their members. We accompanied leaders during their visits to Sipacapa and San Miguel Ixtahuacán, San Marcos.

Background: Madre Selva is an environmental organisation which holds regular workshops on the negative impact of mega-projects and in particular those involving open caste mining and the installation of hydroelectric power plants. Members of the organisation regularly receive threats because of their work. We have provided accompaniment to Madres Selva since June of 2004.

We have been accompanying the Union of Workers of the company "**Association of the Coffee Industry**", and other **related Industries, SITINCA**. Since June of 2005 we have acted as international observers during their various protests against the unfair dismissal of José Armando Palacios and the situation of workers in the INCASA factory in Guatemala City.

Background: In January of the 2004, three workers of the company's internal security decided to join the trade union. Since then the company has carried out anti-union activities, against José Armando Palacios. On the 16 April, unknown armed individuals broke into the house of José Armando Palacios and threatened the life of his wife and their two children. They asked for Mr. Palacios, whom they wanted "to kill for being in the union." On the 6 of May, Mr. Palacios was dismissed without any explanation.

We continue to accompany the **Coordination of Widows of Guatemala, CONAVIGUA**. We carry out regular visits to their office and also accompanied them during an exhumation in the community of Buena Vista, Sacapulas, Quiché.

Background: CONAVIGUA continues to facilitate the process of exhumations and inhumations in various departments throughout Guatemala, largely in Quiché, Chimaltenango and the Verapaces as part of their efforts to recuperate the collective memory of Guatemala's recent history.

We accompany the **Union of Bocadeli Workers (SITRA Bocadeli)**, which is affiliated to the **Syndicated Guatemalan Workers Union (UNSITRAGUA)**. During August we started our accompaniment with frequent visits to the factory where the workers have maintained a presence since the closing of the factory.

Background: In August the Bocadeli Foods Prefabricated Products Distribution Centre in Mixco, Department of Guatemala, was shutdown without any notice being given and without the workers being paid either their salaries or indemnification. Ever since the closure the workers have maintained a constant presence day and night in front of the factory to prevent the removal of goods or vehicles for sale before they receive monies to which they are entitled. Meanwhile, various vehicles with darkened windows have been circling the workers in a threatening manner. As yet the Salvadorian owned Bocadeli has not responded to the Union initiative to open a dialogue over the dispute. UNSITRAGUA have brought the case before the International Labour Organisation.

We accompanied **Indigenous municipality of Sololá** and the **Mayan Foundation, FUNDAMAYA**. The indigenous Mayoress of Sololá, **Dominga Vásquez** and a **Carlos Guarquez** of FUNDAMAYA have received PBI accompaniment since January of 2005. We were present during several activities in the Department of Sololá this month and additionally we accompanied Carlos Guarquez on the 8th and 9th of August to Colotenango, Huehuetenango, for the celebrations of The International Day of Indigenous Peoples where he gave a talk on the possible negative effects of the mining in region.

Background: On the 11th of January 2005 in the Department of Sololá, serious confrontations took place between the National Civil Police, supported by 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, leaving one person dead and over 30 injured. Following this, government 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. .On 25 March of 2005 in the village of El Tablón, Sololá, the vehicle used by Carlos Humberto Guárquez, of FUNDAMAYA, was doused in petrol and set on fire by unknown individuals. Death threats specifically naming Carlos Guárquez, Dominga Vásquez 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 of your disappearance from this world." As a result of this threat we decided to activate our Support Network, during the last days of March, April and the beginning of May. Dominga Vásquez has recently suffered intimidation and accusations that she is a violent extremist, from various other Guatemalan Authorities for her opposition to the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) as well as proposed new mining operations.

2.4 OBSERVATIONS

We were present as international observers on September 26 during a demonstration in front of the Constitutional Court, which was organized by the Mayor's office of Rio Hondo, Department of Zacapa, together with the Organized Social Society and the Madre Selva Collective, with the objective to support the results of the Popular Consultation regarding hydroelectric projects.

Background: On July 2, 2005 there occurred a Popular Consult in the Municipality of Río Hondo, Zacapa, in order to determine if the residents of the mentioned municipality are in agreement with the construction of hydroelectric plants in Río Hondo. According to the Mayor's office of the municipality, the result, with 97% against the construction of hydroelectric plants, should be binding; while the Constitutional Court is studying the consult and will publish soon its dictate with respect to the validity of the consult.

2.5 FOLLOW UP

We have maintained contact with the **Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH)** through meetings with their Co-directors and visits to their office. Also we attended the Central American Encounter of Human Rights defenders, organised by CALDH among others, between the 31st of August and the 2nd of September in Antigua Guatemala.

Background: On various occasions we have accompanied various members of the organisation which is constantly under threat. During the month of June, four members of the organisation were subject to attacks and acts of aggression and the organisation continues to receive threatening telephone calls and is under frequent surveillance.

We continue to maintain contact with members of the **Community of El Maguey**, affiliated with the **Campesino Unity Committee (CUC)** through frequent contact and occasional visits.

Background: After a violent evacuation of the community by the army in April 2003 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, but they continue waiting for the finalization of their title to the land.

2.6 SECURITY WORKSHOP

During the month of September, 4 security workshops were carried out by Marie Caraj of PBI's European Office (BEO) alongside the PBI Guatemala Project. These workshops, held in Guatemala City and Cobán, Alta Verapaz, aimed to provide human rights defenders with basic knowledge and skills for risk analysis and management of their own personal security. Thirteen organizations that work in the field of Human Rights participated in these workshops. Furthermore, follow-up work was done on the development a Plan of Security, initiated the year before with the "procuradores de la tierra" within the Catholic Church (community leaders who work to resolve land issues) in the areas of the Petén, Alta Verapaz and Izabel. A fourth workshop was delivered to members of the current PBI team working within Guatemala.

3. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA: OUTSIDE OF GUATEMALA

Eva Scarfe, Asia/Pacific Representative for the PBI Guatemala Project, on a tour of Europe, met in Dublin, Ireland on September 2nd with Margaret Stanley (Deputy Director Americas Section), Gavan O'Leary (Deputy Director, Human Rights Unit, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ireland). During this visit she also met with Adrian Fitzgerald of the Central American Programme, Civil Society Section, and Development Cooperation Ireland and representatives of the NGOs Trocaire, Frontline y LASC.

Tara Ward, North America Representative for the PBI Guatemala Project met with the offices of the Country Groups of PBI –USA y PBI- Canada through telephone conferences to coordinate the work of giving support to the project in these countries and to organize a tour in Ottawa y Toronto the first week of October. She also wrote an article for PBI Canada's bulletin and was interviewed by the newspaper Red Deer Advocate.

Kerstin Reemtsma, Europe Representative for the PBI Guatemala Project gave a lecture to young people of 16/17 years old on September 27th in Hamburg, Germany as part of a program by PBI Germany Education for Peace. She also presented the work of PBI Guatemala in an information seminary prepared by PBI Germany from October 15-17th.

Montserrat García, Coordinator of the PBI Guatemala Project, on September 27th in Madrid, Spain, participated in a meeting of interchange of information between various Spanish human rights organizations and a Delegation of Representatives of the Guatemalan Government, where participated Frank La Rue, President of the Executive Human Rights Coordinating Commission (COPREDEH), the Ambassador Marta Altolaquirre, the Vice Minister of Foreign Relations and of Consultation to the Vice President of the Government, Rolando Castillo.

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

In this section we publish several communiqués written by human rights organisations in which they express their preoccupations regarding the current state of affairs in Guatemala.



COORDINADORA NACIONAL DE ORGANIZACIONES CAMPESINAS -CNOC-

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A la comunidad nacional e internacional:

FRENTE A LA IMPOSICIÓN DE LEYES ORIENTADAS A EMPOBRECER A LA MAYORÍA DE LA POBLACIÓN, LA LUCHA SIGUE...

La privatización de los servicios públicos mediante la Ley de Concesiones, la restricción del vital líquido que provocará la Ley de Aguas, la concentración histórica de la tierra que ha viabilizado el alto índice de desnutrición de miles de personas en las comunidades rurales, el incremento de los precios de la canasta básica familiar, salarios de hambre, desempleo, delincuencia social y la manipulación de la población desposeída por el gobierno, es el contexto de vida que ponen de manifiesto del porqué Guatemala se ubica entre los cuatro países más desiguales del mundo, según el informe reciente del Programa de Desarrollo Humano 2005 de las Naciones Unidas (PNUD).

Lejos de preocuparse y mejorar la situación de vida de los guatemaltecos, el presidente Oscar Berger busca beneficiar más al poder económico de los oligarcas de siempre, por ello, la -CNOC- insta a la población en general a rebelarse en contra de cualquier decisión gubernamental, porque no es coherente que el presidente se jacta ante las naciones del mundo que en Guatemala no existe hambruna y que solo existe hambre crónica, por eso ocupamos el puesto 117 en desarrollo humano.

Los actos gubernamentales en Guatemala se deben decirse y conocerse tal como son, los empresarios en el poder están vendiendo el país a las empresas transnacionales; durante los últimos dos años se han implementado campañas de desprestigio a las organizaciones sociales, en especial al movimiento campesino que lidera CNOC; mediante propagandas masivas se está manipulando a la población para apoyar la aprobación de leyes, pero éstas son para trasladar bienes del Estado a manos privadas; ante los pronunciamientos internacionales sobre la extrema pobreza que sufren familias indígenas y campesinas, el Estado ha implementado programas paliativos que no atacan las causas de la problemática. Las promociones políticas acerca de Guatemala invierte, Guatemala compite, Guatemala en desarrollo, Guatemala somos todos y los gabinetes móviles que se ha implementado en el actual régimen, son farsas y obedecen a actos políticos electorales. Acaso creen estos señores que todos somos tontos, más bien el rumbo del país va dirigida a una Guate...solitaria, Guate...con hambre, Guate...mala y Guate...peor que antes.

La manifestación pública y muy puntual de la población del departamento Totonicapán contra la aprobación de la Ley de Aguas, es un acto de resistencia y lucha que reconoce el movimiento Campesino. Por tal situación la -CNOC- condena y repudia las afirmaciones de algunos señores analistas pro-gubernamentales, que valiéndose de los medios masivos empresariales menosprecian las expresiones de los comunitarios, señalándolos de actos manipulados o incitadas por ciertas personas. Las aseveraciones de pseudo analistas de malinterpretar las decisiones de 48 cantones organizados es parte de la campaña estatal para desinformar a la población. Por aparte, hacemos un llamado a la población estudiantil, profesional, religioso, vendedores informales, trabajadores del campo y de la ciudad a apoyar acciones en contra del alto costo de la vida, ya que la expresión viva de todo un pueblo provocará un cambio social.

Guatemala, 14 de septiembre de 2005.

**ESTAN EN ESTADO DE EMERGENCIA
POR LAS LLUVIAS DE LAS ÚLTIMAS HORAS**

Ciudad de Guatemala, 5 de octubre del 2005.

Amigos y amigas:

De manera urgente queremos comunicarles la situación en tres de las Comunidades de población en resistencia, las que se encuentran reasentadas en la costa sur del país, ante las torrenciales lluvias de las últimas 72 horas en todo el país.

1. El Triunfo 25 de Septiembre, Champerico, Retalhuleu (299 familias)
2. Unión Victoria (El Salvador), San Miguel Pochuta, Chimaltenango (89 familias)
3. Finca Maryland, Champerico, Retalhuleu. (10 familias)

Total de familias: 398 familias en total. Total de habitantes 2,388.

Estas tres comunidades se han inundado y han quedado incomunicados completamente, por el crecimiento de los ríos aledaños; los puentes de paso peatonal y vehicular han sido destruidos por los ríos. Los más afectados son los niños y los ancianos.

En la comunidad de Unión Victoria, de acuerdo a los últimos reportes que tenemos hasta las 16 horas, hay una mujer herida que fue arrastrada por el río, pero que afortunadamente fue rescatada por la población a tiempo. Esta mujer, aún no había sido atendida por ninguna unidad de rescate. La población de esta comunidad, ha tomado la decisión de evacuar el asentamiento, estableciéndose en un cerro montañoso cercano a la comunidad, en lo que pase las lluvias.

Nos hemos estado comunicando con entidades de rescate (CONRED, Bomberos Voluntarios, Cruz Roja) para poder acompañar la evacuación de estas comunidades, pero no ha sido posible, debido a la atención de diversos casos similares en toda la costa sur. De inmediato, la población de nuestras 3 comunidades ha evacuado sus viviendas estableciéndose en áreas elevadas al interior de los asentamientos, para el resguardo de sus vidas. Las áreas de producción comunitaria, prácticamente han sido inundadas en su totalidad, sembrados de maíz, frijol y ajonjolí.

Por esta razón, de manera urgente le solicitamos su apoyo en víveres como incaparina, leche, azúcar, frijoles en lata, maseca, o aportes de fondo económico para atender a la población en su alimentación, al momento de una posible evacuación o al mermarse las lluvias en estas próximas horas. Así mismo, contar con su apoyo para la disponibilidad de transporte para el traslado de estos recursos.

Toda la coordinación de los donativos solicitados por ese medio, será desde la oficina de las CPR Sierra en ciudad de Guatemala, ubicada en la siguiente dirección: 8va avenida "A" 2-08, Colonia el Tesoro BANVI, zona 2, Mixco. Teléfonos: 24354811, 24354206. e-mail: cpsrie@terra.com.gt o directamente con las autoridades de dichas comunidades.

Atentos.

Jacinto Vicente Raymando
Representante legal de Comunidades de Población en Resistencia de la Sierra (CPR-Sierra)

Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos

CALDH CONDENA LA CONTINUIDAD DE LA VIOLENCIA

El Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos (CALDH), ha manifestado constantemente a las altas autoridades de gobierno su preocupación por los hechos de violencia contra organizaciones, defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos, contra jueces, fiscales y abogados, y ha exigido la investigación y desarticulación de los aparatos clandestinos responsables de estos hechos que atentan contra el normal funcionamiento de las instituciones que exigen el cese de la violencia, la investigación y el castigo de los responsables.

Las amenazas, atentados y asesinatos se suceden uno a otro y hasta el momento no vemos planes concretos que frenen la vorágine de violencia, por el contrario, tenemos que lamentar y denunciar nacional e internacionalmente, el vil asesinato del licenciado **Harold Rafael Pérez Gallardo**, asesor de Casa Alianza, quien cumplía una misión fundamental al llevar casos relacionados con adopciones ilegales, asesinatos en contra de niños y niñas de la calle, y violaciones a los derechos humanos de la niñez. Este hecho se suma al ocurrido el 10 de agosto en el que también perdió la vida el compañero Héctor Leonardo Benito Pérez de Prodesa.

Por otro lado se han proferido serias amenazas de muerte al Director de la Fundación de Antropología Forense, Fredy Peccerelli, quien ha estado al frente de múltiples exhumaciones en cementerios clandestinos. Miembros de su familia han sido víctimas de presiones que, sólo pueden venir de aquellos que estuvieron vinculados a hechos del pasado, y que consideran que las exhumaciones representan parte de la verdad de los crímenes de lesa humanidad en que estuvieron comprometidos.

La inseguridad y el temor que se cierne sobre el sistema de justicia, las amenazas y agresiones proferidas a miembros de la Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos y las acusaciones, amenazas y allanamientos a organizaciones, como el caso reciente de de la organización Hijos y de Francisco Sánchez Méndez que ha recibido llamadas telefónicas de amenazas, demuestran la continuación de intimidación a defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos.

Esta situación no puede continuar. Las autoridades deben pasar de la indiferencia y complicidad, a la protección de sedes y personas y la acción preventiva con la desarticulación de los grupos y aparatos que provocan zozobra y temor en la ciudadanía. CALDH, exige una vez más, investigación exhaustiva, deducción de responsabilidades y castigo a los responsables.

**¡POR EL DERECHO A UN PAÍS JUSTO!
Guatemala, 05 de septiembre de 2,005**



Manifestation in favor of the results of the Popular Consult in Río Hondo, Zacapa



Leader Carlos Morales of the Union of Campesino Organisations for the Verapaces, UVOC



Manifestation by members of the Federation of Trade Unions in the Food and Similar Industries in Guatemala, FESTRAS



Security Workshop, Cobán, Alta Verapaz



Accompaniment of Eloyda Mejia of the Association of Friends of Lake Izabal during a manifestation against the mining project, El Estor, Izabal



Exhumation Buena Vista,
Sacapulas, Quiché

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