



BRIGADAS INTERNACIONALES DE PAZ – PROYECTO GUATEMALA

Monthly Information Package – Guatemala

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1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

Impunity

The Executive looks for support for the Investigation of Illegal Entities and Clandestine Security Apparatus (CICIACS).

With the intention of obtaining the support of congressmen and the approval for the creation of CICIACS, Vice-president Eduardo Stein will start to approach them on this matter. The Executive/Presidential Human Rights Coordinating Commission (COPREDEH) will meet with various civil society representatives, including Sergio Morales from the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH); the National Ombudsman, Roberto Molina; and the Attorney General, Juan Luis Florido, to talk about the proposal. Frank La Rue, President of the Commission, said the idea is to expose them to the proposal so that they can make their own observations. Mario Polanco, Director of the Mutual Support Group (GAM), says that many social organisations that promoted the creation of CICIACS, do not know about the document prepared by the government. The Executive hopes that the consultations that will start in the middle of January will end by the 14th of March, so as to be able to sign the respective agreement with the United Nations.

Locals accuse the Mayor of Nebaj, Quiché, of coercion and threats.

Locals of Nebaj, Quiché, denounced to the Public Prosecutor's Office that the Mayor of this area, Virgilio Jerónimo Bernal Guzmán, committed crimes of coercion and threats, illegal detention and abuse of authority, amongst other things. According to those who denounced the crimes, groups tied to the mayor have destroyed the facilities of an assistant mayor's office, affecting the communities Salquil Grandde, Tzalbal, Acul, La Pista, Xemamatzé and Xeucalbit. The Mayan Defence Unit said that these communities are victim of a policy based on imposition and violation of rights. According to this organisation, the mayor has not only tried to annul the role of community indigenous authorities represented in the main councils, but also the decision that these authorities have taken in regards to a diverse range of issues. In accordance with the denouncement, people named by the mayor in various local positions (without a consult of the residents) have been the source of conflict within the community. They have confronted and used the conflict within the community to commit destructive deeds, such as those of November and December 2005, and the 1st of January 2006, when they destroyed the headquarters of the communal mayorality and attacked its authorities.

Ríos Montt absolved of July 2003 disturbances.

On Thursday the 24th and Friday the 25th of July 2003, during what is now known as "Black Thursday", mobs of hooded FRG representatives transported in buses took the streets of the Guatemalan capital. Armed with rocks and sticks they attacked public buildings, demanding the registration of Ríos Montt as a candidate for the Republic's Presidency. The hooded members chased journalists that were covering the protests and when trying to get away and hide in a house, journalist Héctor Ramírez suffered a heart attack. The Fifth Judge of the Penal System ordered on Monday the 30th of January 2005, that the expedient ordered against General José Efraín Ríos Montt be concluded, absolving him of all suggestion of his involvement in the disturbances on the 24th and 25th of July 2003, in which the journalist Héctor Ramírez died. Judge Victor Hugo Herrera argued that there exists a video of

the facts and that in this video there is no proof that the accused were near to where the journalist died. In another video, from a press conference on the 21st of July, Ríos Montt advises that the actions of sympathisers of the Executive Committee of the Guatemala Republican Front (FRG) might become out of control. The judge added that this is not proof.

The UN and CONAVIGUA express preoccupation for threats against anthropologist.

The United Nations expressed its preoccupation to the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH) for the constant harassing of Fredy Peccerelly, Director of the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG), in charge of carrying out the exhumations of victims of the armed conflict. María Eugenia Morales, Assistant Ombudsman, confirmed that Peccerelly has been constantly harassed by telephone. On Monday the 9th he received via text message a threat for the work the Foundation has been doing in relation to the exhumations. At the same time, because of this same work, a letter was sent to the house of a sister of Peccerelly threatening her life. The Coordinating Body of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA) also denounced and condemned the threats against Peccerelly, his family, and all the members of FAFG. They hope the respective authorities will investigate the facts and find the people responsible.

Brother of the Gerardi case lawyer murdered.

The body of Daniel Domingo Montejo, brother of Mario Domingo Montejo, lawyer of the Human Rights Office of the Archbishop of Guatemala (ODHA), was found on the 23rd of January, with signs of having being tortured. The victim was the brother of the ODHA lawyer, who achieved the guilty verdict against three soldiers and a priest for the murder of the Bishop Juan José Gerardi. Nery Rodenas, Director of the ODHA, said that the victim was not part of any gang, did not have tattoos, did not use drugs, and that there did not exist any information to suggest that he had been threatened. "We ask that there be a thorough investigation of this crime. We cannot rule out any hypothesis; that it might have been done for revenge or it might have been committed due to common delinquency", said Rodenas. The lawyer Mario Domingo Montejo was out of the country when the crime occurred.

According to the PNC, 40 women have been murdered in January.

Up until the 30th of January this year, the National Civil Police (PNC) counted 40 murders against women in the capital and other departments around the country. According to María Gabriela Núñez, Presidential Minister for Women, this phenomenon has obliged the government to initiate joint efforts between diverse governmental institutions so as to see that the number does not rise. The Presidential Ministry for Women is working with this strategy, and according to Núñez there will be research done this year to diagnose this phenomenon. Furthermore, the government institutions involved hope to undertake a brief campaign throughout the country emphasising respect for life. At the same time, they hope to coordinate efforts to strengthen the involved institutions in the investigation of the facts, the penal persecution, and the condemnation of guilty persons. In 2005, there was an increase in this phenomenon in comparison to previous years, and according to police statistics, the departments represent the highest number of deaths. Professional women, home-makers, prostitutes, factory workers and women from other professions have perished.

Land

In Alta Verapaz, *campesinos* ask for land in compensation for debt.

Hundreds of *campesinos* from the Mocca estate, Senahú, Alta Verapaz, demanded that the owners hand over the land that they live on, as compensation for the debt contracted decades before. Benedicto Choc, from the Union of *Campesino* Organisations for the Verapaces (UVOC), said that the demands have been made by members of the *Campesino* Development Association, San José Mocca Ajk, who have been threatened for claiming their rights.

***Campesinos* still not heard after eight days of protest.**

Since the 24th of January, *campesinos* from at least 10 communities from around the country took control of part of Constitution Square in the Guatemalan capital, protesting so as to suspend orders of community evictions. These orders were posted due to these communities not being able to prove their legal right to these lands, lands which have been handed down over the generations. As he remembered the 17 violent deaths suffered by the *campesino* movement during the evictions, Daniel Pascual, director of the *Campesino* Unity Committee (CUC), also noted that during the two years of government of Óscar Berger, none of the petitions has been resolved.

Globalisation

The United States confirms the ongoing implementation of the DR-CAFTA.

The Free Trade Agreement between the Dominican Republic, Central America and the United States (DR-CAFTA) will not be implemented on the 1st of January 2006 as was originally scheduled, but rather will come about as countries become ready, informed the United States after opening on the 30th of December an indefinite period before the agreement comes into force, due to the six states not being able to adapt their legislations. Stephen Norton, from the United States Trade Representative office (USTR), said that the Free Trade Agreement will come into effect "once the involved countries make sufficient progress so as to fulfil commitments outlined in the agreement".

Campesino murder investigation stalled

One year since security forces murdered Raúl Castro Bocel, for opposing the passing of a steel cylinder to be used for mining activities in San Marcos, the investigations continue to be stalled. Dominga Vásquez, the ex-indigenous mayoress of Sololá and representative of the Kaqchikel people in the Departmental Development Council (CODEDE), noted that on the 11th of January 2005, the government did not want to listen to the peoples' dialogue and repressed their pacific protest, with more than a thousand National Civil Policemen (PNC) and 300 soldiers.

Other

Organisations confirm that the government's second year was a failure.

The Indigenous, *Campesino*, Union and Popular Movement (MICSP) questioned the second year of government of President Óscar Berger, considering it a social and economic failure and asking that the government to do a 180 degree turn, favouring the larger sectors of society. At the same time, a report elaborated by the Collective of Social Organisations (COS) signalled that the government finished 2005 with poor results on an economic policy and social safety level, with precarious social investment that preserve levels of inequality. The COS also notes that 2005 saw a significant stalling in the Peace Accords, a drastic decrease in the purchase power of individuals in regards to salary, and a growth in poverty and hunger.

Monsignor Alvaro Ramazzini, new President of the Episcopal Conference.

Monsignor Alvaro Ramazzini, Bishop of San Marcos, has been elected for two years as the new President of the Guatemala Episcopal Conference (CEG) after receiving a majority vote from his superiors. The Bishop of San Marcos will be, from this moment on, the link between the CEG and the Vatican as well as the negotiator between the Church and government authorities. Ramazzini has combined his pastoral labour with the defence of human rights, *campesinos*, migrants, people without land, opposition to the Free Trade Agreement between the Dominican Republic, Central America and the United States (DR-CAFTA), and mining exploitation. Together with other bishops, he played a principal role in the Peace Accords of 1996 and in the promotion of the project of the Recuperation of Historical Memory (REMHI) in San Marcos.

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

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

2. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA: WITHIN GUATEMALA

Team: Matthew Fawcett and Helen Woodcock (United Kingdom), Silvio Köhler (Germany), Estefanía Sarmiento (Columbia), Didier Califice (Belgium), Ulrike Beck (Germany), Tawia Abbam (United Kingdom), Chus García (Spain), Michael Beattie (Australia), Silke Gatermann (Sweden).

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 January meetings were held with the following authorities:

Guatemalan Authorities:

Estuardo Meneses, Executive/Presidential Human Rights Coordinating Commission, (COPREDEH).
Gustavo Meoño, Human Rights Omdsman (PDH).
Pablo Enrique de la Cruz, National Civil Police (PNC) Tucurú.
Golvaster Cosible Santos, National Civil Police Chief, Substation Joyabaj.
Jesús López González, Vice-Commissioner, Police State No. 34, National Civil Police Retalhuleu.
Nery Horacio Gil Heerrera, Town Mayor, Joyabaj.
Monsignor Álvaro Ramazzini, President of the Guatemala Episcopal Conference.

Diplomatic Corps:

Invitation from the Netherlands Embassy, to celebrate the start of the year.

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:

Jorge López, Executive Director of the Organisation to support an Integrated Sexuality to confront AIDS (OASIS).
Miguel Ángel Albizures, Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH).
Christina Laur de Pérez, Centre for Human Rights Legal Action Centre (CALDH).
Claudia Samayoa, National Human Rights Movement (MNDH).
Iduvina Hernández, Security in Democracy (SEDEM).
Arnaldo Miranda and Walter Valencia, Technical Unity for Accompaniment, Relations and Consultation for the Social Movement of Guatemala (UTARA).
Yuri Giovanni Melini and Enrique Cifuentes, Centre for Legal-Environmental and Social Action in Guatemala (CALAS).
Daniel Pascual, *Campesino* Unity Committee (CUC).
Raul Urizar y Maricruz, Mayan Defence Unit.
Daniel Vogt, Legal Representative of the Q'eqchí Defence Unit .
Sons and Daughters for Identity and Justice In the Face of Indifference and Silence (HIJOS).
Campesino Development Association, San José Mocca "AJK", Senahú.

International Organisations

Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG).
Santiago Bastos, Latin American Social Science Faculty (FLACSO).

2.3 ACCOMPANIMENTS

Since the 13th of May we have accompanied Carlos Morales, leader of the **Union of Campesino Organisations for the Verapaces (UVOC)**. Throughout the last month, we accompanied him during his activities in Alta and Baja Verapaz.

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.

We continue 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 legalisation 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 from threats on a regular basis. In March of 2005 Miguel Zapeta González, resident and leader of the community "Esquipulas" in zone 21 of Guatemala City, was murdered. The communities of CONAPAMG are evicted frequently, and there are many more evictions are pending. PBI meets with Guatemalan authorities in the local zones where there are CONAPAMG communities.

We began accompanying the **Association of Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI)** and **Eloyda Mejía**, Legal Representative of the organisation, shortly after a forum on the future of the lake, which took place in El Estor on the 21st of February 2004, after which the threats against her worsened.

Background: Eloyda Mejía has suffered a number of threats as a result of her work to protect Lake Izabal, in the province of Izabal, East Guatemala, and due 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 carried out regular visits to the offices of the **Madre Selva Collective** and had frequent contact with their members. PBI has accompanied the members of Madre Selva since June 2004.

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

We have been accompanying the Union of Workers of the company “**Association of the Coffee Industry**”, and other related **Industries (SITINCA)** affiliated to the Federation of Trade Unions in the Food and Similar Industries in Guatemala (FESTRAS). Since June of 2005 we have acted as international observers during 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 allegedly carried out anti-union activities, focused on José Armando Palacios, who was one of the three workers. 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)**, periodically. At the beginning of January, we accompanied them during an exhumation in the community of Joyabaj, Municipality of Joyabaj, Department of 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. This process provokes tense situations in these small rural communities between victims and their perpetrators, and the women from CONAVIGUA receive threats so as not to go ahead with this work. The organisation continues preparing for more exhumations and inhumations during this year.

We accompany the **Union of Bocadeli Workers (SITRA BocaDeli)**, which is affiliated to the **Syndicated Guatemalan Workers Union (UNSITRAGUA)**. During the month of November, after a legal judgement closed the factory and ordered the National Civil Police (PNC) to guard the factory to prevent the removal of vehicles and goods, the workers were able to stop their vigil in front of the factory.

Background: In August the BocaDeli Foods Prefabricated Products Distribution Centre in Mixco, Department of Guatemala, was shut down without any notice being given and without the workers being paid either their salaries or redundancy pay. 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 the payments 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 Carlos Guárquez of the **Mayan Foundation (FUNDAMAYA)** and adviser to the municipality since January of 2005. As well as staying in regular contact with him, we also marked an international presence in various events that took place in Sololá this month.

Background: Mr Guárquez has suffered from various forms of threats, accusations, and intimidations because of his work rejecting the Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) and mining exploitation. On the 25th of March 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 within Guatemala.

We accompanied the MTC, Movement of Peasant Workers, an entity of the Pastoral Society of the Dioceses of San Marcos, which among other things supports peasant communities defending their human rights. We have been in regular contact with the members of this organisation after receiving a petition for international accompaniment.

Background: Since the beginning of November, Julio Archila, a member of the MTC, has suffered various forms of intimidation and threats directed against him and his family. Apparently his security problems are related to the support the MTC gives to the "nonconformist" campesinos of the farm, Las Delicias, San Marcos. On the 4th of November, officials from the PNC, in conjunction with people from the aforementioned farm, arrested Julio, accusing him of stealing coffee. He was brought in front of the judge and, on not finding any proof of the accusations, he was freed. Since then there have been other acts of intimidation and threats made against Julio Archila and members of his family.

2.4 OBSERVATIONS

On the 1st of January, we were present as international observers at the inauguration ceremony for the new auxiliary mayors, in various towns in the municipality of Nebaj, amongst them Salquil Grande, Tzabal Acul and Nebaj. This petition was at the request of the Mayan Defence Unit.

We were also present on the 21st of January as observers at the Nueva Linda estate, Department of Retalhuleu, the day after which there were conflicts between *campesinos* and the estate's private security, after a petition from both the Nueva Linda Association and the *Campesino* Development Committee (CODECA). Since the violent eviction in August 2004, a large group of *campesinos* have been living next to the highway with the objective of demanding justice, remembering the disappearance of the *campesino* leader Héctor Reyes and an end to the impunity surrounding this situation.

From the 24th to the 31st of January we have been observing the pacific occupation of the capital city's Central Park by the *campesinos* from different estates that form part of the *Campesino* Unity Committee (CUC), looking for the handing over and legal recognition of their land.

On the 31st of December we were present during the march in commemoration of the 26 years since the Spanish Embassy massacre, organised by the CUC, HIJOS and MISCP.

2.5 FOLLOW-UPS

We have maintained contact with the **Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH)** through meetings with their Co-directors and visits to their office.

Background: On various occasions we have accompanied various members of the organisation which is constantly under threat. On the 11th of January 2005, a day after coming back to work for the year, the organisation received a bomb threat at its headquarters. In March the organisation and several of its members received strong threats. During the month of June, four members of the organisation were subject to attacks and acts of aggression. 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. They have secured expedient 1-61 which protects them against evictions or police intervention in the farm. Reconstruction of the community has begun, but they continue waiting for the finalization of their title to the land.

We continue to maintain contact with the **Sololá Indigenous Municipality and Dominga Vásquez**. On the 1st of January 2006 Dominga finished her duties as Indigenous Mayoress of Sololá but she continues as a leader of her community. We continue to maintain in contact with her, monitoring the Municipality and the new Indigenous mayor.

3. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA: OUTSIDE OF GUATEMALA

The Project Coordination Office in Madrid, the Regional Representatives and other members of the Project Committee, as well as national PBI groups, have been involved in public relations campaigns with numerous NGO's, national agencies and governments, parliamentarians, etc. These meetings help in the development and strengthening of a project "Support Network", an essential tool for the workings of the international presence of PBI in Guatemala.

On the 5th of January, Tara Ward, North American Project Representative, conversed by phone with Louise Casselman from the Social Justice Fund of the Public Service Alliance of Canada to discuss the situation in Guatemala and possible ways of collaboration between the two organisations. Tara also participated on the 18th of January in a preparatory meeting of the Americas Policy Group with the Canadian Government, to talk about various troubling issues in the Guatemalan context.

Kerstin Reemtsma, European Project Representative, met on the 10th of January in Berlin with Greens Member of Parliament Markus Kurth (also President of the Germany-Central America Parliamentary Commission), as well as with Ilona Leipold, assistant to Member of Parliament Thilo Hoppe, Chief of the German Parliament Cooperation Commission, and member of the Green party. As well as this, Kerstin also had a meeting with Gabriele Weber, person in charge of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean in the German Exterior Ministry.

Montse García, Project Coordinator, and Mayte Quesada, Project Administrator, met on the 31st of January in Madrid with Isaura Navarro, Fourth Minister of Congress Members and Congress Member for *United Left*.

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.

DESINTERES DEL GOBIERNO POR LA JUSTICIA PROVOCA OTRO DERRAMAMIENTO DE SANGRE EN LA FINCA NUEVA LINDA

Debido a la falta de justicia en contra los secuestradores de Héctor René Reyes y quienes promovieron y ejecutaron las masacres y torturas para desalojar la Finca Nueva Linda de Retalhuleu donde decenas de campesinas y campesinos fueron asesinados o gravemente heridos, el Comité de Desarrollo Campesino – CODECA – a la opinión pública nacional e internacional,

MANIFIESTA:

El día de hoy, 20 de enero de 2006, el grupo de campesinas y campesinos que resisten a orillas de la cinta asfáltica, frente a la finca Nueva Linda, que pedían dialogar con los paramilitares que actuaban como fuerza de seguridad privada de la finca y quienes en horas de la noche los amenazaron con quemar champas y envenenar el agua del pozo de las familias campesinas, después de aproximadamente media hora de estar pidiendo el diálogo, llegó el propietario de la finca Sr. Virgilio Casado en helicóptero, llevando consigo más personas armadas y ordenando a su seguridad dispararan en contra de los campesinos que pedían el dialogo, utilizando escopetas 12mm. y fusiles AK-47, hiriendo gravemente a Roberto Miguel González, Macario Gómez y Bernabé Guillén. Con esta actitud se demuestra una vez más la actitud del terrateniente de perseguir y matar a los campesinos, sin que las autoridades intervengan no importándole la presencia de niños, mujeres y ancianos en el lugar, tal como el caso del desaparecimiento del compañero Héctor Reyes

Desde el segundo desalojo violento, momento en que se instala la Mesa Garante, han permanecido unas cien familias en las afueras de la finca Nueva Linda a orillas de la carretera, sin que hayan sido atendidas sus demandas de justicia, ni indemnizado de forma justa por los daños ocasionados a sus cultivos y enseres familiares, por el contrario, han continuado las amenazas y agresiones directas por parte de la seguridad privada de la finca, hasta llegar a este nuevo hecho de zozobra.

La Mesa Garante es un espacio de diálogo que se integró con varias instituciones, organizaciones y personas particulares interesadas en buscar una solución integral al conflicto por el secuestro de Héctor Reyes el 5 de septiembre de 2003 y la masacre de campesinos ejecutada el 31 de agosto de 2004 en la finca Nueva Linda, sin embargo la misma ha sido bloqueada de manera sistemática por quienes representan al gobierno y al Ministerio Público, evitando con ello que se agilicen los procesos judiciales en contra de los finqueros y las autoridades de las fuerzas de represión del Estado y ello ha provocado que hoy estemos lamentando más derramamiento de sangre.

Por lo anterior, **EXIGIMOS:**

Al gobierno de la República: que apoye el estado de derecho, que ya no sigan los privilegios únicamente para los terratenientes, facilitándoles el apoyo y libertad para mantener paramilitares para matar e intimidar a la población con armas de grueso calibre, los cuales están destinados únicamente al ejército y no a particulares.

Al ministro de Gobernación, Al ministro de la defensa, al Fiscal General del ministerio público, y al Jefe de la PNC

Que dejen de estar al servicio únicamente de los terratenientes, persiguiendo a la población civil y que cumplan con sus obligaciones que establece la constitución política de Guatemala de garantizar la seguridad de la población y soberanía del pueblo Guatemalteco,

A las organizaciones populares y de Derechos Humanos de la comunidad nacional e internacional

Pedimos su solidaridad, en la lucha por la búsqueda de justicia en Guatemala, y que intervengan para que cesé la persecución hacia los campesinos en Guatemala

Mazatenango, Suchitepéquez, 20 de enero de 2006

COORDINADORA NACIONAL DE ORGANIZACIONES CAMPESINAS -CNOC-

Ante el pueblo de Guatemala y la comunidad internacional:

EXHORTAMOS AL GOBIERNO RESPONDER A LAS EXIGENCIAS DE TIERRA DE LA POBLACION INDÍGENA Y CAMPESINA QUE VIVE EN LA MISERIA.

Contrario a las políticas represivas del Estado contra las manifestaciones populares y descalificación a los planteamientos y propuestas sociales, la Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas, CNOC, exige al Gobierno atender las demandas campesinas que necesitan tierra, asistencia técnica, créditos para el desarrollo de las comunidades, por lo que nos solidarizamos con la decisión tomada por las familias Indígenas y Campesinas que representadas por más de 400 personas de distintos puntos del país han ocupado el Parque de la Constitución para demandar tierra y justicia social. Es meritorio y digno de apoyo la resistencia y lucha del Comité de Unidad Campesina -CUC-, organización miembro de -CNOC-, ya que mediante ésta manifestación pública pone en evidencia la situación de injusticia que afronta la gran mayoría de la población y demuestra la poca atención del Gobierno de turno para responder a las demandas indígenas y campesinas.

Asimismo, el Gobierno en complicidad con los grandes finqueros ha desnaturalizado las funciones de las dependencias estatales relacionadas con el tema agrario, manifestándose una vez más que el GOBIERNO ES PRO-EMPRESARIAL Y FIEL DEFENSOR DE LA CÚPULA ECONÓMICA. Durante los dos años de este gobierno, los terratenientes son los privilegiados al tener el apoyo político gubernamental para ejecutar más de 70 desalojos y dejar en la impunidad algunos hechos violentos que ha cegado la vida de 17 campesinos asesinados brutalmente. Cabe indicar que durante los últimos ocho años se creó el FONDO DE TIERRAS, LA SECRETARIA DE ASUNTOS AGRARIOS Y RECIENTEMENTE LA APROBACIÓN DE UNA LEY DE CATASTRO que sólo sirven para paliar o maquillar la problemática agraria e intentando acallar las inconformidades populares, en vez de resolver el problema estructural. Es innegable que NO EXISTE VOLUNTAD POLITICA en solucionar la problemática campesina, por el contrario el gobierno y los empresarios están manipulándole trabajo interno del FONDO DE TIERRAS en función de sus intereses políticos partidarios, sin respetar la autonomía de dicha institución.

Por lo tanto, la Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas -CNOC- exige:

1. El gobierno, a través de las instituciones relacionadas con el tema agrario, establezca mecanismos y procedimientos ágiles para dar respuesta inmediata a la demanda de tierra de 400 campesinos que han ocupado el Parque de la Constitución. ("Finca el Maguey", Fraijanes, Guatemala y las Fincas "Las Camelias, y San Basilio", Río Bravo, Suchitepéquez).
2. Exigimos respuestas concretas y resarcimiento a las familias campesinas de la finca Nueva Linda, Retalhuleu, que recientemente fueron víctimas de otro hecho represivo de los terratenientes.
3. Al sector empresarial agropecuario les solicitamos no interferir en instituciones estatales, a la cual las organizaciones campesinas aglutinadas en CNOC no permitirán desprestigiar y su disolución.
4. CNOC estará atento a los hechos y movilizará a sus fuerzas para realizar todas las acciones que sean necesarias para que se respeten nuestros derechos y los espacios institucionales donde participamos.
5. A las bases campesinas a estar atentas y atentos para defender la institucionalidad y la paz que busca beneficiar a la población indígena y campesina que representa -CNOC-.
6. Denunciamos la posible intervención del FONDO DE TIERRAS por el gobierno, ya que se estaría violando su autonomía y su ley orgánica, demostrándose el interés de los empresarios y del partido oficial en tomar el control de dicha institución para sus negocios propios.

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