



PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALAN PROJECT

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1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

IMPUNITY

Union leader killed in Iytapa Escuintla

Guatemala, 16.01.2007 (PL, AD).- On the night of the 15th of January armed men attacked the car driven by Pedro Zamora, secretary general of the Port Quetzal Union, while he was driving in Las Morenas, Iztapa, Escuintla, with his 3 year-old son, angel Estuardo Zamora, who was also injured by a bullet. The union leader died at the scene; while his son was taken to hospital. Members of the Unity of Labour and Popular Action (UASP) called for the Attorney-general to investigate the crime.

OACNUDH and Attorney General sign treaty for support of Human Rights programme

Guatemala, 25.01.2007 (PL).- The attorney general, Juan Luis Florido, and Anders Kompass representative from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, signed a document on Human Rights . The document establishes the help that will be given through training, development programmes and actions to strengthen Human Rights promotion.

Human Rights Ombudsman publishes summary report on Human Rights situation 2006

Guatemala, 30.01.2007 (EP, PL, SV).-On the 30th of January, the human rights ombudsman (PDH) Sergio Morales, published a summary of the annual report for 2006 that he presented to Congress on the 24th of January. It emphasises that in 2006 24,020 violations of human rights were reported, and 3,066 cases were subject to investigation. One of the main difficulties shown is the public safety situation, given that the country is living in a climate of violence and crime. The ombudsman remarked upon the weakness shown by the State's inability to stop the proliferation of common crime, organised crime and clandestine parallel forces.

Stein and Viemann meet frontbenchers to explain CICIG project

Guatemala, 31.01.2007 (EP, CA, SV).- Vice president Eduardo Stein started a series of meetings on the 30th of January, with heads of political parties in Congress, to explain the benefits to be reaped for the country from the signing of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). They were reminded that the matter had been discussed with representatives of political groups , was submitted to the Constitutional Court and needed analysis and revision by the United Nations Organisation Executive to arrive at the present text. Those who designed the project were careful not to contravene the Constitution nor get involved in investigations, since that is the role of the attorney-general (MP) and the national civilian police (PNC). The CICIG will last for 2 years and may be

extended according to the advances achieved. Its field of action will be to document the investigations against clandestine parallel forces and organised crime.

LAND

Settlers in Izabal fight eviction attempt

El Estor, Izabal, 19.01.2007 (PL).- A branch of the National Civilian Police (PNC) special forces that arrived in El Estor to vacate occupied land, were forced to withdraw by the settlers. Auxiliary human rights ombudsman (PDH), Waldemar Barrera, said that the police used tear gas bombs in their attempt to evict 123 people, which included adults and children. These people were occupying the settlement La Union, located in land claimed by the Guatemalan Nickel Company (GNC) to be their property. Barrera said that the police arrived without a judicial injunction and without a representative of the attorney-general's office, as required by law. The settlers explained that they were claiming the land as part of their heritage and assured that it had been inscribed in the now defunct Agricultural Reform Institute (INTA). Leader Arnoldo Yat of the Qeqchi Defence condemned the police action and affirmed that it had taken place in an illegal manner without dialogue and due procedure. He added that the campesinos decided to return to the settlement for lack of a place to live. Also, this police contingent had affected other evictions peacefully, in the settlements of La Paz and Lote 8, in Panzos, Alta Verpaz.

GLOBALISATION

Ecologists demand monitoring in river to find out if mining activity is polluting

Guatemala, 11.01.2007 (PL).-On the 10th of January the Madre Selva Collective asked the authorities to take part in joint monitoring of the river Tzapala in Sipacapa, San Marcos, to find out if there is heavy metal pollution caused by mining activity. Flaviano Bianchini, chemical biologist, who together with Madre Selva analysed the river Tyapala waters, affirmed that the sample taken at the end of last November showed evidence of the presence at least 4 heavy metals: copper, aluminium, iron and manganese that are in particles which pass through the food chain starting in plants, then to animals and finally to humans, causing damage to health. Alavaro Ramazzini, President of the Guatemalan Episcopalian Conference (CEG), warned about the pollution of river Tzala, San Marcos, caused by the open sky mining, and urged the passing of a new mining law. However, Jorge Antonio Garcia, vice minister of Energy and Mines, emphasised that there is no contamination in river Tzala according to the results of the laboratory analysis of last weekend, following the complaint form the CEG.

Conflict between settlers and mining company persists in San Marcos

San Marcos, 19.01.2006 (AC).- According to auxiliary Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH) Carlos Martinez, representatives from the Montana mining company which operates in the municipality of San Miguel Ixtahuacan, San Marcos, will not take part in the dialogue table until the access roads to the mines are unblocked. The settlers said that they will not clear the roads until the minister of energy and mines and of Ecology and Natural Resources publish reports on the contamination of river Tzala and other rivers in the area as well as of the environment of the area in general. Also they are waiting for the results of a study by the Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH), about the causes of cracks in walls and buildings in the settlements Agel and Esperanxa.

FNL reject presence of US soldiers in Guatemala

Guatemala, 24.01.2007 (FD, press release of the FNL).-On the 23rd of January the National Front of Struggle for the Defence of Public Services and National Resources (FNL) expressed its rejection of the arrival in Guatemala of a thousand soldiers from the U.S.A, in the framework of the "New Horizons" programme, to support San Marcos communities. The FNL argues that the presence of the military in Guatemala violates the sovereignty of the country. Furthermore, the Front emphasises that the territory chosen for the soldiers to come to is where there has been strong opposition to the presence of foreign mining companies.

ELECTIONS 2007

Government seeks electoral observation from OEA because of organised crime financing

Guatemala, 11.01.2007 (PL).-The executive has asked the Organization of American States (OEA) for observation in the electoral year because the financing of electoral campaigns by organised crime

and drug-traffickers, especially of mayor's offices, is one of the main obstacles. The process will take place through the Special Verification Administration that will be able to determine where the incomes of the political organisations are coming from. Should a part receive anomalous financing, the State will investigate through the general-attorney, to implement the Law against Money-Laundering and other Assets.

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), Incidencia Democrática (ID), Guatesemana (GS).

2. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA: IN GUATEMALA

Team: Michael Beattie (Australia), Silke Gatermann (Sweden/Germany), Katia Aeby (Switzerland), Mary Scott (United Kingdom), Maripaz Gallardo (Spain), Owen Campbell (Canada), Enrique Riestra Rozas (Spain), Virginie Barber (France) and Jacques Van Luytelaar (Netherlands)

2.1 MEETINGS WITH AUTHORITIES AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

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

Guatemalan Authorities:

- Julio César López, Informal Economy Assistant, Management Office for the Historical Centre of Guatemala City, Guatemala City
- Myrna Ponce, Deputy for Guatemalan Republican Front, FRG, Congress of the Republic, Guatemala City

Diplomatic Corps:

- Vinay Talwar, Second Secretary, British Embassy, Guatemala City
- Maryse Guibeault, Canadian Embassy, Guatemala City
- Juan López-Dóriga, Ambassador, and Jose Antonio Sabadell, Second Secretary. Spanish Embassy, 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:

- Daniel Pascual, Rafael González y Domingo López, Campesino Unity Committee , CUC, Guatemala City
- Marco Castillo y Julio Coyoy, CEIBA Group Association, Guatemala City
- Justo Mendoza, Coordinating Body of Indigenous and Campesino Organisations, CONIC Guatemala City
- Norma Cruz, Survivors Association, Guatemala City
- Claudia Samayoá, National Human Rights Movement, MNDH, Guatemala City

- Aura Elena Farfán, Families of the Detained and Disappeared of Guatemala, FAMDEGUA, Guatemala City
- Arturo Chub, Security and Democracy, SEDEM, Guatemala City

International Organisations:

- Francisco Sancho López, Coordinator General of Spanish Cooperation in Guatemala, Guatemala City
- Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala, CAIG, Guatemala City
- Forum of International Non-Governmental Organizations, FONGI, Guatemala City
- Mikael Lindgren, Officer in the area of Observation, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OACNUDH), Guatemala City

2.3 PBI GUATEMALA PROJECT COORDINATION MEETING

Every six months the Guatemala Project holds a Coordination Committee meeting in Guatemala, to evaluate, give follow-up to and to plan the work for the whole Project. On this occasion the meeting was held between the 15 and 20 of January. From the Coordinating Committee participated: Eva Scarfe, Montse García, David Avila and as representatives from the team Mary Scott and Enrique Riestra, Other members of the team also participated at various points during the meetings as well. Members of the Coordinating Committee took advantage of their presence in Guatemala to meet with members of the diplomatic corps, donors and national authorities.

2.4. 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 January 2007 we accompanied them in their activities in Alta and Baja Verapaz.

Background: UVOC is a campesino organisation in 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 a 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 with 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 surveillance from unknown persons. The situation in some communities affiliated to the UVOC continues to be delicate: in February and April 2006, the campesino families that live in the Mocca Estate were violently evicted, leaving several people with gunshot wounds. In the month of July there was a confrontation between two groups of campesinos leaving casualties of 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 accompany Eloyda and other members of the association in the Department of Izabal during their activities and meetings with communities concerned about mining activities in the area. In January we accompanied Eloyda and ASALI in El Estor, after a tense situation arose amongst campesino groups who have been occupying land belonging to the CGN (Guatemalan Nickel Company) and who the State wanted to evict.

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 Mejía's restaurant wall was graffitied with "Yes to CGN" (Guatemalan Nickel Company)." Since the last months of 2006 Eloyda Mejía is being involved in a legal process which accuses her for usurping lands. This legal action has been interpreted by her as persecution and intimidation against her in aim to make her abandon her work against the mining company CGN in El Estor

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. In January we maintained contact with various members of the collective. In January 2007 we maintained contact with various members of the Collective.

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, above all in areas where conflicts exist over the issues that the collective reports about. Recently, some members of the organisation have once again begun receiving serious threats. Presently the organisation is target to a series of defamation campaigns linked to the publication of an environmental study concerning the pollution found in the waters of the river Tzalá en San Marcos. The author of the study, since its publication, has received a series of threats. This situation has provoked an international reaction from various human rights organizations in support of the organisation and the author.

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 January 2007 we increased our visits to their office after observations of increased surveillance.

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 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 working to defending their labour rights. In particular, we accompany **Julio Archila**, founder of the MTC. In January, we accompanied members of the MTC in its activities in the area 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 Las Delicias estate, 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 Las Delicias estate 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, and witness to the assassination of a sex worker. We maintain a frequent presence in the office of the organisation and keep 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.

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 January we have visited their office regularly.

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 these acts as an intimidation 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. We are maintaining a high level of contact with frequent phone calls and visits to his office in these contentious times.

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 on the issues of housing access, social infrastructure, and the legalisation of occupied land. In January we maintained contact with Roly Escobar and other members of the organisation, visiting their office regularly, and they visited our offices.

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.

2.5. FOLLOW UPS

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

We keep in contact with **Carlos Guárquez**, General Co-ordinator 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, with telephone calls and visits to his office.

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.

2.5. 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 31st of January we attended a memorial event in honour of the victims who died in the fire at the Spanish Embassy in January 1980. This took place in the Plaza España in Guatemala City.

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.

Kerstin Reemtsma, the project's European representative, attended a meeting in Brussels, on the 8th of January, with the coordinating group of CIFCA, CIDSE and Grupo Sur in preparation for the International Conference "The Official Role of Co-operation to promote the Peace Agreements in Guatemala" that is taking place at the headquarters of the European Parliament, supported by the Central American Delegation of this Parliament, in May 2007.

Tara Ward, the project's Canadian representative maintained contact with PBI Canada and the Americas Policy Group.

The project's training team, Tara Ward (for the project's co-ordinating committee), Vincent Castagnino, Helen Woodcock, Estefanía Sarmiento and Fermin Rodrigo got to work on the training process for the future team volunteers for PBI Guatemala. The next training session takes place in Manchester, UK from the 22nd to the 29th of April.

4. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

In this section we publish several communiqués written by human rights organisations in which they express their concerns 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.

Desalojos violentos, salarios miserables, quiebra de bancos, explotación desmedida de minería y recursos naturales, empobrece a todos

Después de 3 años del gobierno empresarial, reafirmamos que no hay voluntad política para resolver políticas gubernamentales han agudizado la crisis que vivimos. Guatemala es uno de los países de América Latina y en el mundo donde existe mayor desigualdad en la distribución de la tierra y la riqueza, se la exclusión de la población indígena y campesina.

- La conflictividad agraria que ha provocado enfrentamiento entre campesinos y desalojos violentos a miles de familias mediante la fuerza represiva del Estado, solo ha contribuido aumentar la pobreza extrema en las comunidades rurales. En tan solo tres años se han ejecutado más de 97 desalojos violentos: 45 durante el año 2004, 26 en 2005, 22 durante el año 2006 y durante los primeros 30 días del 2007 se han ejecutado 5 desalojos violentos e ilegales en los departamentos de Alta Verapaz e Izabal. Estos hechos buscan crear condiciones para la explotación de minas que impulsan empresarios, familiares y amigos del actual presidente que tienen el apoyo del Estado, incumpliendo las leyes, los Acuerdos de Paz y vulneran los pocos derechos de los pueblos indígenas en relación a la protección de los recursos naturales.
- El actual salario mínimo no responde a las necesidades del trabajador que establece El Protocolo de San Salvador, que en su artículo 7, inciso “a” dice: Salario Mínimo es “una remuneración que asegure como mínimo a todos los trabajadores las condiciones de subsistencia digna y decorosa para ellos, sus familias y un salario equitativo por igual trabajo sin ninguna distinción”. Por tal razón, nada tiene que ver con la ignorancia del actual gobierno y los empresarios, que en una vulgar interpretación de la misma tratan de confundir a la población, al decir que el salario mínimo no permite al trabajador ganar más. **LOS EMPRESARIOS QUIEREN PAGAR SALARIOS POR PRODUCTIVIDAD PORQUE DE ESA MANERA EXPLOTAN MÁS A LOS TRABAJADORES, NO LES PAGAN SUS PRESTACIONES, LA SEGURIDAD SOCIAL Y LES NIEGAN EL DERECHO DE ORGANIZACIÓN SINDICAL.** Los especuladores aumentan los precios del frijol, el arroz, las tortillas; el costo de los servicios de luz, agua, transporte, combustible, pasaje, medicinas, vestuario, educación, todo esta cada día más caro, tanto en la ciudad como en el campo, sin que el gobierno asuma su responsabilidad ante esta difícil situación.
- La quiebra del Banco del Café S. A. y el Banco del Comercio, expresa la crisis en el sistema financiero del país, resultado del fenómeno de la globalización y del interés empresarial de concentrar el capital público en pocas manos, afectando seriamente la economía de la población guatemalteca. Los banqueros pagan poco interés cuando nosotros depositamos nuestro dinero, pero cuando ellos prestan nuestro dinero a otras personas cobran más del veinte por ciento y aplican hipotecas al no pagarlos. Con el agravante de que ninguno de los grandes ricos tienen depositado su dinero en los bancos nacionales, es juntando nuestro dinero y prestándolo a grandes intereses como se hacen ricos. Sin producir nada. Ellos son parásitos sociales. Hoy la población debe exigir persecución penal para los accionistas de los Bancos suspendidos ya que han malversado millones de quetzales mediante créditos otorgados a sus mismos familiares. Asimismo, los diputados del Congreso deben legislar; modificando las leyes monetarias para que los banqueros o empresarios se encarguen de asumir las responsabilidades civiles y penales como consecuencia de los malos manejos del dinero de los ahorrantes, y no seguir repitiendo la historia de despojo y enriquecimiento ilícito que venimos sufriendo desde hace 500 años.
- La autoridades de varios ministerios se mantiene enfrentados por la entrega de licencias para la explotación de minas y petróleos en los departamentos de Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Totonicapán, Petén, Izabal, Zacapa y Alta Verapaz, éstos se agiliza sin tanto trámite por la falta de legislación, corrupción de intermedio y por el interés económico de las empresas interesadas. Las consecuencias de tanta explotación de los recursos naturales sin el aval de las comunidades rurales, permite la contaminación de ríos como recientemente se ha denunciado en San Marcos, desalojo a familias indígenas en Alta Verapaz e Izabal, y finalmente el enriquecimiento de empresarios en detrimento de las familias indígenas y campesinas.

Ante esta situación, CNOC hace un llamado a aumentar la organización y las movilizaciones sectoriales, regionales y nacionales, bajo la idea de la lucha territorial para unir nuestras luchas, nuestras fuerzas y nuestras propuestas. Debemos mantener la lucha por una política de desarrollo rural integral para resolver la problemática agraria, laboral, seguridad alimentaria, seguridad ciudadana, salud, educación y migración. El país debe cambiar: No permitamos que la propiedad de la tierra y la riqueza siga concentrada en pocas manos. No admitamos que los poderes del Estado y el manejo de las instituciones, programas y proyectos sean para beneficiar los grandes negocios de los empresarios. No aceptamos que empresas transnacionales exploten nuestras riquezas naturales.

UNIDAD, ORGANIZACIÓN Y LUCHA
-CNOC- presente en la lucha social

Guatemala, 31.01.2007 (Comunicado publicado EP).-

RENDIMOS HOMENAJE A NUESTROS HEROES CAIDOS EN LA EMBAJADA DE ESPAÑA Y EXIJIMOS JUSTICIA

Muchos de ustedes recordarán, que el 31 de enero de 1980, un grupo de campesinos, acompañados de pobladores, estudiantes, obreros y cristianos comprometidos, ocuparon pacíficamente la Embajada de España, como último recurso para hacerse escuchar y demandar el fin de la represión en sus comunidades. La respuesta del gobierno en ese entonces, fue asaltar las Instalaciones y quemar vivos a nuestro compañeros y compañeras, así como personalidades que ahí se encontraban. La Masacre de la Embajada de España, no fue un hecho aislado, tuvo como antecedente la represión contrainsurgente selectiva y generalizada en el campo y la ciudad y se continuó con más crímenes cuya expresión más brutal fueron las masacres y la tierra arrasada ejecutada por el ejército durante los años del 1982 y 1983, principalmente contra comunidades indígenas del Occidente y Norte del país. Han pasado 27 años y pese a que los responsables de esta matanza están claramente identificados y existen órdenes de captura internacionales en los tribunales de España, las cuales son de captura y extradición, lamentablemente los funcionarios de este país, les han facilitado mantenerse en la impunidad y únicamente han sido capturados dos de estos responsables y el proceso contra los demás implicados no se ejecutan. Las pérdidas materiales, tierras, casas y animales que perdieron los familiares después de este hecho, el Estado de Guatemala tiene toda la obligación de reponerlas, así como atención en salud mental, monumento para la dignificación de los caídos y becas de estudios para los hijos.

POR LO ANTERIORMENTE EXPUESTO DEMANDAMOS

Que los responsable de la masacre de la Embajada de España sean capturados y enjuiciados, por las instituciones respectivas del Estado de Guatemala.

Siendo las siguientes personas:

- **Manuel de Jesús Valientes Téllez** ex Jefe de la policía Judicial.
- **Pedro García Arredondo** ex Jefe del comando seis del sexto Cuerpo de la policía Nacional.
- **Germán Chupina Barahona**, ex Director de la Policía Nacional.
- **Donaldo Álvarez Ruiz**, ex Ministro de Gobernación.
- Así como todas las personas civiles y militares implicadas directa o indirectamente, que sean investigadas y las que salgan responsables que les aplique la justicia.

ESTAMOS HARTOS DE MANOS DURAS.
NO MAS RIOS DE SANGRE.

¡Héroes de la Embajada de España ,sus ideas guiaran nuestro camino!.

COMITÉ DE UNIDAD CAMPESINA-CUC- MIEMBRO DE CNOC, MICSP, CLOC Y VIA CAMPESINA

31 de Enero de 2007

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

PBI GUATEMALA PROJECT
New Address!!!!

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