



PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALAN PROJECT

Monthly Information Package - Guatemala

Number 36, September 2006

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1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

IMPUNITY

Members of Parliament demand that the Home Secretary investigate the involvement of police in crimes against women

The Women's Commission, as part of the National Congress, has asked the Home Secretary Carlos Vielmann, to investigate the connection between the National Civil Police (PNC) and the high incidence of women being murdered. Carlos Vielmann arrived at the National Congress to present before the Commission a report regarding "femicide" in Guatemala. The minister announced that a multidisciplinary team coordinated by the Women's Presidential Ministry (SEPREM) has been formed so that a document can be elaborated on in November.

Nineth Montenegro, the Commission's president, expressed her concern over the inefficiency of the authorities regarding the investigations of the murder of women, as well as the involvement of PNC agents in some of the crimes. She informed that up until August, 4, 200 violent deaths were reported in Guatemala, of which 442 were women. Of this total, only 18 per cent have been somewhat investigated and only 2 per cent of the cases might reach the stage of a final ruling. Vielmann recognised that there are police implicated in the murders of women but regretted the bureaucracy and the legal measures that impede these agents being dismissed. Also, quite often after removing the implicated agents, the tribunals oblige their reinstatement, a situation that results in frustration.

A Special Police Force is created for five municipalities in San Marcos

After the end on the 12th September of the State of Prevention, decreed in the municipalities Concepción Tutuapa, Ixchiguán, San Miguel Ixtaguacán, Tajumulco and Tejutla, in the department of San Marcos, the government decided to create a special force to patrol the area. The Permanent Security Force (FPS) started to operate on the 13th September, maintaining police presence in the five municipalities. The group is integrated by 300 agents from the western region reserve nuclei and the Police Patrol Brigade (BPP). The forces continue to search for people with an arrest warrant against them, conduct searches on people and vehicle, as well as follow up on the combat against drug trafficking and delinquency. According to a PNC spokesperson, "the residents themselves have requested that the security forces stay in the area".

The Constitutional Court (CC) confirms sentence against those accused of the murder of Monsignor Juan Gerardi

The CC denied the legal protection for military personnel Byron Miguel Limas Oliva and the priest Mario Orantes Nájera, condemned to 20 years in prison for the cover-up of the murder of Monsignor Juan Gerardi Conedera. The legal protection was applied for to the Supreme Court, which rejected an appeal against the sentence. The Court resolved that there is no violation. With this decision, the sentence remains definitive. In the case of the other person sentenced, Byron Disrael Lima, there was no protection applied for, meaning that the sentence also remained at 20 years.

LAND

Denunciation of the criminalisation of agrarian conflicts and arbitrary executions

Various civil society organisations, amongst them the Agrarian Platform and the Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH), reported in a special report that extrajudicial and arbitrary executions are taking place as part of the policy of evictions and the criminalisation of agrarian conflicts. They tell of the eviction of the María Lourdes estate on the 22nd January 2004, whose owner is linked to the family of the wife of the President of the Republic, Óscar Berger. In 2004, 40 evictions were registered, in 2005, 22 and in 2006 there have been 10. The report reminds that the land conflicts revolve around its access, labour claims and the search for justice for disappeared persons and extrajudicial deaths, but the State has not had the capacity to negotiate solutions. The document points out that in 2006 the evictions have incorporated the participation of the army, heavily armed private security forces, and in some cases, groups of campesinos on the side of the owners, as happened in the Mocca estate, Senahú, Alta Verapaz, where one worker was killed.

Eviction of 78 families causes tense situation en Tamahú

78 families from the community Chiquí Guaxcax, Tamahú, Alta Verapaz, were enclosed by a police and military contingent from six o'clock in the morning on the 7th September so as to "negotiate" a peaceful eviction. The police agents were armed with tear gas, batons and a diverse range of fire arms, a situation that generated fear among the indigenous people, immediately requesting the presence of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH). Carlos Morales of the Union of Campesino Organisations for the Verapaces (UVOC) informed that the contingent obliged the campesinos to disassemble their homes and place the metal sheets and wood beside the highway so as to look for another place to inhabit. The campesinos, affiliated with the UVOC, are demanding indemnity from the owner of the farm, Julio Villela, as well as a piece of land for having worked there their whole lives. The negotiation for a peaceful withdrawal continues.

GLOBALISATION

Organisations reject the revoking of the Law for Protected Areas

Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) that defend the Mayan Biosphere declared themselves on the 8th of December against the appeal presented by the Chamber of Industry before the Constitutional Court (CC), which attempted to revoke the law for protected areas. They showed that the suppression of the law 4-89 would affect around 1, 500 families in the region. The NGOs that participated in the meeting were Forest Alliance, the Balam Association, Nature Defenders, Contraparte, Forescom and Acofop. Juan Trujillo of Forest Alliance explained that the protected areas are some of the few places where forest and water remain in Guatemala and in the world, for which they have been declared part of the world forest reserve. He stated that 83 per cent of the country's protected areas are to be found in the department of Petén, and that they represent an opportunity for the economic benefit of the local populations. At present they are an example of community participation in forest protection programmes and at the same time, it is a source of economic income. It was also stated that the objectives of the Chamber of Industry would have the consequences of land occupation, forest destruction, and a severe environmental

impact due to the change in the use of the land. It is thought that revoking the law would also pave the way for the planting of drugs and the drug trade in general. On Saturday the 23rd September, the Chamber of Industry of Guatemala (CIG) revoked its petition.

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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: 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), Maripaz Gallardo (Spain).

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 September meetings were held with the following authorities:

Guatemalan Authorities:

- Magda Rabenales, Advisor on the Villa Nueva Municipal Council
- Rosa María Juárez, First Official, Department of Human Rights, National Civil Police (PNC)
- Rafael Méndez Gomez and Pedro Pascual Simón, Members of Parliament for the National Unity for Hope (UNE), Congress Housing Commission
- Salvador Gándara Gaitán, Mayor, and José Domingo Sical, General Secretary, Villa Nueva Municipality
- José Luis Gándara, Vice-minister for Housing
- Hector Nuila, Secretary General, Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG)
- José Antonio López Arévalo, Governor, Department of Izabal
- Waldemar Barrera, Departamental Assistant, Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH), Puerto Barrios, Izabal
- Edgar Fernando Armas, Chief of Housing, Housing Development Unit (UDEVIPO)
- Victor Hugo Godoy, Advisor to the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH), Guatemala
- Ciriaco Pérez Rodríguez, Second Official, Police Station 15 Villa Nueva, National Civil Police (PNC)
- Roderico Segura, Assistant to the Ombudsman, Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH)

Diplomatic Corps:

- Gustavo Cetina, Programme Official, Norwegian Embassy
- Bea Ten Tusscher, Ambassador, Dutch Embassy
- James Dirham, Ambassador, United States Embassy
- Juan López-Doriga, Ambassador, and José Antonio Sabadell, Second in Chief, Spanish Embassy
- Gustavo Herrarte, Programme Official, and Bjoern Holmberg, Advisor, Swedish Embassy

2.2 MEETINGS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

The PBI Guatemala Project team holds regular meetings with Civil Society Organisations. This enables us to monitor the situation of human rights defenders and to exchange information on the work being carried out, as well as to gather information which helps us to develop our analysis of the internal political situation.

Civil Society Organisations:

- Calixto Morales, Leader of the National Guatemalan Student Organisation (ONEG)
- José María Peralta, El Maguey estate, Campesino Unity Committee (CUC)
- Arturo Chub, Security and Democracy (SEDEM)
- Enrique Corral, Guillermo Torriello Foundation
- Enrique Torres y Walter Valencia, Technical Unity for Accompaniment, Relations and Consultation for the Social Movement of Guatemala (UTARA)
- Amilcar Méndez, "Runujel Junam" Ethnic Communities Council (CERJ)
- Edwin Ortega, Coordinating Body of Guatemalan Unions and Popular Organisations (CNSP)
- Orlando Blanco, Collective of Social Organisations (COS)
- Luís Estrada, Central American Economic and Social Development Institute (IDESAC)

International Organisations:

- Domingo Matías Casti, Rights Action
- Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG)
- Commission for Accompaniment of Defenders of Human Rights of the Forum of International Non-Governmental Organisations (FONGI)
- Wojtek Bogusz, Front Line
- Blanca Blanco, Trocaire
- Dolores Queiro, Southern Cooperation Association (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)**, as well as other members of the organisation. During September 2006 we accompanied them during their activities in Alta and Baja Verapaz and also during the legal proceedings after the confrontation in the Mocca estate.

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. The 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. At present various affiliated communities continue receiving eviction threats (see 1. Notes on the Current Situation), as do Carlos and other members of the UVOC.

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 accompanied Eloyda and other members of the association in the Department of Izabal and the capital during their activities and meetings with communities against mining.

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). In recent months Eloyda has been facing defamation campaigns.

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. Recently, some members of the organisation have once again begun to receive death threats.

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. In September 2006 we accompanied them during exhumations in Chimaltenango.

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.

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, as well as other campesino leaders involved in labour conflicts between campesinos and estate owners.

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”. During the month of September we accompanied the Women’s Sector by regularly visiting the office and accompanying members during some of their 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 Erwin Orrego, leader of the **Guatemalan National Front of Market and Informal Economy Vendors (FENVEMEGUA)**, a trade union that brings together workers from the informal sector in favour of human rights, up against Guatemala City’s Town Hall. In September we continued accompanying Erwin during his daily movements and activities.

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 Human Rights Defenders Protection Unit (UPDH) of the National Human Rights Movement (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 occasions.

National Co-ordinating Body for Inhabitants of Marginalised Areas, CONAPAMG, works the question of housing access, social infrastructure and the legalisation of occupied land. Due to the death threats against Roly Escobar, General Coordinator, since the 10th of September we have increased the level of accompaniment and have activated our support network in Guatemala and internationally so as to show our concern regarding the security situation.

Background: We have accompanied CONAPAMG since July 2004 when their office was broken into and robbed of lists, invoices, diskettes and money. Many of the communities affiliated with CONAPAMG have either been evicted or are awaiting eviction. The security situation of CONAPAMG continues to be vulnerable. Miguel Zapeta Gonzales, resident of the community Esquipulas in Zone 21 of the capital and member of the organisation, was murdered in March 2005. On the 18th August 2006, Carmen Sagastume, another member of the organisation, was brutally murdered. After this act, the morning of the 10th September, General Coordinator Roly Escobar Ochoa was informed that armed individuals in the community Carmen del Monte were threatening to kill him. On the 14th and 20th September he and his family found themselves under heavy surveillance.

2.4. OTHER ACTIVITIES: ACTIVATION OF THE SUPPORT NETWORK DUE TO THREATS RECEIVED BY ROLY ESCOBAR.

During the early morning of the 10th September 2006, Roly Escobar Ochoa, Coordinator of CONAPAMG, was informed of death threats from armed individuals, supposedly for reporting the murder of Carmen Sagastume in the community Carmen del Monte. Since then, Roly and his family have been followed and have found themselves under heavy surveillance. Due to the rise in intimidations against Roly, the project decided to activate its national and international Support Networks so as to show its concern for the security situation.

The national PBI groups have contacted their governments and parliamentarians to inform them about the case, and the PBI Guatemala project has informed various international institutions and human rights agencies as well as European parliamentarians.

The PBI team in Guatemala has increased its accompaniment with Roly and the CONAPAMG and has maintained a series of meetings with Guatemala authorities and the diplomatic corps so as to demonstrate our concern.

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 well 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.

The European Project Representative, Kerstin Reemtsma, worked with PBI Germany on the activation of the Support Network. She also took part in the PBI Germany meeting in Hamburg on the 29th September, to discuss the situation in Guatemala.

Tara Ward, member of the Project Committee, kept in contact with PBI Canada following-up on the North American delegation that visited Guatemala last August. She also contacted the Americas Policy Group (APG) and PBI Canada regarding the activation of the Support Network.

Montse García, Coordinator, and Mayte Quesada, PBI Guatemala Project Administrator, took part in an informative meeting with Human Rights NGOs and the Spanish Exterior and Cooperation Ministry (MAEC) Human Rights Office on the 15th September. They also attended a meeting on the 27th September in the MAEC with Carmen Díaz Orejas, General Sub-director of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, and Fernando Fernández Arias Minuesa, Director of the Human Rights Office, for the activation of our Support Network for the threats against Roly Escobar Ochoa, Coordinator of the CONAPAMG.

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.

REPRESIÓN, PERSECUCIÓN, E INTIMIDACIÓN CONTRA LA JUVENTUD DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN NACIONAL DE ESTUDIANTES DE GUATEMALA - ONEG POR PARTE DEL GOBIERNO DURANTE LA CELEBRACION DEL 185 ANIVERSARIO DE DOMINACION CRIOLLA

Uno de los logros de los acuerdos de paz fue la eliminación de la celebración de la dominación criolla del día de la independencia, a través del desfile de tinte militar en el cual estudiantes de establecimientos privados y públicos, con bandas y uniformes militares, trataban de emular al ejército genocida guatemalteco. Sin embargo desde al año 2000 el gobierno del genocida Efraín Ríos Montt y actualmente el de Oscar Berger retoman esta actividad militar y colonialista.

La Organización Nacional de Estudiantes de Guatemala ONEG, como seguimiento a las acciones de resistencia que llevamos por más dos meses con medidas de hecho constantes, en contra de las políticas neoliberales de privatización de la educación, así como el rechazo al acuerdo ministerial 713-2006, se realizó una acción durante el desfile, este 15 de septiembre para denunciar públicamente como el gobierno de la GANA, por medio de la señora Carmen Aceña, actual ministra de educación; continua implementando dichas políticas neoliberales.

Estudiantes de educación media de las escuelas normales, organizadas en la ONEG, acompañados del Bloque Antiimperialista y estudiantes de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, ingresamos a la Plaza de la Constitución manifestando frente al presidente de la república y otras autoridades de gobierno, militares y policiales. En respuesta, las fuerzas represivas del Estado obligaron vía la intimidación y violencia a salir de la ruta del desfile, mientras sacaron al presidente de la mesa de honor.

Después del desalojo continuamos ejerciendo nuestro derecho a manifestar pacíficamente frente al palacio nacional y posteriormente nos retiramos, empezando a sufrir persecución e intimidación por espacio de una hora en la zona 1 en un recorrido de 18 cuadras, por aproximadamente 15 elementos de la Policía Nacional Civil y una patrulla tipo pick up Nissan color negro con identificación GEP 003 del grupo especial de la PNC, a la cual se sumo otra patrulla similar sin identificación alguna ni placa. Durante la persecución estuvieron tomándonos fotografías,

detuviéndonos e impidiéndonos el paso, violando flagrantemente atentando contra nuestra integridad física, al derecho a libre locomoción, organización y manifestación.

Varias/os estudiantes fuimos agredidas/os físicamente, golpeando a un compañero dándole puntapiés y un golpe en el pecho, le arrebataron su cámara fotográfica destruyéndola, para evitar quedaran las pruebas del abuso de autoridad de las fuerzas represivas del estado, fuimos reprimidas/os por manifestar y denunciar las políticas neoliberales en contra de la educación pública, al estilo de la época de la contrainsurgencia.

Denunciamos a la comunidad nacional e internacional:

Que el gobierno de la GANA, desde el 2004, ha reaccionado con represión hacia las demandas y reivindicaciones de los sectores populares del país.

La represión, hostigamiento, amenazas, detención, destrucción de equipo y agresiones hacia los estudiantes aglutinados en la ONEG, Estudiantes Universitarios y el Bloque Antiimperialista por parte de las fuerzas represivas, acontecido el 15 de septiembre del 2006, paradójicamente, el día de la independencia.

Por tanto exigimos

Al ministerio público, realizar una investigación profunda sobre la forma represiva en la cual actuó la policía Nacional Civil - PNC el 15 de septiembre de 2006 contra los estudiantes de la ONEG, de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala y del bloque antiimperialista y deducir las responsabilidades del caso.

A la comunidad internacional, girar su atención hacia Guatemala, pues desde la salida de MINUGUA, el Estado ha retomado y renovado los mecanismos de represión contrainsurgente, a través de los cuales pretende acallar las voces de denuncia y rechazo a la implementación de políticas neoliberales.

Al gobierno oligarca y empresarial de Oscar Berger, aunque no nos representa, detener las medidas represivas que viene impulsando contra el movimiento popular desde el 2004.

A las organizaciones sociales y populares solidarise y fortalecer la unidad, ante la represión a radicalizar la lucha y la protesta.

¡La Educación es un DERECHO, no un Privilegio!

-Organización Nacional de Estudiantes de Guatemala-Bloque Antiimperialista-Asociación de Estudiantes de Ciencia Política-Asociación de Estudiantes de Historia, Antropología, Arqueología-Asociación de Estudiantes de Farmacia-

La Coordinadora y Convergencia Nacional Maya WAQIB' KEJ

A LA OPINION PÚBLICA NACIONAL E INTERNACIONAL

Manifiesta su postura en relación al Plan de Combate al Narcotráfico que impulsan las Fuerzas de Seguridad.

Somos conscientes de la necesidad de erradicar este mal que ha provocado una descomposición social, afectando a la juventud y con ello el futuro de la sociedad guatemalteca. Es importante decir que este plan de combate al narcotráfico esta diseñado a atacar los efectos y no las causas del problema. Se persigue a campesinos que por el hambre se ven obligados a involucrarse en estos negocios ilícitos, pero no se captura a los verdaderos beneficiarios que no se encuentran en esas zonas sino en mansiones que operan con toda impunidad.

El combate al narcotráfico, se convierte en incursión militar a la Zona Reina e Ixtahuacán Chiquito, Ixcán, el Quiche y en los Municipios de Tacaná, Tajumulco, Tejutla, Concepción Tutuapa e Ixchiguan en el departamento de San Marcos.

Con este plan vuelve a la militarización de las distintas comunidades Mayas del país, lo cual viene a profundizar la violación a los derechos humanos y los derechos colectivos de los pueblos indígenas, aunado la intimidación de las personas y comunidades en especial a mujeres y niños, cuando son allanadas sus viviendas.

Nos llama la atención los lugares donde se desarrolla este plan, porque cabalmente es donde existen comunidades en oposición las exploraciones mineras, el petróleo y las hidroeléctricas. Son comunidades que se organizan en defensa de los recursos naturales, así como en la lucha para hacer frente a las consecuencias de las políticas neoliberales de este gobierno que con los mega-proyectos responde al TLC y el PPP en beneficio de las trasnacionales y del grupo de empresarios que han saqueado a nuestro país.

La presencia militar, policías y helicópteros nos viene a la memoria el inicio de la contrainsurgencia del ejército en los años 70s, en las comunidades del Quiché, Huehuetenango, Cobán y otros departamentos donde la institución armada aplico el genocidio, desapareciendo del mapa a cientos de aldeas. Y hoy los autores intelectuales de este macabro plan de contrainsurgencia, gozan de completa impunidad, lo cual es repudiado por el Pueblo.

POR LO ANTERIORMENTE EXPUESTO

La Coordinación y Convergencia Nacional Maya WAQIB' KEJ, hace un llamado a todas las organizaciones hermanas y al movimiento popular guatemalteco en general, a fortalecer los espacios de articulación de esfuerzos por la UNIDAD para poder afrontar estos planes disfrazados del gobierno.

Lo sucedido en Ixcán y San Marcos no son hechos aislados

Iximulew, Guatemala 11 de Septiembre de 2006.

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

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