



## PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALA PROJECT

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### 1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

#### **IMPUNITY**

##### **Headquarters of the UNAMG in Chimaltenango and the Women's Sector office in the capital broken into**

The headquarters of the National Union of Guatemalan Women (UNAMG) in Chimaltenango has been added to the list of organisations recently broken into. According to a communiqué by the organisation, in the early hours of the morning, unknown people entered the office from which they stole a computer that contained important information about the UNAMG, as well as searching the office's desks. The headquarters of the Women's Sector in the capital was also broken into for the second time in less than fifteen days. The organisation has labelled this situation an act of intimidation, and a consequence of its work in favour of women. According to a representative of the Sector, the aggressions could be due to the comparison that the organisation has made between the characteristics of the current femicide that was carried out by paramilitary groups during the war.

##### **Unionists report persecution**

The Unit of Union and Popular Action (UASP) reported a plan of annihilation and persecution set up by the government against Nery Barrios, Secretary General of the organisation. Barrios specified that these acts of intimidation are due to the denunciations by the organisation of embezzlement and corruption against the Social Work Secretariat of the President's Wife (SOSEP), as well as against the Public Prosecutor and the Head of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

##### **Ruling of the Court of Constitutionality suspends investigations planned by the National Court of Spain**

The Court of Constitutionality (CC) provisionally abetted General Efraín Ríos Montt, canceling the court hearings planned for this week by the National Court of Spain which were to take declarations of those accused of genocide and of the witnesses. The Spanish Court initiated an investigation into the case of the burning of the Spanish Embassy, fact that occurred on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1980, and the assassination of four Spanish priests. The Spanish judge, Santiago Pedraz, arrived in the country to hold the hearings planned by a national judge. The CC argued that the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) had not fulfilled the

requirements requested by the magistrates concerning the judicial attendance required by the Spanish authorities. This is to say that a Guatemalan judge would not be able to investigate the persons accused nor the witnesses. Indigenous and human rights organisations held a ceremony in front of the headquarters of the judicial body to demand justice.

### **Member of the military threatens human rights activists**

The former Defence Minister, José Luís Quilo Ayuso, member of the Association of Military Veterans of Guatemala (AVEMILGUA), stated that members of human rights organisations planned to sabotage the march on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, held to commemorate the Day of the Military. "We know that the groups that support the arrival of the Spanish judge have summoned their people for that day in order to harass us. If we are provoked, the response could be violent. Because of this we ask the organisations of Rigoberta Menchú and the GAM to act sensibly," warned the General. Edda Gaviola, Director of the Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH), pointed out that AVEMILGUA's alert contained explicit threats which incite the committing of violent acts against the organizations that are looking for justice. Rigoberta Menchú, Nobel Peace Prize Winner, declared, "I feel indignant because of these threats that intimidate, which make one fear for one's security."

## **LAND**

### **Social organisations demand halt in evictions in the Verapaces**

Social organizations, including the National Coordinator of *Campesino* Organisations (CNOO); the Indigenous, *Campesino*, Union, and Popular Movement (MICSP); and the Union of *Campesino* Organisations for the Verapaces (UVOC), denounced in a press release that in the region of the Verapaces between 2004 and the present date, at least thirty-five evictions have taken place, several of which were violent. The evictions have been of communities which demand legitimate rights to use and property, for example in the recent cases of San José Moccá in Senahú and Santa Inés in Santa Cruz. Because of this, the organisations demand that the government reform its policies in order to effectively solve the land demands of the *campesinos* through the Integral Land Reform, as well as of the institutions responsible for the application of justice that they halt the evictions and investigate the paramilitary groups that threaten and intimidate the communities and their *campesino* leaders.

## **GLOBALISATION**

### **Activists organise week against mining**

The ecologist collective Madre Selva, the Sipakapense Linguistic Community, and the Coordinating Body of Indigenous and Campesino Organisations (CONIC) inaugurated a series of actions to show the Government of the Republic that the entire Mesoamerican area is against the continuation of mining exploitation. Magalí Rey Rosa, member of the Madre Selva collective, pointed out that the Government is using more and more violent paramilitary repression, the criminalisation of social protest, inventing crimes of leaders and carrying out violent land and community evictions in order to impose antipopular and neoliberal policies. The activist denounced that the transnational companies Glamis Gold and its subsidiary Montana Exploradora manipulate and deceive members of the Mayan communities, mainly in San Marcos, with the intention of weakening the resistance of the people to the imposition of mining projects.

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

## 2. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA: IN GUATEMALA

**Team:** Didier Califice (Belgium), Ulrike Beck (Germany), Tawia Abbam (United Kingdom), Chus García (Spain), Michael Beattie (Australia), Silke Gatermann (Sweden/Germany), Katia Aeby (Switzerland), Mary Scott (United Kingdom), Csilla Horvath (Hungary)

### 2.1 MEETINGS WITH AUTHORITIES AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

Meetings with authorities and members of the diplomatic corps in Guatemala are essential components of PBI's work, enabling us to make known our objectives and way of working. Through these meetings, when necessary, we can also express confidentially our concerns over critical situations of which we have first hand knowledge through our work in the field. During the month of May meetings were held with the following authorities:

Guatemalan Authorities:

- Blanca Estela Alvarado, Presidential Commissioner of the Presidential commission against Discrimination and Racism against the Indigenous population of Guatemala. (CODISRA)
- Herman Rigoberto Teni Pacay, Departmental Governor of Alta Verapaz
- Santiago Lima, Subcommissioner of the Central National Civil Police Service (PNC)
- Subcommissioner Ruano Marroquín, Head of the Izabal National Civil Police Department (PNC)
- Monsignor Gabriel Peñate, Bishop of the Department of Izabal

Diplomatic Corps:

- Susie Kitchens, Second Political Secretary, British Embassy
- Gustavo Cetina, Programmes Officer, Norwegian Embassy
- Ella de Voogd, Assistant Governor, Dutch Embassy
- Josep Borrell, President of the European Parliament

### 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:

- Ingrid Urizar, Pastoral de la Tierra, Agrarian Platform, Quetzaltenango
- Aura Elena Farfán, Families of the Detained and Disappeared of Guatemala (FAMDEGUA)
- David Morales, Federation of Trade Unions in the Food and Similar Industries in Guatemala (FESTRAS)
- Edda Gaviola, Director of the Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH)
- Clara Arenas, Director of Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences in Guatemala (AVANCSO)
- Carlos Paredes, Community Studies and Psychosocial Action Team (ECAP)
- Sons and Daughters for Identity and Justice In the Face of Indifference and Silence (HIJOS)
- Jorge Mario Sub, Union of Campesino Organisations for the Verapaces (UVOC)
- Bernabé Salazar, Alliance for Life and Peace
- Vitalino Similox, Ecumenical Forum for Peace and Reconciliation (FEPAZ)
- Irene Barrientos y Julio Coj, Syndicated Guatemalan Workers Union Guatemala (UNSTRAGUA)
- María Martín, National Human Rights Movement (MNDH)
- Alfredo Che, Coordinating Body of Campesino and Indigenous Organisations of Petén (COCIP)
- Nery Barrios, United Union and Popular Action (UASP)
- Andrés Cabanes, Mugarik Gabe
- Paola González y Liduvina Méndez, National Guatemalan Women's Union (UNAMG)

International Organisations:

- Domingo Matias, Rights in Action
- Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG)
- Forum of International Non-Governmental Organizations (FONGI)
- Anabella Sibirian, Dutch Platform against Impunity
- Agnes Bernzen y Matias Ries, Civil Service for Peace, DED, German Cooperation
- Blanca Blanco, Trocaire, Irish Catholic Agency for Development

## 2.3 ACCOMPANIMENTS

Since the 13th May 2005, we have accompanied **Carlos Morales**, leader of the **Union of Campesino Organisations for the Verapaces (UVOC)**, and other members of the organisation. Throughout the last month, we accompanied them during their activities in Alta and Baja Verapaz, as well as in Guatemala City.

*Background: Carlos Morales, leader of the 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 for his life, Carlos Morales was forced into hiding in Guatemala City for a month, which was made possible by the support of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH). Following this, 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 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 have been accompanying the **Association of Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI)** and **Eloyda Mejía**, Legal Representative of the organisation, since 21<sup>st</sup> February 2004, when the threats against her worsened. This month we maintained regular contact with members of the association.

*Background: Eloyda Mejia 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. On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2004, during a conference on the future of the lake in El Estor, Izabal, the threats against her worsened, which she reported to the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) and the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (PDH). In February 2006 Eloyda Mejia's restaurant wall was graffitied with "Yes to CGN" (Guatemalan Nickel Company). PBI have accompanied Eloyda and other members of the association since February 2004*

We carry out regular visits to the offices of the **Madre Selva Collective** and have frequent contact with their members during their work in different departments throughout the country. PBI has been accompanying 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 continue to accompany the **National Coordination of Widows of Guatemala (CONAVIGUA)** periodically through visits to and presence in their office, as well as during their exhumations and inhumations of clandestine cemeteries in rural areas. During the month of April, we accompanied members of CONAVIGUA during an exhumation in Buena Vista, 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 carrying out exhumations and inhumations during this year*

We accompany Carlos Guarquez, General Coordinator of the **Guatemalan Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (AGAAI)** and the **Mayan Foundation (FUNDAMAYA)**, and adviser to the indigenous municipality of Sololá since January of 2005. We stay in regular contact with him through visits to his office and through telephone calls. This month we accompanied Carlos during his activities in Huehuetenango.

*Background: Mr Guarquez 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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2005, in the village of El Tablón, Sololá, the vehicle used by Carlos Humberto Guarquez, of AGAAI and FUNDAMAYA, was doused in petrol and set on fire by unknown individuals. Death threats specifically naming Carlos Guarquez, the then Indigenous Mayoress of Sololá, Dominga Vásquez, and her husband, Alfonso Guarquez, 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 accompany the **Movement of Peasant Workers (MTC)**, an entity of the Social Pastoral Office of the Diocese of San Marcos, which consists of associations of peasant communities defending their human rights. This month we accompanied the MTC in its activities in San Marcos and we continue to have weekly contact with the technical support team.

*Background: Since the beginning of November 2005, 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 campesinos who are engaged in protest on the farm Las Delicias, San Marcos. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005, police arrested Julio, accusing him of stealing coffee. He was brought before 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.*

The **Organisation to Support an Integrated Sexuality to Confront AIDS (OASIS)**, an organisation which works with HIV/AIDS education and prevention, as well as promoting and protecting the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people. In particular, we accompany **Zulma**, member of OASIS, maintaining a virtually daily presence in the office of the organisation and keeping in permanent contact.

*Background: On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2005, the transgender worker Paulina was killed, making it the seventh murder of a transgender worker that year. Zulma, who was present when the crime was committed, was seriously injured during the incident. She is a witness to the murder of Paulina, accusing members of the National Civil Police (PNC) as perpetrators. OASIS reported the case to the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) in order to obtain justice for the killing, and has been awarded precautionary security measures for Zulma and the organisation by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (CIDH). However, members of the organisation continue being subjected to harassment and threats, and during the night of 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Jorge López, Executive Director of OASIS, reported that he had been pursued by a police car.*

In June 2006 we started accompanying the **Women's Sector**, an umbrella organisation for women's associations that works for women's economic development, in the struggle against violence against women and denounces impunity and "femicide". We visit their office regularly and accompany members in specific activities.

*Background: In less than 10 days, between the end of May and the beginning of June 2006, the headquarters of the Women's Sector was broken into twice. The first time the intruders stole telephones and money and smeared blood on the walls; the second time they destroyed furniture, searched through files and left a bloody piece of glass on one of the desks. The Sector reported that these acts appear to be intimidatory and asked for police protection.*

## 2.4. OBSERVATIONS

PBI Guatemala provides international observations in public events where Guatemalan social organisations require international attention and interest. These observations also take place when it is judged necessary in order to be able to communicate what we witness outside of the country.

Since the end of May until the middle of June, we were present as international observers at the peace camp organised by the Committee for the Development of Rural People (CODECA) and the people from Nueva Linda in the Central Park; this was a 15 day protest covering the Week Against Impunity and Violence. Whilst the camp was there we visited nearly every day.

*Background: PBI has been monitoring the case of Nueva Linda since 2004 with regular visits as international observers, maintaining international presence during public actions and circulating information about the case at an international level through our publications. A large group of campesinos have been living on the side of the road since September 2004, demanding justice for the disappearance of campesino leader Hector Reyes and the situation of impunity surrounding the case of the violent eviction from the farm in August 2004.*

On the 30th of June, Army Day, we accompanied the Memories March organised by the Sons and Daughters for Identity and Justice in the Face of Indifference (HIJOS). This march was also supported by other human rights organisations and was to remember the people that disappeared during the armed conflict as well as fight against forgetting the past.

## 2.5 FOLLOW -UPS

PBI provides follow-up to accompanied organisations that, at a given moment, do not require as much international presence for their protection. At the same time, the workers of these organisations remain in a delicate situation and, because of this, PBI considers it necessary to maintain the focus of an international audience on them.

To **The Centre for Legal Action in Human Rights, CALDH**, through visits to their office.

*Background: We have accompanied various members of this organisation on different occasions. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2005, one day after starting work for the New Year, the organization received a bomb threat at its headquarters. During March of the same year several of its members received heavy threats. In June four members were victims of further aggression and up to now they are still receiving threatening phone calls.*

To the situation of **the Community of Finca Maguey** affiliated to the **United Campesino Comité (CUC)** through sporadic contact with the leaders.

*Background: After a violent eviction 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. In February this year they were awarded the land title, however, the community is still waiting for the installation of electricity, the construction of a school and the paving of the road leading up to the entrance of the community and within the property.*

**José Armando Palacios**, member of the **Union of Workers of the company "Association of the Coffee Industry", and other related Industries (SITINCA)** which PBI has accompanied, has had to leave the country due to receiving serious death threats. PBI continues to monitor the case.

*Background: In January 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<sup>th</sup> April, unknown armed individuals broke into the house of José Armando Palacios and threatened the lives 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<sup>th</sup> May, Mr. Palacios was dismissed without any explanation.*

To the **National Coordinator of Peoples and Marginal Areas of Guatemala, CONAPAMG**. We maintain regular contact with the leaders in the capital by phone and visits to their office.

*Background. CONAPAMG works on questions regarding access to housing, social infrastructure and legalising land occupied by the people. We accompanied CONAPAMG in July 2004 when their office was broken into and robbed of lists, invoices, diskettes and money. Miguel Zapeta Gonzales, resident of the community Esquipulas in Zone 21 of the capital and member of the organisation, was murdered in March 2005. Many of the CONAPAMG communities have been evicted and more are awaiting eviction. CONAPAMG's security situation remains vulnerable.*

We continue to maintain contact with the **Sololá Indigenous Municipality and Dominga Vásquez**. On the 1st January 2006 Dominga finished her duties as Indigenous Mayoress of Sololá but she continues as a leader of her community. We continue to maintain 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, carry out public relations campaigns with numerous NGOs, national agencies and governments, parliamentarians, etc. These meetings help in the development and strengthening of the project's "Support Network", an essential tool for the workings of the international presence of PBI in Guatemala.

Kerstin Reemtsma, European representative of the project, together with Maripaz Gallardo, future project volunteer, participated in a Guatemalan Workers Group meeting on the 27th of June with the Copenhagen Initiative for Central America and Mexico (CIFCA) in Brussels. They also met Euro-parliamentarian Eoin Ryan of the European Union Group of Nations, and Meter Liese of the European Popular Party Group (Christian Democrats) and the European Democrats. They also met Eric Beaume, responsible for Guatemala of RELEX in the European Commission and on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June they had a meeting with Josy Dubié, Belgian senator of the ECOLO group. Kerstin Reemtsma also had a meeting in Bonn on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June with Oliver Pieper, reporter for external German radio, Deutsche Welle.

Tara Ward, member of the Project committee, is working to coordinate a delegation of a group of North American representatives to visit Guatemala and also maintains contact with the American Policy Group.

### **4. ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES**

En esta sección reproducimos algunos comunicados (algunos abreviados) de las organizaciones defensoras de DDHH, donde expresan sus preocupaciones frente a diferentes hechos recientes.

PBI GUATEMALA NO SE IDENTIFICA NECESARIAMENTE CON LAS OPINIONES Y CONTENIDO DE LOS ARTÍCULOS Y COMUNICADOS REPRODUCIDOS

#### **Comunicado del Comité de Desarrollo Campesino (CODECA) acerca del plantón de campesinos de Nueva Linda en el Parque Central**

Después de diecisiete días de ocupación de la Plaza de la Constitución en búsqueda de respuestas concretas a nuestra demanda de Justicia en los casos de Secuestros, Asesinatos y Ejecuciones Extrajudiciales que han sido víctimas los campesinos y campesinas de la finca Nueva Linda, el Fiscal General Juan Luis Florido y el Gobierno de Óscar Berger no atendieron positivamente nuestras peticiones.

A pesar de existir contundentes evidencias de que los delitos contra los campesinos de Nueva Linda, desde el secuestro de Héctor Reyes el 5 de septiembre de 2003, hasta las amenazas e intimidaciones a los familiares de los dirigentes del grupo en resistencia el 2 de junio de 2006, fueron planificados y ejecutados por los latifundistas españoles Carlos Vidal Fernández y Virgilio Casados, con el irrestricto apoyo de las fuerzas de seguridad del Estado, hasta la fecha no existe una sola captura ni mucho menos una línea de investigación que dé con los responsables materiales e intelectuales.

Anunciamos que a partir del día de hoy, CODECA y la familia de Héctor Reyes nos retiramos de la Plaza de la Constitución con la firme convicción de continuar con mayor firmeza esta batalla por justicia, pues este caso de impunidad ahora es conocido por decenas de organizaciones populares, iglesias, organismos internacionales y personas individuales, permitiendo abrir nuevos espacios de presión para en lucha que tanto el Gobierno como los latifundistas pretenden "asfixiar" a través de un cerco mediático y la represión. Como casos concretos de estas reivindicaciones, es el compromiso del Procurador de los Derechos Humanos, Dr. Sergio Morales de ser el mediador en el caso para facilitar la Justicia y asegurar la seguridad de las familias campesinas que resisten a orillas de la carretera y que han sido constantemente acosadas por los guardias privados de la finca.

Agradecemos infinitamente las ayudas solidarias de las organizaciones populares y personas individuales que nos acompañaron durante estos días de lluvia, frío y sol inclementes, facilitándonos alimentos, ropa limpia, medicinas, utensilios de cocina, etc. Que fueron fundamentales para la resistencia, especialmente: SNBG, Bloque Antiimperialista, CONGCOP, APRODEP, ADEHGUA, PENNAT, FANDEGUA, ALICOGUA, Sector de Mujeres, FLACSO,, ALCOMGUA, Hermanas Catequistas Franciscanas, Fundación Pediátrica, Iglesia Católica Zona 10, Fundación Guillermo Toriello, URNG, FNL, Mercado San José Zona 7, Fundación Mario López Larrave, CIEDEG, UNAMG, Misioneras María Auxiliadora, UNSITRAGUA, Sra. Esperanza Robles, CEIBAS, HIJOS, CGTG, ISMU, CAUCE, Iglesia Franciscana, Pastoral Campesina, Colegio Belga, CNOC, Hermandad Cristiana de la Recolección, CUC, CONFREGUA y TDH Alemania.

*Guatemala, 14 de junio de 2006*

### **Comunicado de la Oficina del Ato Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH) sobre el incremento de amenazas contra defensores de derechos humanos**

En medio de la situación de violencia generalizada que se vive en el país, en las últimas semanas la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos en Guatemala, OACNUDH, ha recibido información sobre diversos ataques y acciones de hostigamiento contra ONGs y organizaciones de derechos humanos, por lo que expresa su profunda preocupación ante la fundada sensación de temor que existe en el seno de la sociedad civil.

Pese a que una adecuada investigación podría señalar causas de diversa índole detrás de los ataques y el hostigamiento, existen indicios que sugieren una modalidad sistemática de intimidación, y muchos de los afectados y en algunos casos las autoridades mismas, los atribuyen a fuerzas ocultas que los organismos encargados de la investigación oficial no han logrado identificar.

Los defensores de derechos humanos tienen, entre otros, el derecho de expresarse con libertad plena, denunciar acciones y omisiones que estimen violatorias de los derechos humanos y llamar la atención pública sobre cualquier actuación de la autoridad que pueda obstaculizar su labor o impedir la promoción, protección y realización de los derechos humanos y las libertades fundamentales.

Tomando en cuenta su importante labor para la construcción de un verdadero Estado de Derecho, la protección efectiva de los defensores de los derechos humanos ha sido recomendada al Estado guatemalteco por numerosos órganos y mecanismos internacionales, y está contemplada también en el Acuerdo Global sobre Derechos Humanos, por lo que la Oficina urge a las autoridades a tomar acciones inmediatas y urgentes para implementar medidas eficientes de protección, investigación y prevención.

La impunidad es la causa fundamental de la espiral de temor que se está apoderando de la sociedad guatemalteca y la Oficina considera imperativo que las autoridades asuman plenamente la responsabilidad de combatirla. Esto, a su vez, contribuirá a crear un clima de confianza hacia el sistema de justicia, sin el cual no puede existir una verdadera democracia.

*Guatemala, 13 de junio 2006.*

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