



PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALAN PROJECT

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CANADIAN AND CATALONIAN DELEGATES VISIT GUATEMALA

In August, PBI organised a visit for a group of Canadians, including trade unionists, and PBI members and sympathisers. At the same time, members of the Catalanian national group, PBI Catalonia, arrived in the country. Both of the groups had travelled with the intention of getting to know more about the situation for human rights defenders and to strengthen exchanges between the countries. Whilst in the capital, the delegates took the opportunity to meet some of the organisations that PBI Guatemala accompanies as well as representatives of civil society such as the National Movement for Human Rights. They were also able to see for themselves what rural life is like here.

The visitors also came to the 25th Anniversary celebration which Peace Brigades organised in the capital and which was attended by personalities from Guatemalan civil society as well as governments and international authorities.



Photo: PBI's 25th anniversary celebration in Guatemala City

1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

IMPUNITY

Intimidating military action in Ixcán.

Some 200 soldiers and special forces belonging to the National Civil Police (PNC), mounted an unsuccessful operation in the mountains of Ixcán, Quiché, where they were expecting to find arms that presumably had not been delivered to the guerrillas, which had been arriving courtesy of organised crime. In the end the arsenal was not located and there were no arrests. The aerial operation alarmed members of the community nearby the landing strip at the Military Zone in Ixcán. "On seeing the helicopters, many fled into the mountains, because the series of huge massacres that the Army carried out in the area are still fresh in their memories" said the mayor, Marcos Ramirez.

According to the National United Guatemalan Revolutionaries (URNG), the contradictions from the PNC spokesman and the government spokesman, clearly demonstrated that this was a counter insurgency-style operation without clear objectives or precise motives, and the only effect was to create general panic within the region's population, which was one of the worst affected during the armed conflict.

The Centre for Legal Action in Human Rights (CALDH) requested that the government stop this type of operation immediately and that it investigate the violations to human rights which were committed in the communities.

President decrees State of Emergency in San Marcos municipalities.

On the 29th August a decree was issued declaring a State of Emergency for the duration of 15 days in five municipalities in San Marcos due to a climate of social unrest. The state of emergency limits the right to meet or demonstrate in public unless previously authorised. It also limits the right to carry arms, the right to travel in vehicles, and requires travellers to register their vehicles and itinerary. Furthermore, it requires that the media avoid publishing or broadcasting anything that would incite or contribute to public disorder. On the 1st September, at the request of the Inter-American Press Society (SIP), the government modified the decree to guarantee freedom of expression. Gonzalo Marroquín, President of the Commission of Freedom of Press and Information of the SIP, stated: "No state of emergency justifies the limiting of the people's right to information." Sergio Morales, the Human Rights Ombudsman, rejected the suspension of guarantees because he said that the security forces could abuse the situation. The United States Embassy stated: "We support the Guatemalan Government's efforts to combat drug-trafficking and organised crime consistent with the Rule of Law and respecting civil liberties."

PNR: Number of victims of armed conflict could be double that reported by REMHI

Rosalina Tuyuc, President of the National Victim's Compensation Programme (PNR), stated that the figure of 200,000 victims of the Guatemalan armed conflict, gathered from the historical clarification reports (Interdiocesan Project for the Recuperation of Historical Memory REMHI and Commission for Historic Clarification CIH) could be too low. Also the number given of 45,000 victims of forced disappearance could actually be three times higher. Martin Arévalo, Executive Director of the PNR, said: "We think that the figure is at least double that which we have recognised up to now." Tuyuc added that it is the same with the massacres discovered by the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropologists Foundation (FAFG). "Many of the massacres are not included in the reports", she asserted. She attributed the lack of testimonies of the deeds in the drafted reports to the victims' families' fear, and foresaw that the number of massacres could be as high as 1,000, a figure much higher than the 442 documented by REMHI:

Organisations deliver report to Court Reporter on Extra-judicial Executions.

On the 22nd August, 30 social organisations had a meeting with Philip Alston, the United Nations special Court Reporter on extra-judicial executions, to hand over a report about the cases that have occurred in the country. In the document, the organisations exposed numerous cases considered to be extra-judicial executions supposedly committed by the police, the army, and parallel groups. The report refers

to diverse sectors that have been victims of this type of violence: campesinos, women, street children, prisoners, gangsters, and human rights defenders. The organisations showed Alston that the executions have been a constant practice in the country, but in recent years have worsened due to a lack of State resources to lessen the violence and groups who carry out "social cleansing". The document shows that 408 extra-judicial executions have been committed this year: 347 men, 51 women, and 10 children. It stresses the 17 killings of human rights defenders that have happened in the last 2 years.

LAND

Organisations ask Berger to intercede in favour of campesinos

The international organisation Foodfirst Information & Action Network (FIAN), asked Oscar Berger to immediately adopt appropriate measures so that the employers in a labour conflict accept the judgement of the law of the land. Michael Windfuhr, Secretary General of FIAN, asked the Guatemalan President to resolve the works conflict of 32 campesinos that were fired from the Nueva Florencia Estate in Colimba Costa Cuca, Quetzaltenango. FIAN is worried that the owners of the Ottmar S.A. Company, who are connected to the Berger family, refuse to accept and fulfil the court orders and have adopted measures to prolong the process, and furthermore are creating an intimidating atmosphere for the workers' families. The international organisation asks the bosses to pay the benefits and back pay owed to the campesinos, men and women, since the 19th of March 1997, when they were fired.

Group of campesinos detain 16 people in Senahú, Alta Verapaz.

Around 500 campesinos and 2 private security guards detained 6 journalists, 8 campesino leaders and union members, and 2 international observers, for 3 hours on the 10th August, at the Mocca estate in Senahú, Alta Verapaz. The 16 people, invited by the National Coordinator of Campesino Organisations (CNOOC), were stopped when they were going to interview a group of workers who are claiming work benefits, and who, since being turned off the estate, have been living on the side of the road as a means of bringing pressure so that their demands be heard and they be granted land property titles. Another group of campesinos in the area who have received land in payment from the owners, Roberto Hempstead and William Hempstead Smith, were against the reporters and activists visiting and blocked the road with part of a lorry and alerted the community with whistles. The Human Rights Ombudsman Sergio Morales condemned the act and stated that it violated the rights of the journalists to report. "It is time that the government did something in this place where there have been repeated human rights violations," he stressed.

GLOBALISATION

Inhabitants of Huehuetenangan municipality declare themselves against mining.

In the popular consultation this Tuesday 29th August, the inhabitants of the 79 communities in the jurisdiction of Santa Eulalia rejected exploration and open-pit mining which the Minister of Energy and Mines has authorised in granting two licenses for exploration and one for exploitation. Several inhabitants agreed that they objected to mining in order to avoid outbreaks of sickness, the destruction of mountains, and the negative impact on the water resources. Mining was opposed with the argument that it only brings the destruction of Mother Earth, said Rigoberto Juarez Mateo, member of the Good Faith group, special commission of communities who organised the consultation. The inhabitants were summoned by the Community Developments Council (Cocodes), the community, and 47 national and international institutions which support the ecological struggle, such as CARE, MadreSelva, Fundamaya, Ceiba, and the Catholic Church's Pastoral Social.

Central American Ombudsmen oppose FTA

The Central American Human Rights Ombudsman Council expressed its opposition to the CAFTA with the United States, because it considers the effects on the region's economy will be negative. The participants agreed to prepare a report in 2007 to evaluate the treaty's effects on the population's work and the economy. According to Lisbeth Quesada, a Costa Rican ombudsman, a treaty is imposed with the intention of diminishing each country's influence to benefit trade. For Sergio Ulloa from

Nicaragua, the treaty is a trap since the United States will derive most benefits due to the inequalities between the economies and development of the countries.

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

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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 August meetings were held with the following authorities:

Guatemalan Authorities:

- Hugo Herculano Pop, Departmental Assistant of Alta Verapaz, Human Rights Ombudsman, PDH.
- Monseñor Álvaro Ramazzini, President of the Guatemalan Episcopal Conference.
- Oscar García, Mayor of La Tinta, Alta Verapaz.
- Officer Linares and Officer De la Cruz, National Civil Police, PNC, La Tinta, Alta Verapaz.
- Jorge García Chiú, Vice-minister of the Ministry of Energy and Mines, MEM.
- Martin Sacalxot, Indigenous Peoples' Defender and Human Rights Ombudsman, PDH.
- Ciriaco Pérez Rodríguez, Second Official, Police Station 15 of Villa Nueva, National Civil Police, PNC.

Diplomatic Corps:

- Kenneth Cook, Canadian Ambassador

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:

- Alfonso Bauer Paíz.
- Amílcar Pop, Mayan Association of Lawyers and Notaries.
- Miguel Ángel Albizures, Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH).
- Arturo Chub, Security in Democracy (SEDEM).
- Ana Gladis Ollas, National Human Rights Movement (MNDH).
- Pablo Zavala, Computer Assistant.
- Benito Morales, Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation (FRMT).
- Walter Valencia and Arnoldo Miranda, Technical Unity for Accompaniment, Relations and Consultation for the Social Movement of Guatemala (UTARA).

- Amílcar Méndez, “Runujel Junam” Counsel of Ethnic Communities (CERJ).
- Calixto Morales, Guatemalan National Students Organisation (ONEG).
- Helmer Velásquez, NGO’s and Cooperatives Co-ordinating Body (CONGCOOP).
- Marco Castillo and Marco Caseros, Association for Community Support and Development CEIBA.
- Reynaldo González, Bank and Insurance Labour Federation (FESEBS).
- Juan Tema, Sipakapan Association.
- Father Darío, La Tinta, Alta Verapaz.
- Father Cirilo, Zone 7 Parish, City of Guatemala

International Organisations:

- PBI Catalonia.
- PBI Canada.
- Co-ordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG).
- Carlos Aldana, Intermón-Oxfam.
- Commission for Accompaniment of Defenders of Human Rights of the Forum of International Non-Governmental Organisations (FONGI).
- Robert Wayss, Solidarity Centre.
- Dolores Queiro, ACSUR – Las Segovias.

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: 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 21st 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 21st 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 visit the **Madre Selva Collective's** office regularly 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-pit 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 with 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, mostly in Quiché, Chimaltenango, and the Verapaces, as part of their effort 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 to intimidate them and stop them from continuing 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 August we accompanied Carlos Guarquez in the capital when he delivered the results of the consultations about mining, from 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 25th 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 Campesino Workers (MTC)**, an entity of the Social Pastoral Office of the Diocese of San Marcos, which consists of associations of campesino communities defending their human rights. This August we accompanied the MTC at the celebration marking the end of the conflict at the Clermont Estate and the handing over of the land to the resident families. We also 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 that are engaged in protest on the farm Las Delicias, San Marcos. On 4th 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)** is 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 frequent presence in the office of the organisation and keeping in permanent contact.

Background: On 17th December 2005, the transgender worker Paulina was killed, being 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 22nd 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 intimidating 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 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 before being released. At the request of the UPDH of the MNDH, we accompanied Mr. Orrego throughout 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 occasion.

National Co-ordinating Body for Inhabitants of Marginalised Areas, CONAPAMG. Early in the morning of the 18th August, Carmen Sagastume was murdered. She was the wife of Adolfo Lobos Torres, financial secretary of CONAPAMG. Since that day we have increased our level of accompaniment, visiting the office and accompanying them in their work activities and the proceedings following the crime as well as in their visits to the community of Carmen del Monte where the murder was committed. Moreover we have had more meetings with authorities to demonstrate our concern about this murder and the situation of CONAPAMG.

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. On the 18th of August Carmen Sagastume was brutally murdered. Unknown men arrived at their house early in the morning, asking for her husband and when she opened the door they shot her dead.

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.

Eva Scarfe, member of the Project Co-ordinating Committee, held meetings in Ireland with Adrian Fitzgerald, Michelle Moylan and Richard Daly, of the Civil Society Section, Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs; Sarah McCan and Colette Craven of Trocaire, and Catriona Rice and Natasha O'Brien of Frontline.

4. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

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.

PLAYA GRANDE, IXCÁN, EL QUICHÉ, 21st of August 2006

A la Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos
A los organismos internacionales que velan por los Derechos Humanos
A la opinión pública

El Concejo Municipal, organizaciones sociales y la sociedad civil en general del Municipio de Playa Grande Ixcán, El Quiché, denunciamos la ocupación militar de la comunidad de retornados Ixtahuacán Chiquito, de este municipio, de las 11:00 de la mañana hasta las 15:00 horas, y expresamos nuestro rechazo a la manera sorpresiva y prepotente como se realizó este operativo militar, en el que participaron 7 helicópteros y tres aviones del ejército. El día de hoy aproximadamente a las 11:00 de la mañana siete helicópteros militares aterrizaron en el centro de Ixtahuacán Chiquito y desembarcaron miembros del ejército fuertemente armados y con la cara pintada de negro. Seguidamente ocuparon el campo de fútbol y rodearon la escuela, impidiendo la salida de los niños y niñas que se encontraban en clases. Miembros del ejército de manera violenta ingresaron a humildes viviendas, encañonando a las mujeres y se apoderaron de herramientas de trabajo. Acto seguido iniciaron con estas herramientas excavaciones en un centro arqueológico ubicado cerca del área de esta comunidad, supuestamente en busca de armas. Hasta las tres de la tarde aviones y helicópteros del ejército sobrevolaron las comunidades de Fronterizo 10 de Mayo, Los Ángeles y Cuarto Pueblo, colindantes con el estado de Chiapas, México.

Estos hechos provocaron gran alarma en las familias, quienes durante el conflicto armado interno fueron víctimas de la política de tierra arrasada. Mujeres y niños huyeron despavoridos de sus casas buscando refugio en las montañas, al recordar lo que habían vivido durante el conflicto armado interno. Hasta el momento se reportan tres jóvenes desaparecidos. De la misma manera pobladores de la aldea Fronterizo 10 de Mayo huyeron a las montañas, y algunos cruzaron la frontera mexicana, abandonando sus pertenencias y animales

Este operativo fue similar al realizado el día 10 de agosto en la Finca Chailá, de este mismo municipio, donde, de acuerdo al informe que vecinos del lugar dieron a la autoridad municipal, helicópteros del ejército aterrizaron en el lugar, acto seguido soldados y personas encapuchadas irrumpieron en las viviendas de los trabajadores de la finca. Señalaron los afectados que sus casas fueron allanadas y saqueadas por miembros del ejército.

Ante estos hechos los abajo firmantes expresamos nuestro rechazo a estos hechos violentos que atentan contra la tranquilidad de las familias y sus derechos civiles, poniendo en peligro la vida e integridad física de los habitantes de la comunidad especialmente de mujeres, ancianos, niños y niñas. No estamos en contra de la lucha contra el crimen organizado, pero sí rechazamos las acciones intimidatorias y violentas contra la población más vulnerable.

Hacemos un llamado a la Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos a que realice una investigación sobre estos hechos, y que mantenga la vigilancia sobre el respeto a los derechos humanos, velando porque el ejército no ejerza funciones que le corresponden al poder judicial y la policía nacional civil, tal como lo establece el Acuerdo sobre el Fortalecimiento del Poder Civil y Función del Ejército en una Sociedad Democrática.

Marcos Ramírez, Alcalde Municipal
Pastoral Social del Ixcán
Asociación Centro de Apoyo en Justicia Penal y Resolución de Conflictos
Proyecto de Salud Mental Puente de Paz
Asociación de Mujeres Mamá Maquín
Servicios Jurídicos y Sociales (SERJUS)
Fundación Guillermo Toriello
Comité Europeo Formación y Agricultura (CEFA)
Asociación Integral de Productores Orgánicos de Ixcán (ASIPOI)

EL ESTADO DE EXCEPCIÓN VIOLA LOS DERECHOS CONSTITUCIONALES DE LA POBLACIÓN DE SAN MARCOS.

Nuestra profunda preocupación por el "Estado de Prevención" que ha decretado el Gobierno de la República en los Municipios de Tacaná, Tajumulco, Tejutla, Concepción Tutuapa e Ixchiguan en el departamento de San Marcos; la prohibición de estos derechos viola flagrantemente la Constitución Política de la República y limita las garantías de los ciudadanos; como el Derecho a Reunión, Libertad de Manifestación, así como de Emisión del Pensamiento. Las medidas represivas que el gobierno de Oscar Berger está aplicando a través de los allanamientos en las comunidades indígenas y campesinas con la participación de más de mil soldados y policías, dotados 70 pick-ups y dos helicópteros, mediante la intimidación y la fuerza, los efectivos militares se han impuesto en las comunidades de estos municipios sometiendo a la población al terror, con el argumento de aprender a narcotraficantes, confiscación de drogas y erradicación de cultivos.

Hace una semana en Ixcán, departamento del Quiché, hicieron lo mismo, tropas militares sembraron el terror entre mujeres y niños de la comunidad Ixtahuacán Chiquito, mientras requisaban un supuesto buzón de armas, según ellos, perteneciente al narcotráfico o a la guerrilla. La presencia de helicópteros y aviones, revivió en esa población los horrores cometidos por el ejército durante el enfrentamiento armado interno.

El Ejecutivo y el Ejército conocen quienes son los líderes del narcotráfico y donde los puede apresar, lo que pretenden es amedrentar a las comunidades del Ixcán y ahora en San Marcos, aborazados por intereses económicos, como las minerías, el petróleo

y las hidroeléctricas, ahora pretenden desplazar a la población de sus tierras y permitir el asentamiento de mega-proyectos de las transnacionales asociados a grupos empresariales y del gobierno, ¿por qué no inicia acciones de investigación en el Congreso de la República en donde ha habido denuncia concretas sobre diferentes anomalías?, narcotráfico, robo de gasolina y corrupción. Etcétera.

El Comité de Unidad Campesina-CUC- condena enérgicamente como el gobierno enmascara acciones represivas contra nuestro pueblo, violando sus mas elementales derechos e impidiendo ejercer sus actividades libremente, como si se viviéramos en "Estado de Sitio", con estas acciones intentan limpiar su imagen negativa ante la opinión nacional e internacional con motivo de las próximas elecciones y pretende quedar bien con el imperialismo norteamericano.

ANTE ESTA SITUACION, EXIGIMOS:

1. Que el Ejército respete los Derechos Humanos y se apegue al Acuerdo sobre Fortalecimiento del Poder Civil y función del Ejército en una Sociedad Democrática.
2. Que se vigile y se investigue las acciones que esta realizando el ejército y la policía en los Departamentos de San Marcos y el Quiché, donde amenazan e intimidan a la población.
3. Que se respete la Libertad de Organización y Expresión de la Población, como lo señala la Constitución Política de la República.

NO A LA VIOLENCIA Y LA REPRESION MILITAR; SI A LA VIDA Y LA PAZ EN NUESTRAS
COMUNIDADES, COMITÉ DE UNIDAD CAMPESINA, CUC

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

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