

# PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALA PROJECT

# **MONTHLY INFORMATION PACKAGE - GUATEMALA**

## Number 34, July 2006

- 1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION
- 2. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA WITHIN GUATEMALA
  - 2.1 MEETINGS WITH GUATEMALAN AUTHORITIES AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS
  - 2.2 MEETINGS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
  - 2.3 PBI GUATEMALA COORDINATION MEETING
  - 2.4 ACCOMPANIMENTS
  - 2.5 FOLLOW-UPs
- 3. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA OUTSIDE OF GUATEMALA
- 4. PUBLICATIONS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (IN SPANISH)

# **1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION**

## **IMPUNITY**

# After the suspension of hearings in Guatemala, Spanish judge orders the capture and extradition of Efraín Rios Montt and seven others accused of genocide.

The Spanish judge Santiago Pedraz, in charge of the investigation into the massacres against the Mayan population during the internal armed conflict, arrived on the 23rd of June to hear the testimonies of four retired generals and two civilians, whom Nobel laureate, Rigoberta Menchú, sued in 1999 before the National Court of Spain, for genocide, torture and State terrorism. More than 15 appeals presented by the defence snared the process, for example, the Court of Constitutionality (CC) granted Rios Montt a provisional appeal, which in turn caused the suspension of the proceedings programmed by the Guatemalan judge, Saúl Álvarez. This caused the Spanish judge to leave the country days before schedule. A week later, Santiago Pedraz, ordered the international capture and extradition for the ex-head of the de facto Guatemalan State, Efraín Rios Montt; the ex-head of the de facto Government, General Oscar Humberto Meiía Víctores; the ex-Minister of Defence, General Ángel Aníbal Guevara Rodríguez; the exdirector of the National Police, Pedro García Arredondo; the ex-head of the Supreme State of the Army, General Benedicto Lucas García; the ex-Home Secretary, Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz; and, the ex-President of the Republic of Guatemala, Fernando Romeo Lucas, who died last May. Furthermore, Pedraz ordered the seizure of property in order to guarantee the corresponding pecuniary and civil responsibilities, as well as the blocking of their bank accounts. Ríos Montt assured that "he was not informed" about the acts of genocide and that it has been the Ambassador of the United States that has since then kept him up to date about some of the abuses committed by army officials. Pro-Justice and Human Rights movements expressed their congratulations and hopes for the international arrest warrant and request the repeal of amnesty decrees by the CC, which would facilitate the soldiers to face justice. For its part, Amnesty International, in a missive sent to Judge Santiago Pedraz on the 10th of July, informs about the intimidations and threats received by some witnesses, plaintive and Human Rights organisations who took part in the process.

### Army deploys anti-drugs operative in the south-west of the country.

From the first week of July, 400 soldiers were deployed in the south-west in order to combat organised crime, in a new strategy that plans to reduce drug activity at the border and for which they will use land, sea, and air means. The Office of the Public Prosecution (MP) will have to carry out the investigation, together with the Home Office, to be able to afterwards determine which runways are for clandestine use. Civil organisations underline that there is a remilitarisation of security, which implies deterioration in the democratisation of the country.

## <u>LAND</u>

# Serious conflict in which campesinos in the Mocca Estate, Alta Verapaz have lived for months, leaves one dead and dozens left wounded

The Human Rights Ombudsman's (PDH) regional office in Alta Verapaz, reported one person dead and 18 wounded due to a confrontation between campesinos on the 8<sup>th</sup> July en the Mocca Estate, located between the municipalities of La Tinta and Senahú in Alta Verapaz. The National Civil Police (PNC) reported one dead and 39 wounded. Carlos Morales, leader of the Union of Campesino Organisations for the Verapaces (UVOC), explained that the conflict occurred after two groups of campesinos confronted each other after an attempt to evict the families living there. Police officers and PDH delegates arrived at the scene when everything was over. The MP, PDH, PNC and campesino organisations requisitioned the coffee farm to determine the circumstances of the confrontation and to establish the real number of victims. The PDH identified 75 year old Miguel Chen as the deceased. In accordance with Morales, the victim lived in the place where 500 men entered armed with guns and rifles in order to evict the inhabitants, which supposedly are workers on the farm. Guillermo Tabín, Regional Coordinator of the PDH, pointed out that the assistant ombudsman called and gave evidence that the MP had already started its investigations into the case and that nobody was arrested because there was no flagrant crime. After the conflicts of the last few months, 280 families from the Mocca Estate currently live in the entrance to the farm in precarious conditions. They are the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the campesinos that since the beginning of the farm worked the harvest and cultivation of coffee.

#### Campesino organisations denounce that community lands are being usurped by land-owners.

According to campesino organisations, extrajudicial and violent evictions of occupied lands, the lack of public policies to broach the problem in the short, medium and long-term, and the failure of the attempts of dialogue, configure the agrarian conflict in Guatemala. Aparicio Pérez of the CNOC, points out that "without in depth judicial investigations, evictions are ordered because a businessman requests so. This intensifies the conflict and the confrontation in some cases". Pedro Esquina of the CONIC puts forward that " the community lands are usurped by land-owners who do not legally posses them, but have always maintained them. With attempts at dialogue, with both former and present governments, we have not found greater solutions," he reproached.

#### FONTIERRAS: 11 State farms discovered in the power of drug-trafficking

According to the Land Fund (FONTIERRAS), 11 State farms located in the Petén were acquired and registered with false documents under the names of people investigated for drug-trafficking. Four of the farms are located in the protected area of the Laguna del Tigre under the names of Arnoldo Casasola Sosa, Aurelio Ernán Marroquín Duarte, Ladislao Virula Santos, and Waldemar Lorenzana, whom authorities are investigating for supposed links with drug-trafficking. President Óscar Berger asked the Land Registry Commission for a strategy to arrange the lands and improve control over State lands.

## **GLOBALISATION**

#### Inhabitants of Huehuetenango carry out popular query on mining exploitation in the region

Hundreds of residents from five municipalities of Huehuetenango took part on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of July in popular queries on the acceptance or rejection of the exploration and exploitation of mines in the region. The social organisers indicated that more than 27, 000 Huehuetenangans, with raised hands, opposed mining activities in that region. The query was carried out in Colotenango, San Juan Atitán, Todos Santos Cuchumatán, Concepción Huista, and Santiago Chimaltenango. 96 voting tables were gathered, and the question was "Do you accept the licence LEXR 023-05 or any other licence or metal mining activity in our municipality, be it of reconnaissance, exploration or exploitation?" The following organisations registered the voters based on the Electoral Supreme Court's (TSE) census: The Association for the Promotion and Development of the Community (CEIBA), the Guatemalan Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (AGAAI), the Mayan Foundation (FUNDAMAYA), Technical Team for Education in Community Health (ETESC), The North-West University Centre of the University of San Carlos, Guatemala ((CUNOROC) and the Human Rights Institute of the University of San Carlos (IDHUSAC). 150 observers also took part.

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 DIPLMATIC 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:**

Gabriel Peñate, Bishop of Izabal Ruano Marroquín, Sub-commissioner of the National Civil Police Service (PNC), Puerto Barrios, Izabal Hugo Pop, Regional Assistant, Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH), Alta Verapaz Hector Castellanos Soto, Commissioner, PNC, Cobán, Alta Verapaz Herman Rigoberto Teni Pacay, Governor of Alta Verapaz Álvaro Arzú, Mayor of Guatemala Frank la Rue, President of the Presidential Commission on Human Rights (COPREDEH) Guillermo Tabín, Coordinator of Regional Assistants, PDH Edgar Rolando Noriega, Regional Assistant, PDH, Huehuetenango Gustavo Meoño, Director of the National Police (PN) historic archives recuperation project, PDH

## **Diplomatic Corps:**

Gustavo Cetina, Programme Officer, Embassy of Norway Ella de Voogd, Advisor on Governability and Gender, Embassy of the Netherlands Josep Borrell, President of the European Parliament Andreas Schroeder, Advisor, Embassy of Germany Neil Mules, Embajador, Embassy of Australia in Mexico

## 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:**

Victor Cristales, Centre for Research and Popular Education (CIEP) Joviel Acevedo, Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Educación de Guatemala (STEG) Daniel Pascual, Campesino Unity Committee (CUC) Luis Alfonso Mazariegos y Nery Barrios, United Union and Popular Action (UASP) Reynaldo González, Guatemalan Bank and Insurance Labour Federation (FESEBS) Fernando López, Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG) Licenciado Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso

#### International Organisations:

Francisco Sancho, Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG) Agnes Bernzen, Civil Service for Peace (SCP) Forum of International Non-Governmental Organisations (FONGI)

#### 2.3 PBI GUATEMALA COORDINATION MEETING

Every six months the Project holds a Coordination Committee meeting to evaluate, follow-up, and plan all the work of the Project. In this occasion the meeting took place between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July and on behalf of the Coordinating Committee, Tara Ward, Eve Scarfe, Kerstin Reemtsma, María Gabriela Serra, and Montse García took part; Chus García and Mary Scott represented the team in the meeting. Furthermore, other members of the team participated on various occasions throughout the week. The committee members took advantage of the opportunity to carry out further meetings with the diplomatic corps, donors, and national authorities in the country.

### 2.4 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: 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 the UVOC and supports development projects within those communities .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. In January 2006 Carlos Morales was victim of surveillance on the block where he lives with his family. The offices and personnel of the UVOC continue to be under the ever-increasing intimidating surveillance of unknown persons. The situation in some communities affiliated to the UVOC continues being delicate: in February and April 2006, the campesino families that live in the Mocca Estate were violently evicted leaving various with gunshot wounds. In the month of July there was a confrontation between two groups of campesinos which left one dead and 39 injured on the side of the evicted campesinos.

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 caste 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.

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.

We accompany the **Guatemalan National Front of Market and Informal Economy Vendors (FENVEMEGUA)**, a trade union that brings together workers from the informal sector that work in favour of human rights, in front of the Guatemala City's Town Hall; We also accompany the **Technical Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (UPDH)**, part of the **National Human Rights Movement (MNDH)**.

Background: On the 27th July Erwin Estuardo Orrego Borrayo, leader of FENVEMEGUA, was temporarily kidnapped by a group of men dressed in black. During the course of his kidnapping, he was victim of psychological and physical torture for two hours. At the request of the UPDH of the MNDH, we accompanied Mr. Orrego throughout all the proceedings following his kidnapping. Mr. Orrego was also kidnapped and tortured in August 2003, and since then has been the victim of threats and surveillance on repeated occasions.

### 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 consider it necessary to maintain the focus of an international audience on them.

We maintain regular contact with the leaders of the **National Coordinator of Peoples and Marginal Areas of Guatemala, CONAPAMG**, 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.

# 3. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA: OUTSIDE OF GUATEMALA

The Regional Representatives, the Project Coordinating Office in Madrid, and other member of the project committee, as wells as PBI country groups, carried out public relations campaigns with numerous NGO's, national agencies and governments, parliamentarians, etc. These meetings result in the development and strengthening of the project's "Support Network", a vital tool for the functioning of PBI's international presence in Guatemala.

During July, Tara Ward, Canadian Representative, together with PBI Canada, was in Guatemala preparing for the arrival of a delegation of Canadians who will visit the country in August.

# 4. 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.

PBI Guatemala does not necessarily identify with the opinions and content of the articles and communiqués reproduced.

# Manifiesto por la Educación

Frente Nacional por la Defensa de la Reforma Educativa de los Acuerdos de Paz

Nosotros, representantes de diversas organizaciones sociales, indígenas, estudiantiles, asociaciones y movimientos populares, manifestamos ante el pueblo guatemalteco, ante el Estado y ante la comunidad nacional e internacional lo siguiente:

#### Considerando:

1.- Que el sistema educativo es uno de los principales pilares en la construcción de una sociedad justa, digna y auténticamente democrática, dueña de su identidad propia y respetuosa de la multiculturalidad y la cosmovisión de los cuatro pueblos (maya, ladino, garífuna y xinka);

2.- Que los pueblos y sus organizaciones, tras un amplio, rico y prolongado proceso de diálogos y consensos, logró consensuar una Reforma Educativa basada en la letra y el espíritu de los Acuerdos de Paz, en la cual se reflejan las aspiraciones que, en materia educativa, son patrimonio de los pueblos en pleno derecho;

3.- Que las políticas educativas emprendidas impositivamente por las actuales autoridades gubernamentales marchan en dirección contraria a los contenidos de la Reforma Educativa que ya fue consensuada;

4.- Que la práctica adoptada por el Ministerio de Educación y el actual gobierno consiste en colocar a la comunidad educativa y a la sociedad en general ante hechos consumados, ausentes de consulta y de participación alguna;

5.- Que los hechos educativos ejecutados por el Ministerio de Educación y el actual gobierno le imponen al país un modelo irrespetuoso ante los consensos populares, contrario a la verdadera Reforma Educativa, que agrede la identidad y derechos de los pueblos indígenas y violenta flagrantemente los derechos de la población en su conjunto;

#### Acordamos:

6.- Empeñar nuestros mejores esfuerzos para rescatar y darle vida a la Reforma Educativa que nace desde la letra y el espíritu de los Acuerdos de Paz;...

# Caso Diario Militar: Demanda internacional contra el Estado de Guatemala por desaparición forzada y la posterior denegación de justicia

Con el apoyo de la Fundación Myrna Mack, los familiares de 20 víctimas de desaparición forzada en Guatemala solicitaron a la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH) admitir una denuncia internacional contra el Estado de Guatemala, por la práctica sistemática de este delito durante el conflicto armado interno, concretamente en el período 1983-1985, y por la posterior denegación de justicia, encubrimiento e impunidad.

La petición fue presentada en noviembre del 2005 y recibió el trámite correspondiente. En junio del 2006 recién pasado, tras haber pedido una prórroga en la entrega de su respuesta a esta demanda internacional, el Estado de Guatemala presentó ante la CIDH un informe en el que no contraviene los fundamentos del caso planteado en su contra por las 20 familias guatemaltecas y la Fundación Myrna Mack.

El Estado se limitó a trasladar un informe sobre diligencias realizadas por el Ministerio Público, órgano responsable de la persecución penal y de la dirección de la investigación criminal, cuyo análisis permite concluir que no existen avances en la investigación del delito de desaparición forzada, el paradero de las víctimas y los posibles responsables (...).

Los familiares de los desaparecidos están solicitando a la CIDH que admita la denuncia internacional contra el Estado de Guatemala, con el fin de llegar eventualmente a un juicio que condene la política de desaparición forzada y ordene la búsqueda de las víctimas y la sanción de los responsables, así como que remueva los mecanismos de denegación de justicia y disponga medidas para evitar la repetición de estos hechos de dolor (...)

La demanda se fundamenta en numerosos medios probatorios, que incluyen el conocido "Diario Militar", un documento salido de las entrañas de inteligencia militar que detalla al menos 183 casos de desaparición forzada y la suerte que, presuntamente, corrieron algunas de las víctimas: muerte bajo tortura y muerte por ejecución extrajudicial (...).

## DEFENSOR DE DERECHOS HUMANOS SECUESTRADO TEMPORALMENTE

Las organizaciones abajo firmantes denunciamos que el día 27 de julio de 2006, alrededor de las 4 de la tarde, fue secuestrado el defensor de derechos humanos **Erwin Estuardo Orrego Borrayo**, por hombres armados vestidos de negro que se conducían en un pick up negro marca Toyota, con placas 168CBC y que se identificaron como elementos de la Policía.

El Sr. Orrego es dirigente del Frente de Emergencia de Vendedores de Mercados de Guatemala (FEMVEMEGUA), desde donde lucha por los derechos de los vendedores, especialmente frente a las políticas de la Municipalidad que perjudican seriamente a este sector. Por esta labor, había sido objeto de secuestro y tortura en agosto de 2003.

Durante su secuestro temporal el día de ayer, Orrego fue víctima de tortura psicológica y física durante dos horas, mientras era trasladado en varios vehículos y mientras permaneció en una casa, hasta que fue abandonado en una

zanja en Boca del Monte, Villa Nueva. Los radios de comunicación de sus captores transmitieron un mensaje que decía: "aborten operativo, aborten operativo hay monitoreo" y los hombres preguntaban "¿con ejecución?" y les respondieron "sin ejecución".

La inmediata acción de la Unidad de Protección a Defensores de DDHH, del Movimiento Nacional por los Derechos Humanos, de otras organizaciones, y de las autoridades con quienes esta organización se comunicó para alertar de este secuestro, como la Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos, seguramente incidió en que hayan abortado el operativo y Orrego no haya sido asesinado.

Este hecho se inserta en otros hechos de desaparición forzada de defensores de derechos humanos, como el de Oscar Duarte, o secuestro temporal como el de Víctor Hugo Herrera, realizados en los últimos meses (...).

# PBI GUATEMALA PROJECT

**Team Office in Guatemala** 7ª Avenida, 1-13, Zona 2, Ciudad de Guatemala Telephone/fax: (+502) 22384834 Email: <u>pbiguatemala@intelnett.com</u>

Project Coordination Office C/ Romero 9; 28720 Bustarviejo, Madrid (Spain) Telephone/fax: (34) 918 482 496 Email: <u>pbiguate@pangea.org</u> Website: <u>www.peacebrigades.org</u>