



## PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALAN PROJECT

### MONTHLY INFORMATION PACKAGE - GUATEMALA

Number 46, Julio 2007

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. PROJECT COORDINATION MEETING
  - 2.4. ACCOMPANIMENTS
  - 2.5. OBSERVATIONS
3. PUBLICATIONS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (IN SPANISH)

### 1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

#### **IMPUNITY**

##### **National Commission reveals an increase in lynching**

Guatemala, 03.07.2007 (PL).- The National Commission for the Prevention of Lynching issued a warning about the rise in cases of lynching. The Commission explained that last year there were 33 reported cases, and so far in 2007 there have been 22 cases; an average of three cases a month.

##### **Support of military corps in public security expensive and inefficient**

Guatemala, 06.07.2007 (SV).- The support that the Special Reserve Corps for Citizen Security (CESRC) has been giving to the National Civil Police (PNC) to combat delinquency has not achieved hoped-for results. In the last 15 months (since CERSC has been in operation), 7,246 people have lost their lives due to violence, according to PNC statistics.

##### **GAM warns about “social cleansing” group led by ex-soldiers or PNC**

Guatemala, 11.07.2007 (LH).- Mario Polanco, of the Mutual Support Group (GAM), lamented the rise of a clandestine group calling itself the Non-Governmental Armed Forces (FANOG), in Coatepeque, Quetzaltenango, which is likely to be led by ex-members of the army or agents of the PNC, as is another group called “Whip of the South”.

##### **Only three political parties present report about origin of funds**

Guatemala, 11.07.2007 (PL).- Only three, of the 14 political parties competing for the presidency and vice-presidency of the Republic, presented to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) the required report containing total donations and the names of financiers. The three parties that submitted their reports were the Patriotic Party (PP), the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG), and Assembly for Guatemala (EG). The parties can be fined from 100 to 1,000 quetzales (approximately 10-100 euros) for not fulfilling this requirement.

##### **Rejection of Ríos Montt’s appeal against disclosure of military plans**

Guatemala, 20.07.2007 (PL).- The First Court of Appeal rejected Ríos Montt’s legal action of 19 July, which was intended to maintain the secrecy of the following military plans conceived to combat the guerrilla movement: Victoria, 1982; Sofía, 15 July 1982; Firmeza, 1983; and Operation Ixil. The Ministry of Defence will be required to submit copies of the documents to the Second Penal Court of the First Instance, which is handling the case in which Ríos Montt, together with other members of the military, is accused of genocide.

### **CEJIL exhorts congress to approve CICIG**

Guatemala, 28.07.2007 (LH).- The Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), issued a press release in which it exhorted Congress of the Republic to approve the constitution of the International Commission Against Impunity (CICIG), to be voted upon by the legislative plenary the following 1 August. CEJIL stated that through this initiative it would be possible to strengthen and propel the investigation and criminal prosecution of crimes committed by illegal security corps and clandestine apparatus, linked directly or indirectly with State agents or that rely upon them to maintain impunity for their actions. For CEJIL, the political violence registered in Guatemala endangers the transparency and effectiveness of the coming elections, with 37 assassinations of members of political parties to date.

### **LAND**

#### **Centre for Agrarian Arbitration inaugurated**

Guatemala, 10.07.2007 (PL, EP, Sv).- The Centre for Agrarian Arbitration was opened on 9 July. The Centre's objective is to accelerate the resolution of conflicts over land. The Presidential Secretary of Agrarian Affairs will coordinate the centre's jurisdiction, which can be applied in cases where all parties of the conflict request it. According to Mariel Aguilar, Presidential Secretary of Agrarian Affairs, "this is something voluntary that will be applicable on 15 per cent of the 1,000 pending cases. It is necessary that both parties are owners of the land: it cannot be applied in cases of land invasion".

#### **Agrarian Platform denounces attacks against leaders**

Guatemala, 11.07.2007 (FD).- Civil society organisation Agrarian Platform denounced the illegal detention of Omar Ventura, of the Association of Formation for Holistic Development (AFOPADI), and of the Spanish volunteer Carol Puigarnau. On 10 July the car being driven by pair was stolen by armed men in the Roosevelt Road. The attackers also abducted Ventura and Puigarnau and later released them in the area of El Naranjo bridge, in the capital city.

#### **CONIC concerned about imminent evictions**

Guatemala, 12.07.2007 (LH).- 1,600 families are at risk of eviction by the Land Fund (FONTIERRAS) in different communities of the south, the highlands and the north of the country. The communities have not been able to settle a debt of 75 million quetzals because the sites they bought have not proved to be sufficiently fertile, stated Juan Tiney, secretary of the general directorate of the National Indigenous and Peasant Coordinator (CONIC).

### **GLOBALISATION**

#### **Community consultation on mining in Barillas, Huehuetenango**

Guatemala, 27.06.2007 (FD).- The "in good faith" consultation of the Community Consultation Coordinating Commission regarding the reconnaissance, exploration and exploitation of mining resources in the municipality of Santa Cruz Barillas, Huehuetenango resulted in the following: "The decision of the Barillense people is added to the emphatic "NO" demonstrated in other municipalities to the arbitrariness and disrespect shown by the government and the Ministry of Energy and Mines despite the opinions of the people of Huehuetenango".

#### **Mining company GOLDCORP plans to mine gold in Jutiapa**

Guatemala, 05.07.2007 (EP).- After their success in the mining of gold in the Marlin mine in San Marcos, the Canadian mining company GOLDCORP has accelerated its applications to obtain licences for the project Cerro Blanco, in Asunción Mita, Jutiapa. Villacorta indicated that the Marlin mine will produce more than 210,000 ounces of gold this year, with a value on the international market of more than 125 million dollars, in addition to 1.6 million ounces of silver.

#### **Various sectors criticise mining company tax exemption**

Guatemala, 17.07.2007 (EP, PL).- The Economy Ministry authorised the Guatemalan Nickel Company (CGN) to operate as an exporter under the temporary admission regime under Decree 29-89 of the Law of Promotion and Development of Manufacturing for Export. The resolution, signed by the Minister for Economy, Luis Óscar Estrada, and by the Viceminister of Investment and Competition, Sigfrido Lee, will permit CGN, a subsidiary of the Canadian mining company Skye Resources, to enjoy a total exemption from the payment of tariffs and value added tax (IVA) for the importation of machinery, equipment and parts. Moreover, the payment of tariffs, import taxes and IVA regarding the primary materials, unrefined and component products was suspended for one year, and ordinary and extraordinary export taxes were completely exempted.

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), Informe Semanal de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala (CDHG).

## **2. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA: IN GUATEMALA**

**Team:** Maripaz Gallardo (Spain), Owen Campbell (Canada), Enrique Riestra Rozas (Spain), Virginie Barber (France), Jacques van Luytelaar (Netherlands), Vanessa Marcos (Portugal), Nadia Graber (Switzerland), Emma Marshall (United Kingdom) and Daniel Carey (United Kingdom)

## 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 our way of working. Through these meetings, when necessary, we can also confidentially express our concerns about critical situations of which we have first hand knowledge through our work in the field. During the month of July meetings were held with the following authorities:

Guatemalan Authorities:

- Lesbia Quiñónez of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH), Guatemala City
- Carlos Roberto Arenas Bianchi, Viceminister of Community Support, Home Office, Guatemala City
- Booz Lorenzo Perez, Deputy Director General of the Migration Agency, Guatemala City

Diplomatic Corps

- Reception with María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, Vicepresident of Spain, 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. During the month of July meetings were held with the following organisations:

Civil Society Organisations:

- Arturo Chub, Security in Democracy (SEDEM), Guatemala City
- Rody Lantán, Coordinator of the Community Association for the Integral Development of the Ch'orti' Region (COMUNDICH), Guatemala City.
- Manuel Calel Morales, Association that Guides the People to the Land and Maize, Guatemala City.
- Rafael Herrarte, Security in Democracy (SEDEM), Guatemala City.

International Organisations:

- Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG), Guatemala City.
- Human Rights Commission, Forum of International Non-Governmental Organizations (FONGI), Guatemala City
- Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA); Coordinating Committee on International Accompaniment in Guatemala (ACOGUATE) and Austrian Accompaniment Project (ADA), Guatemala City.
- Juan Carlos Monge, Deputy Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OACNUDH), Guatemala City.
- Bill Fairbairn, PBI Canada and representative in the PBI International Council, Guatemala City.

## 2.3 PROJECT COORDINATION MEETING

Every six months the Project Coordinating Committee meets in Guatemala to evaluate, follow up and plan the work of the Project. The meeting recently took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July. In attendance were Eva Scarfe, Tara Ward, Kerstin Reemtsma, Montse Garcia and Mayte Quesada of the Coordinating Committee and Kike Riestra and Emma Marshall as representatives of the team in Guatemala. Other members of the team participated at various times. The members of the committee also used the week to carry out meetings with the diplomatic corps, funders and authorities in the country.

## 2.4 ACCOMPANIMENTS

We started accompanying **José Roberto Morales Sic**, Co-ordinator of the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Programme of the **Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH)**, in February. In July we continued accompanying him in his weekly movements.

*Background: Since 1994 CALDH has had its headquarters in the capital, where it receives reports of Human Rights violations and directs investigations into the cases. The institution provides counselling, accompaniment and training to organisations, groups and communities. One of its main areas of work is promoting justice in genocide cases, and other crimes committed during the internal armed conflict. We have accompanied CALDH on various occasions between 2004 and 2006. In February 2007, members of the legal team received direct threats. José Roberto Morales Sic was the victim of a kidnapping on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Two armed men kidnapped him in his car and threatened to kill him. He was later released and the CALDH vehicle recovered with all his belongings present (including personal documents, cheques and a laptop which belonged to the organisation).*

Since 13<sup>th</sup> 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 July 2007 we have continued to accompany the UVOC in various activities in Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz. We were present during the monthly negotiation meetings between members of the UVOC and representatives of the government. We also accompanied members of the UVOC during meetings held with Guatemalan authorities in the capital. Surveillance and intimidation has continued against Carlos Morales and other leaders of the UVOC during this month.

*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 providing support in the process of legalisation of the communities' titles to land. UVOC also offers training for communities affiliated with 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. UVOC's offices and personnel continue to be under surveillance from unknown persons. The situation in some communities affiliated with 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 July 2006 there was a confrontation between two groups of campesinos leaving 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**, the organisation's Legal Representative, since 21<sup>st</sup> 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 the months of January and February 2006 we accompanied Eloyda and ASALI after a tense situation arose between groups of campesinos that had occupied lands, the CGN and state actors who wished to remove them. During July we have continued accompanying Eloyda Mejía in her activities, specifically in workshops regarding environmental issues and visits to communities.

*Background: Eloyda Mejia has suffered a number of threats as a result of her work to protect Lake Izabal, in the department of Izabal, east Guatemala, and because of her work informing local residents of the possible damaging effects of the re-opening of the Guatemalan Nickel Company (subsidiary of Skye Resources Inc., Canada) mining operation in the area. On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2004, during a conference on the future of the lake in El Estor, Izabal, she received yet more serious threats, 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 the words "Yes to CGN" (Guatemalan Nickel Company)." Since late 2006 Eloyda Mejía has had to deal with a legal process accusing her of usurping lands. This legal action is seen by her as a form of persecution and intimidation intended to force her to 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 its members during their work in different departments throughout the country. PBI has been accompanying members of Madre Selva since June 2004 in some of their journeys to the regions where they carry out their work, with a presence in their office in the capital. During July we maintained contact with members of the collective.

*Background: Madre Selva is an environmental organisation which holds regular workshops on the negative impact of mega-projects, 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 appear in the Collective's reports. Since December 2006 the organisation has been subject to defamation campaigns linked to the publication of an environmental study concerning the mining pollution found in the waters of the River Tzalá in San Marcos. The study's Italian author has received a series of threats since its publication. This situation has provoked an international reaction from various human rights organizations in support of the organisation and the author, who eventually left the country.*

We continue to accompany the **National Coordination of Widows of Guatemala (CONAVIGUA)** with regular visits to, and presence in, their office as well as during exhumations and inhumations of clandestine cemeteries in rural areas. We continue our frequent visits to their office due to the increased surveillance that became apparent in December 2006. In July we also accompanied members of the association to an exhumation in the community of Paquixic, 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 efforts for the recuperation of the collective memory of Guatemala's recent history. This process provokes tense situations in these small rural communities between victims and perpetrators, and the women of CONAVIGUA receive threats and intimidation to stop them from continuing this work.*

We accompany the **Movement of Campesino Workers (MTC)**, an entity of the Social Pastoral Office of the Diocese of San Marcos. MTC is made up of associations of campesino communities working to defend their labour rights. In particular, we accompany its founder, **Julio Archila**. On 18<sup>th</sup> July we accompanied him to a hearing in the Appeals Court in Quetzaltenango relating to the case of the finca Las Delicias, as an appeal was lodged against the decision of the judge of first instance of 16<sup>th</sup> June. During this month we continued visiting Julio and we met with various members of MTC.

*Background: Since the beginning of November 2005, Julio Archila, founding member of the MTC, has suffered various forms of intimidation and threats directed against him and his family. His security problems appear to be related to the support the MTC offers to campesinos engaged in protest on the Las Delicias estate, San Marcos. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005, police arrested Julio, accusing him of stealing coffee. He was brought before a judge and freed, as no proof of the accusation was found. 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 October 2005. The arrest warrants were substituted for other measures while the investigation continued. In June 2007, the judge of the Court of First Instance absolved Julio of all the charges due to a lack of evidence.*

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. In the month of July we maintained weekly visits to their office and accompanied Zulma during medical clinic visits.

*Background: On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2005, Paulina, a transgender worker was killed, the seventh murder of a transgender worker that year. Zulma, was present when the crime was committed, and was seriously injured during the incident. She is a witness to the murder of Paulina, accusing members of the National Civil Police (PNC) of the killing. 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 to be subjected to harassment and threats, and Jorge López, Executive Director of OASIS, reported that he was pursued by a police car during the night of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2006. Given the few advances made in the case in the Guatemalan courts, OASIS wishes to bring it to the attention of the CIDH with the support of the Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL).*

The **Women's Sector** is 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 the murder of women. In July we regularly visited the office of the Women's Sector and accompanied one of its members to the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) to follow-up the proceedings regarding the break-ins that the Sector suffered last year.

*Background: In less than 10 days, between the end of May and the beginning of June 2006, the headquarters of the Women's Sector were 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 clear intimidation and asked for police protection.*

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 November 2006 we brought to a close the activation of our Support Network, activated because of our concern about the security of **Roly Escobar**, CONAPAMG's Coordinator General, after he received a death threat on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006. During July we continued to accompany Roly Escobar in his activities with CONAPAMG and regularly visited the office of the association.

*Background: We have accompanied CONAPAMG since July 2004 when its office was broken into and lists, invoices, floppy discs and money stolen. 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 18<sup>th</sup> August 2006, Carmen Sagastume, another member of the organisation, was brutally murdered. Following this, on the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> September, General Coordinator Roly Escobar Ochoa was informed that armed individuals in the community Carmen del Monte were threatening to kill him, supposedly because of his denunciation of the murder of Carmen Sagastume. During the following weeks he and his family found themselves under heavy surveillance.*

**Carlos Guárquez** is General Co-ordinator of the **Guatemalan Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (AGAAI)**, and adviser to the indigenous municipality of Sololá. We maintain contact by telephone calls and visits to the office. Since a break-in in the office of AGAAI on 20<sup>th</sup> March we have provided accompaniment through regular visits to his office. During July we visited AGAAI's office frequently.

*Background: Carlos Guarquez has suffered from various forms of threats, accusations, and intimidations because of his work rejecting the Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) and mining activities. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2005, in the village of El Tablón, Sololá, his vehicle was doused in petrol and set on fire by unknown individuals. Death threats specifically naming Carlos Guarquez, Dominga Vásquez, the then Indigenous Mayoress of Sololá, 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. More recently on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007, the office of AGAAI was broken into by persons unknown who took important documentation and containers. The association denounced this incident as a clear act of intimidation against workers and members of AGAAI for their work in supporting and accompanying the Alcaldes and indigenous authorities struggling for the protection of the land. They have reported the act to the office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH).*

We received a request for accompaniment from **Project Counselling Services (PCS)** on behalf of a Guatemalan worker of the organisation who suffered a kidnapping, sexual aggression and the theft of a vehicle on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007. On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007 the same person received a phone call to their house threatening all the members of the organisation. These facts were reported to the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH). Since 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007 we have intensively accompanied the person who suffered this grave incident. During July we have maintained contact with the organisation and its members.

*Background: Project Counselling Services (PCS) is an international organisation supported by a partnership of agencies in Europe and Canada. Its mission is to strengthen the capacities of refugees and populations affected by displacements and other forms of exclusion to participate in autonomous, democratic and inter-cultural processes, including from a gender perspective, within the framework of the promotion, defense and exercise of human rights. In Guatemala, PCS has been involved with the struggle against impunity relating to human rights violations committed during the armed conflict and in post-conflict Guatemala, with special emphasis on sexual violence. On Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007 a worker was the victim of a temporary kidnapping during which they suffered verbal, physical and sexual aggression. The PCS vehicle in which they were travelling and which was carrying 'International Mission' signage was stolen. On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007 the same worker received a telephone threat in their home in which a male voice stated: "(Expletive), that wasn't enough... We told you not to do anything. You didn't get it. We are going to break your ass and those of the lesbians and whores in your office. We know who you are and what you do. Don't mess around, leave things as they are."*

## 2.5. OBSERVATIONS

PBI Guatemala provides international observation at public events where Guatemalan social organisations require international attention and interest or when it is judged necessary to be able to communicate what we witness to the international community.

- During July, at the invitation of CALDH, we observed a hearing in the case against Rios Montt relating to an application on his behalf not to declassify military documents from the 1980s regarding actions against the guerilla.
- We also observed the "Black Thursday" march, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of a reporter which occurred during riots allegedly instigated by the Republican Front Party (FRG) of Guatemala. Various members of the social movement were involved.

## 3. 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.

## **AGRESIÓN POLICIAL CONTRA PLANTÓN DE MUJERES QUE MANIFESTABAN EN CONTRA DE LOS ASESINATOS DE MUJERES**

Ante la saña con la que matan a las mujeres diariamente en Guatemala, un grupo de 15 mujeres de diversas organizaciones, firmantes abajo, realizamos un acto de denuncia con tambores y teatro frente al Hotel Camino Real el 3 de julio. Ese acto tenía como objetivo que las personas y la prensa internacional que participan en la sesión del Comité Olímpico Internacional conocieran de la problemática de los asesinatos que sufrimos las mujeres en el país.

Frente a esta manifestación pacífica, un pelotón de unos 50 efectivos de la policía nacional más un contingente antimotín de la PNC comandados por el oficial Jacinto Ruiz, que sin mediar palabra, llegaron a sacar a todas las participantes con lujo de fuerza, rodeándonos y agrediendo físicamente a algunas de nosotras. Ante nuestra indignación frente a tal agresión, exigimos el derecho a salir del lugar de manera pacífica y sin violencia por parte de la policía. A lo cual los policías respondieron elevando las amenazas, dando a conocer que tenían órdenes de usar la fuerza para desalojarnos. Al cabo de varios minutos y jaloneo logramos salir rumbo a la Av. Reforma. Las fuerzas policiales se instalaron en la esquina de la 14 calle y Av. Reforma de donde arrancaron nuestra manta, afiches y aros olímpicos con cruces.

Por este medio, hacemos la denuncia y repudiamos enérgicamente la agresión absolutamente desproporcionada de las fuerzas de "seguridad" contra las participantes en este acto pacífico realizado en un área pública. Nos preocupa profundamente que las autoridades policíacas tengan la orden de reprimir una manifestación en contra de las muertes violentas de mujeres en vez de investigar y esclarecer las mismas. De igual manera, nos preocupa que tengan la orden cada vez más clara de reprimir cualquier manifestación pública en violación a nuestro derecho a la expresión y manifestación.

Estas acciones de intimidación, agresión y represión se suman a las acciones de allanamientos y asesinatos de defensoras y defensores de derechos humanos, y de compañeras y compañeros de los sectores populares, que demuestran el estado de terror en el que estamos viviendo. Frente al terror, hacemos un llamado a la rebeldía, a la unidad, al repudio público, y a la denuncia nacional e internacional.

**Ante la agresión y la violencia, la indignación  
Ante la violación a nuestros derechos, la rebeldía y resistencia activa**

**No más violencia en mi cuerpo, en mi casa, en mi país  
¡Por la vida de las mujeres, ni un asesinato más!**

**SECTOR DE MUJERES  
COLECTIVA DE MUJERES FEMINISTAS DE IZQUIERDA  
BATUCADA FEMINISTA  
MUJERES Y HOMBRES AECP-AEHAAA-AEA-FEAG-AEQ-AESD-AETS**

**Guatemala, 04 de julio del 2007.**

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**Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas,  
CNOOC**

CNOOC, condena la política de desagrarización y abandono del campo.

En un contexto electoral marcado por la violencia, ataque constante a instituciones y líderes que trabajan por los derechos humanos, y aun año de la firma del tratado de libre comercio con los Estados Unidos de América y que hasta la fecha los únicos ganadores son los sectores agroindustriales que representan a las oligarquías criollas medievales y transnacionales en detrimento de la gran mayoría pobre (80% población) del país, en especial la población indígena y campesina que es la más vulnerable, manifestamos:

Condenamos la política de desagrarización del campo, impulsando programas como el Programa de compras rápidas de fincas ejecutado por el MAGA, la amenaza de desalojos y represión impulsada por el Fondo de Tierras a los adjudicatarios de Fincas que por el estado de pobreza y mala asistencia técnica agrícola fracasaron con los proyectos productivos y que ahora son incapaces de hacer los pagos correspondientes para amortizar la deuda contraída con el Estado y donde el BANRURAL S A, esta prestándose a juego de realizar dichas acciones. A esto se puede sumar los programas de arrendamiento que solo mediatiza la lucha por el acceso a la tierra, y que en otras palabras significa SUBSIDIAR LAS TIERRAS OCIOSAS DE LOS TERRATENIENTES, esto permite a los terratenientes ganar cantidades de dinero sin exponer

sus bienes, mucho menos que pase a los campesinos. Otro programa mediático del actual gobierno es el Fondo de reactivación de la Economía a campesinos afectados por la tormenta STAN, que más que ayuda es una manera de hacer proselitismo político a favor del partido oficial, donde en muchos casos se pierden los fertilizantes y resulta que los candidatos de la GANA concluyen entregándolo a sus bases para beneficiarse políticamente.

Ante este la CNOC exige al Gobierno de la República: girar órdenes precisas a sus funcionarios que presiden el Consejo Directivo del Fondo de Tierras así como al BANRURAL S A, suspender las demandas de desalojo en contra de adjudicatarios de Fincas que no han podido pagar la deuda con el Fondo de tierras, pero sobre todo jamás entregar las tierras a los terratenientes que las quieren consecionar.

Solicitamos tres demandas en nuestras negociaciones: para las categorías A y B, iniciar el proceso de Novación de la deuda que conlleve un sinfín de propuestas diferenciadas para cada caso y donde el adjudicatario sea tutelado por el Estado permitiendo mejores alternativas de pago.

En cuanto a las fincas categoría C, exigimos que en breve plazo se les CONDONE LA DEUDA, o en su defecto se les permita la PERMUTA DE TIERRAS y cumplir con los compromisos adquiridos en tiempo.

LA TIERRA ES NECESIDAD DE TODAS Y TODOS, Y DE URGENCIA NACIONAL.

Guatemala, 31 julio de 2007

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

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