



PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALAN PROJECT

Monthly Information Package - Guatemala

Number 37, October 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 ACCOMPANIMENTS
 - 2.4 OBSERVATIONS
3. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA – OUTSIDE OF GUATEMALA
4. PUBLICATIONS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (IN SPANISH)

1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

IMPUNITY

Ríos Montt could go to trial on charges of genocide if request to the Public Prosecutor's Office is successful
Guatemala, 05.10.2006 (AC).- The Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR) presented a request to the Public Prosecutor's Office asking that General Ríos Montt, accused of genocide, to present a first statement. The association also requested that the corresponding proceedings take place in the Judicial System. The organisations underlined that they have based their actions on various pieces of evidence in their possession. They specified that their accusations stem from the General's conduct when acting as Head of the Governmental Military Junta, Minister of National Defence, Head of State, and Head of the Military Staff.

European Parliament supports extradition of Ríos Montt

Brussels, Belgium, 26.10.2006 (PI).- On Thursday, 26th October the European Parliament showed its support for the search and arrest warrants issued by the Spanish National Court for the subsequent extradition and trial of seven Guatemalan members of the military, amongst them the ex President Efraín Ríos Montt, accused of genocide, torture and illegal detention. Regarding the search and arrest warrants issued by the National Court on July 7th 2006, the Parliament was pleased with the advances achieved in the application of international jurisdiction and urged Interpol and Europol to facilitate the means necessary to guarantee the extradition process.

Analysts denounce that 98% of murders remain unpunished

Guatemala, 08.10.2006 (PL).- According to various analysts, the lack of staff, the mismanagement of crime scenes, and the fear of the population to testify are some of the reasons why the majority of the crimes have not been solved in the country. Between January and the end of September, 4506 murders had been committed in all of Guatemala. Of all of these only 102 people were brought to trial. In the metropolitan region, where the Public Prosecutor's Office for Crimes Against Life works in 10 of the 17 municipalities, the percentage of impunity is 94.3%. For the Human Rights' Ombudsman (PDH), Sergio Morales, impunity is one of the greatest problems faced in Guatemala. "Justice does not advance because the people are frightened and do not trust the authorities." Last year, the Public Prosecutor's Office received 9500 reports of simple homicide (murder, homicide, parricide and wrongful death), but only 115 suspects were detained.

Organisations show rise in public insecurity despite presence of military

Guatemala, 24.10.2006 (PL, FD).- Representatives of civil organisations stated in a press conference that the 13.24% rise in homicides in 2006 shows that the National Civilian Police (PNC) should be responsible for public security and not the military. They demanded that the Congress of the Republic reduce the budgetary allocation for the Ministry of National Defence and that the Executive establish a policy for public security in agreement with the Peace Accords, prioritising spending on social programs and public security. The organisations making the demands suggested that the weakness of the PNC remains one of the causes of public insecurity. This weakness is due to

lack of staff, limited finances and a lack of professionalism amongst the personnel and in the criminal investigations. The financial woes of the PNC contrast strongly with the budget allocated to the Ministry of National Defence, which continues to function with an amount similar to that which it had during the armed conflict, despite its supposed 50% reduction in troops. The Executive included an increase of 274 million quetzals for the Ministry of National Defence in its budgetary plan for 2007, after already allocating 1.1 billion quetzals in 2006. The Army justifies this increase with its public security responsibilities. Sandino Asturias of the Centre of Guatemalan Studies specified that the Peace Accords have a clear vision, which is strengthening the PNC. However, instead of giving the police force the budget it needs, the army is called in, which has not given any positive results.

LAND

Settlers Movement demand housing improvements

Guatemala, 04.10.2006 (LH, PL).- Members of the Settlers Movement of Guatemala protested on the 4th of October in front of the Congress in the hopes that the deputies would approve a draft bill that aims to improve the country's living conditions. The Movement handed in an initiative bill that would name a Housing Rector with appropriate skills to solve the housing problem at a national level, criteria that according to Lucindo Coronado from the Settlers Movement of Guatemala the vice minister of this branch does not fulfil. The proposal has behind it the consensus of various social organisations, such as the Popular Guatemalan Front, the Unity for Settlements, the Railway Lines Association and the Coordinator of Marginal Areas. The protestors asked for an audience with the deputies of the Board of Directors.

20 families evicted in Chisec, Alta Verapaz

Chisec, Alta Verapaz, 12.10.2006 (PL, LH).- Some 20 families were evicted by members of the combined forces from Ixloc Ranch, Salacuín, Chisec, Alta Verapaz. The property is located on the edge of the River Chixoy and is owned by Zoila América Vega Delgado. Ennio Najarro Barrios, Judge of the Magistrate's Penal and Offences against the Environment Court, ordered the eviction. The Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman's representative Hugo Herculano Pop said that "it has been approximately two months, since these same people were evicted from this area when they protested that they could occupy that area to establish themselves on the river banks".

GLOBALISATION

Berger pushes for the construction of hydro electric plants

Guatemala, 08.10.2006 (PL, SV).- President Oscar Berger affirmed that the construction of more hydro-electric plants is necessary, because it is the only way to lower electrical energy production costs. For this reason the president called on communities to support these work projects. "If we don't start to produce electricity with natural resources, in a few years we will have a crisis on our hands, because generating electricity from petrol is expensive and its supplies are not endless", he warned that "350 hydro-electric plants could be built. We now produce 1700 megavolts, but by the year 2015 we will need 1300 more".

In San Marcos explosions in mines damage homes

San Marcos, 27.10.2006 (AC).- Detonations in the Marlin Mine, property of the Canadian company Montana Exploradora, located in San Miguel Ixtahuacán, San Marcos, have damaged the structure of homes and public buildings in this municipality confirmed a commission formed by the Archbishop's Human Rights Program of this location. The commission stated that in the villages of Nueva Esperanza and Agel, 23 buildings have fractures, fissures and cracks on the walls. The damages are significant, especially in the homes that are located close to the worksites of the gold mining company.

Mining rejected in Quiché

Quiché, 27.10.2006 (AC).- Hundreds of community representatives from Quiché demonstrated their rejection of mining activities for metals in this department, in a forum organised by the Land Ministry in Santa Cruz del Quiché. Leaders from 17 Quiché municipalities affirmed that they will not permit that their land be taken away by exploitative opencast mining companies, and demanded that the government fulfil their promise not to grant anymore licenses, because of the damage done to the natural environment. José Manuel Chacón, of the Madre Selva Collective, declared that mining, petroleum and hydro-electric activities are hazardous to both the environment and human life. Hugo Quezada, Advisor to Congress in this theme conceded that the regulations regarding this type of activity have their deficiencies, yet went on in his speech to support what promoters call "development". The indigenous leader Luca Argueta, recalled that the indigenous peoples conceive mother nature to be like a human being: its flesh the earth, its bones the rocks and its blood the rivers, destroying any part of these elements would therefore, be a threat to her life, and even more so with the use of chemicals such as cyanide.

Sources: Prensa Libre (PL), Siglo Veintiuno (SV), El Periódico (EP), La Hora (LH), Inforpress Centroamericana (IC), La Semana en Guatemala (SG), Informe Semanal Sobre Derechos Humanos (ISDH), Informador Rural (IR), Agencia Cerigua (AC).

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 Horváth (Hungary), Maripaz Gallardo (Spain), Owen Campbell (Canada), Enrique Riestra Rozas (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 October meetings were held with the following authorities:

Guatemalan Authorities:

- Carlos Martínez, Departmental Assistant, Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (PDH), San Marcos.
- Oscar Rene Jacinto López, Commissioner, and Benigno López Fuentes, Head of Operations, National Civilian Police (PNC), San Marcos.
- Juan Carlos Xicol Vargas, Head of the substation Santa Cruz, PNC, Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz.
- Amilcar Giovani Godínez Pérez, Officer at the substation Bethania, PNC, Guatemala City.
- Frank La Rue, President, Presidential Commission on Human Rights (COPREDEH), Guatemala City.
- Gabriel Heredia, President of the Congressional Commission on Housing, Guatemala City.
- Axel Humberto López Anzueto, Governor, San Marcos.

Diplomatic Corps:

- Javier Sanjuán, Observation Coordinator, and Mikael Lindgren, Human Rights Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Guatemala City.
- Jean-Pierre Villard, Ambassador, and Miguel Moerth, Coordinator of Peace Programme, Embassy of Switzerland, Guatemala City.
- Susie Kitchens, Second Political Secretary, and José Luis Equité, Security Manager, British Embassy, Guatemala City.
- Aidan Leavy and Franklin Gregory, Officials of United Nations Volunteer Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Guatemala City.

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:

- Marco Castillo, Ceiba Group, Guatemala City.
- Javier de León, Carmen Tomas and Clarita Eusebia, Ajchmol, San Marcos.
- National Human Rights Movement (MNDH), Guatemala City.
- Claudia Paz, Guatemalan Institute of Comparative Studies in Penal Sciences (ICCPG), Guatemala City.
- Iduvina Hernández, Security in Democracy (SEDEM), Guatemala City.
- Eduardo Barrios de León, Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation (FRMT), Guatemala City.
- Antonia Buch, Mayan Defence Unit, Guatemala City.
- Claudia Gaitán, Alliance of Rural Women, Guatemala City.
- Mario Godínez, Association for Community Support and Development (CEIBA), Guatemala City.
- Erick Asensio, Coordinating Body of Youth for Guatemala (CJG), Guatemala City.
- Calixto Morales, National Organisation of Guatemalan Students (ONEG), Guatemala City.
- Orlando Blanco, Collective of Social Organisations (COS), Guatemala City.
- Alfonso Bauer Paiz, Guatemala City.
- Gloria Araceli Almería and Manuel Antonio, Guatemala City.

International Organisations:

- Domingo Matías Casti, Rights in Action, Guatemala City.
- Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG), Guatemala City
- Commission for Accompaniment of Defenders of Human Rights of the Forum of International Non-Governmental Organisations (FONGI), Guatemala City.

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 October 2006 we accompanied them during their activities in Alta and Baja Verapaz. We also observed a demonstration organised by the UVOC on the 12th October, Day of Indigenous Resistance, in Cobán.

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.

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. We accompanied Eloyda and other members of the association in the Department of Izabal 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. During October 2006 we accompanied members of the collective on trips to Quiché and Alta Verapaz.

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 receiving serious 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 October 2006 we accompanied them through visits to their office.

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 Guárquez**, General Coordinator of the **Guatemalan Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (AGAAI)**, member of 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 AGAAL 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. In particular, we accompany **Julio Archila**, founder of the MTC. During the month of October we accompanied the MTC in its activities in San Marcos and we remain in 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. Recently, an arrest warrant was issued against Julio Archila and his son Antonio for having transported coffee from the finca Las Delicias in November 2005. The arrest warrants were substituted for other measures while the investigation continues.

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 October 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**, active member 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 Municipality. In October we continued accompanying Erwin during his daily movements and activities.

Background: On the 27th July, Erwin Estuardo Orrego Borrayo, active member of FENVEMEGUA, was kidnapped by a group of armed men dressed in black identifying themselves as police.. 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 accompany Mr. Orrego and the members of the MNDH throughout the proceedings following his kidnapping. Mr. Orrego had also been kidnapped and tortured in August 2003, and since then has been the victim of threats and surveillance on repeated occasions.

The **National Coordinating Body for Inhabitants of Marginalised Areas, CONAPAMG**, works the issues of housing access, social infrastructure and the legalisation of occupied land. Last month we finished the activation of

our support network through which we expressed our concern for the security of **Roly Escobar**, General Coordinator, who had received a death threat on the 10th September. We continue providing a high level of accompaniment for the organisation.

Background: We have accompanied CONAPAMG since July 2004 when their office was broken into and robbed of lists, invoices, floppy discs 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 González, 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. During the following weeks he and his family found themselves under heavy surveillance.

2.4. OBSERVATIONS

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

On the 12th October, Indigenous Resistance and Dignity Day, we observed a demonstration which took place in the capital. The 12th of October is also known as Columbus Day or Race Day. This day coincided with the International Conference on Agrarian Reform, which meant that a variety of campesino organisations also participated in the march.

On October 20th, Day of the Revolution, we observed a demonstration in Guatemala City in remembrance of the 62 years that have passed since October Revolution of 1944.

3. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA: OUTSIDE OF GUATEMALA

The Regional Representatives of the Project Coordination Office in Madrid, other members of the project committee, and PBI country groups all carried out public relations campaigns targeting numerous NGOs, national agencies, governments and parliamentarians. These meetings help develop and strengthen the project's "Support Network", which in turn is fundamental to PBI's international presence in Guatemala.

Taking advantage of a visit to Spain by Eloyda Mejía Samayoa, President of the Association of Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI), on October 6th, the Project Coordination Office organized two awareness-raising activities in Bustarviejo, Madrid. One aimed at children in a public school in Montelindo, and another open to the general public held at the Tararí Youth Association. In the latter activity an exhibition commemorating the 25th anniversary of PBI was put on display for all to see.

From October 25th to the 27th Kerstin Reemtsma, the Project's European Representative, visited Geneva where she held meetings with:

1. Luis Rodríguez-Piñero of the Special Procedures Branch and David Martín office of the United Nation's Special Reporter for the Situation of Basic Human Rights and Freedom of Indigenous People.
2. Mariana Duarte, in charge of the Gender Programme; with Clemencia Devia Suárez, in charge of Urgent Actions, and Delphine Reculeau from World Organisation Against Torture's (OMCT) Human Rights Defenders Programme.
3. Dr. Guillermo Kerber from the World Council of Churches' Commission on International Relations, International Affairs, Peace and Human Security.
4. Antonio Cisneros, Desk Officer for United Nations High Commission for Human Rights Central American Office.
5. Alexandra Pomeon O'Neill of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).
6. Guillaume Pfeiffle and Saoirse Brady advisors to Urgent Action Programme of the Secretary-General's Special Representative on the Situation Human Rights Defenders (part of the UN).

The objectives were to strengthen the ties between recognised institutions and the Guatemala Project and to expand the Project's Support Network.

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.

Nueva amenaza en contra de la familia de Héctor René Reyes y el Movimiento Pro-Justicia Nueva Linda*

Guatemala, 25.10.2006

Los Hechos:

El día viernes, 20 de octubre del 2006, Mónica Aimé Reyes Toledo, hija de Héctor René Reyes, desaparecido desde septiembre del 2003, sufrió un intento de secuestro por parte del Señor Selvin Augusto Pérez Galicia, miembro de la seguridad privada de la Finca Nueva Linda, Champerico, Retalhuleu.

Este día viernes, 20 de octubre, Mónica Aimé Reyes Toledo iba camino al molino a las siete horas de la mañana, cuando se paró un pick-up, marca Toyota, color corinto, el cual conducía el Señor Selvin Augusto Pérez Galicia, comentando que pronto iban a acabar con el grupo en la carretera. Al intentar subir a Mónica al pick-up, ella logró escaparse.

Este hecho fue denunciado el 23 de octubre en la Auxiliatura Departamental de la Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos en Retalhuleu.

Contexto:

- Desde noviembre de 2004 el Movimiento Campesino Pro-Justicia Nueva Linda está ocupando la orilla de la carretera frente a la Finca Nueva Linda reclamando justicia por la desaparición de Héctor Reyes, por el asesinato de Eufemia López Morán y por la masacre de 9 campesinos/as. Desde esa fecha el grupo campesino está sometido a amenazas, intimidaciones y ataques continuos que atribuyen al dueño de la finca, Virgilio Casado, y los miembros de seguridad de la finca.

- El hijo de Héctor Reyes, Eustaquio René Reyes, reportó tres intentos de secuestro en el año 2004. Principios de 2005, tres campesinos miembros del Comité Pro-Justicia Nueva Linda fueron secuestrados temporalmente. El 20 de enero de 2006, Selvin Augusto Pérez Galicia disparó contra el grupo campesino dejando tres heridos graves. En el transcurso de los últimos dos años, miembros de la seguridad privada de la finca dispararon en diferentes ocasiones en contra las champas de las/os campesinas/os, y amenazaron verbalmente.

- En los diferentes casos legales por la desaparición de Héctor René Reyes, los diversos intentos de secuestro y el desalojo violento del 31 de agosto del 2004, no se presentó ningún resultado de una investigación sobre los hechos ocurridos.

Denunciamos las amenazas, intimidaciones y ataques contra el Movimiento Pro-Justicia Nueva Linda y la familia de Héctor René Reyes, y mostramos nuestra mayor preocupación sobre la continua impunidad de estos hechos.

Movimiento Campesino Pro-Justicia Nueva Linda, Comité de Desarrollo Campesino –CODECA-, Bloque Antiimperialista, Canadian Rights Action Foundation, H.I.J.O.S., ACJ, JURNG*

Ixcán, 04 de octubre de 2006

CAMPO PAGADO

Ante los hechos vandálicos registrados el cuatro de octubre del presente año en la cabecera municipal de Ixcán, El Quiché; las diversas organizaciones sociales y el Concejo municipal **condenan las acciones** perpetradas por un grupo de personas que de forma violenta y arbitraria procedieron a intimidar, agredir, amenazar a miembros del concejo municipal, a servidores públicos; además, el bloqueo de las principales vías de acceso a la cabecera municipal y la toma violenta de las instalaciones de la municipalidad.

Estos hechos, violaron el precepto constitucional de la libre locomoción consagrado en el artículo 26 de la Constitución Política de la Republica de Guatemala.

Como consecuencia de estos acontecimientos, como consecuencia el consejo municipal se vio obligado a suspender los diferentes servicios que presta la municipalidad; afectando directamente a las personas procedentes de comunidades lejanas.

Asimismo, se afectó la economía de subsistencia de los comunitarios al no permitirles comercializar sus productos en el mercado local.

Es preocupante que las mismas personas que pretendieron desestabilizar los resultados de las elecciones anteriores, quemando las urnas; las que a lo largo de la gestión de la actual administración han inducido las ocupaciones ilegales de terrenos, los bloqueos constantes a los proyectos emanados del concejo municipal; sean las mismas que el día de hoy provocan hechos violentos para hacerse notar e iniciar su proyecto proselitista a través de acciones y métodos ilegales.

Es preciso hacer notar que los acontecimientos vividos hoy en la cabecera municipal de Ixcán, no tienen carácter de una manifestación que recoja las demandas reales de la población, sino que se constituyen en hechos vandálicos que ponen en riesgo la integridad física de los miembros del concejo municipal electos democráticamente, de los servidores públicos y de la población en general.

Condenamos y repudiamos estos hechos vandálicos por considerar que no son los mecanismos adecuados para solicitarle al honorable concejo municipal sus peticiones.

Hacemos un llamado a la población para que no se dejen sorprender y se informe sobre los antecedentes y actuaciones de las personas que dirigen este tipo de acciones, a las que responsabilizamos por las agresiones, amenazas y ulteriores acciones en perjuicio de la vida y la integridad física del concejo municipal, de empleados y miembros de las organizaciones firmantes.

Fundación Guillermo Toriello, Servicios Jurídicos y Sociales, Asociación de Educadores Noroccidentales, Pastoral Social del Ixcán, Centro de Apoyo en Justicia Penal y Resolución de Conflicto, Red de Mujeres del Ixcán, Organizaciones de Mujeres Guatemaltecas Mamá Maquín, Asociación de Estudiantes y Profesionales de Santa María Tzejá y Aldeas Circunvecinas Kemb'al No', Asociación de Derechos Humanos de Ixcán, Puente de Paz.

PBI GUATEMALA DOES NOT NECESSARILY IDENTIFY WITH THE OPINIONS AND CONTENT OF THE ARTICLES AND COMMUNIQUE'S REPRODUCED.

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