



PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALAN PROJECT

MONTHLY INFORMATION PACKAGE - GUATEMALA

Number 47, August 2007

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1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

IMPUNITY

Agreement for the creation of CICIG is made law

Guatemala, 16.08.2007 (CA).- On 16 August Decree 35-2007 of the Republican Congress was officially published. The Decree, passed on 1 August, ratified the Agreement of Creation of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), signed by the Executive and the United Nations on 12 December 2006. Declared on the basis of national emergency and sanctioned by President Oscar Berger on 10 August, the Decree came into effect on Friday 17 August.

Efraín Ríos Montt appeals resolution in favour of release of military archives

Guatemala, 03.08.2007 (PL).- Efraín Ríos Montt's defence lawyers presented an appeal to avoid the declassification of four military plans executed during the 1980s. The campaign plans of Sofía 82, Victoria 82, Firmeza 82, Firmeza 83 and Operation Ixil contain data that could help in the investigation of the massacres committed by the army during the government of Ríos Montt.

War victims demand compensation in Baja Verapaz

Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, 11.08.2007 (PL).- More than 400 victims of the armed conflict occupied the regional office of the National Compensation Programme (PNR) in Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, on Wednesday 8 August, demanding the compensation payment that the Government promised them in April. The occupiers talked with the Coordinator of the National Compensation Commission (CNR), Rosalina Tuyuc, and with the Director of the PNR, Martín Arévalo, along with members of the office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH). The parties eventually agreed to periodic meetings and to establish the payment of the individual economic compensation; but after the national elections, in order to avoid misunderstandings.

Magistrate denounces tretas against delegates of the TSE in departments

Guatemala, 23.08.2007 (SV, PL).- The magistrate Roberto Aníbal Valenzuela denounced the fact that delegates of four departmental offices of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) had abandoned their positions due to intimidation and personal threats. The delegates took this action on 22 August after having complained for some time of violent acts, apparently politically motivated, against them in Estanzuela, Zacapa; El Estor and Livingston, Izabal; and Milpas Altas, Sacatepéquez.

Congress commission issues decree favorable to the Law for the Search of Disappeared People

Guatemala, 29.08.2007 (LH).- The Public Finance and Currency Commission of the Congress declared favorably to a proposed law which would create the Commission to Search for Persons, Victims of Forced Disappearance and Other Forms of Disappearance. The Commission will consist of the president of the Presidential Commission of Human Rights (COPREDEH), and representative named by the Commission of Human Rights of the Republican Congress, a representative of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC) and two representatives chosen by social and human rights organisations.

UVOC demands that the government investigates murder of campesino

Guatemala, 16.08.2007 (AC).- The Verapacense Union of Campesino Organisations (UVOC) demanded that the government speed up the criminal investigation of the intellectual and material authors of the murders of the campesinos Miguel Quib, Carlos Chub Che and José María Cu., and demanded that the process of eviction against the occupiers of the centre of the Mocca Estate, in Senahú, Alta Verapaz. The organisation holds the State responsible for events that have taken place on the estate, pointing out the following events: the violent eviction of more than 280 families on 1 February 2006; the assault four workers by private security guards on 4 February 2006; the assault on 8 July 2006 by 600 individuals armed and manipulated by the owners of the estate. This attack, in which the shots were fired indiscriminately, and machetes, sticks and stones were also used against the workers, resulted in eight people injured and one death, said the organisation. The leader José María Cu died on 6 August 2007, as a result of injuries sustained on that day.

LAND

Campesinos occupy seat of the Land Fund, demanding end to evictions

Guatemala, 01.08.2007 (PL).- Some 200 campesinos occupied the Land Fund (FONTIERRAS), in Zone 9 of the capital, on 31 July, demanding that the authorities drop orders to evict campesinos from estates. They also asked for the revision of real estate mortgage payments.

83 municipalities at risk of chronic malnutrition, says SESAN

Guatemala, 29.08.2007 (SV).- According to Delfina Mux, Secretary of Food Security (SESAN), there are 83 municipalities at risk of chronic malnutrition in children. The areas most at risk are found in the departments of the west, as well as Alta y Baja Verapaz. SESAN also warned that 79% of the country's more than 12 million inhabitants suffer from the condition.

GLOBALISATION

Concern in San Marcos for contamination of water by mining companies

Guatemala, 21.08.2007 (AC).- Members of diverse social organisations and of the church, including Monsignor Álvaro Ramazzini, Bishop of San Marcos; Monsignor Rodolfo Bobadilla, Bishop of Huehuetenango; la Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (AGAAI); the Association for Community Promotion and Development (CEIBA); the Association of Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI); and the National Indigenous and Campesino Coordinator (CONIC), among others, denounced the contamination by the mining company Montana Exploradóa of the Quivichil stream and of the Cuico river, in the north of the department of San Marcos. The organisations demanded that the authorities analyse the effects of the contamination on local communities, and called for an investigation of the working methods of the mining company in its Marlin project.

Three Central American countries sign free trade agreement with Colombia

Guatemala, 10.08.2007 (SV).- Presidents Oscar Berger of Guatemala, Manuel Zelaya of Honduras, Elias Antonio Saca of El Salvador, and Álvaro Uribe of Colombia, have signed a Free Trade Agreement between their four nations. The treaty was signed in the City of Medellín, Colombia.

Others: Elections

Indigenous organisations express concern about underrepresentation

Guatemala, 09.08.2007 (EP, PL, SV).- An analysis carried out by the organisers of a forum called "Maya Peoples and Presidential Candidates" indicated that of 753 parliamentary candidates competing in the five parties leading the polls, only 107 are indigenous. Of these, only 11 are included in district-level candidate lists, and none in national-level lists.

Women candidatures scarce

Guatemala, 24.08.2007 (PL).- Of 29,821 candidates standing in the elections, 3,762 are women, equivalent to 12.6%, a figure that could be even lower, according to the Organisation of American States (OEA). The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit (URNG) and Gathering for Guatemala (EG) are the parties with the highest female participation.

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), Daniel Carey (United Kingdom), María José Urgel Riquelme (Spain)

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:

- Luis Puga Reinoso, Auxiliary of the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (PDH), Cobán, Alta Verapaz

Diplomatic Corps

- Peter Linder, Ambassador, German Embassy, Guatemala City
- José Antonio Sabadell, Second in Chief, Spanish Embassy, Guatemala City
- Jean Louis Servais, First Secretary, Belgium Embassy of Central America, Guatemala City
- Suzanna Daag, Coordinator of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights in Guatemala, Delegation of the European Commission, Guatemala City
- Renate Holzer, German Service Cooperation, Deutsche Entwicklungsdienst (DED), Guatemala City
- Embassy Personnel, Swiss 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. During the month of July meetings were held with the following organisations:

Civil Society Organisations:

- Julio Cesar and Marco Antonio Castillos, Association Grupo CEIBA, Guatemala City
- Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso, Lawyer, Guatemala City
- Secil De León, Collective of Social Organisations (COS), Guatemala City
- Edwin Ortega, Coordinating Body of Guatemalan Unions and Popular Organisations (CNSP), Guatemala City
- Claudia Acevedo, Coordinator for Sexual Diversity, Guatemala City
- Carlos Paredes, Community Studies and Psychosocial Action Team (ECAP), Guatemala City
- Amílcar Méndez, "Runujel Junam" Counsel of Ethnic Communities (CERJ), Guatemala City
- Justo Mendoza, Coordinating Body of Indigenous and Campesino Organisations (CONIC), Guatemala City
- Claudia Samayoa, National Human Rights Movement (MNDH), Guatemala City
- Luz Mendez, National Union of Guatemalan Women (UNAMG), Guatemala City

International Organisations and Agencies:

- 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), Guatemala City
- Coordinating Committee on International Accompaniment in Guatemala (ACOGUATE), Guatemala City.
- Javier San Juan, Observation Coordinator, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OACNUDH), along with members of the Forum of International Non-Governmental Organizations (FONGI), Guatemala City ⁹
- Non-Violent Peace Force, Guatemala City
- Jens Glusing, German Journalist, Latin American Correspondent of "Der Spiegel", Guatemala City

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 2007. In August 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 2nd 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 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 August 2007 we have continued to accompany the UVOC in various activities and movements in Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz. We were present for the monthly negotiation meetings in Cobán (Alta Verapaz). 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 of 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 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 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 August we have continued accompanying Eloyda Mejía in her activities, specifically in workshops to train *campesino* leaders in various communities. We were also present in El Estor during this month.

Background: Eloyda Mejía 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 21st 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 Mejía'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 August we continued accompanying Madre Selva during several of their public events in the capital regarding environmental issues. We also accompanied a member of the Collective during awareness workshops in the municipality of Ixcán in Quiché.

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 August we also accompanied members of the association to an inhumation in the community of Paraxtut, Quiché.

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**. During August we were present during the tenth anniversary of the organisation in San Marcos. Our concerns continue regarding the case of Julio which exemplifies criminalisation of human rights workers in the country.

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 4th 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 August we maintained weekly visits to their office and accompanied Zulma during medical clinic visits and weekly movements.

Background: On 17th 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 22nd 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 August we regularly visited the office of the Women's Sector.

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 10th September 2006. During the month of August we continued to accompany Roly Escobar during his activities with CONAPAMG including a press conference to commemorate the first anniversary of the assassination of Carmen Sagastume, one of the founding members of CONAMPAMG. We continue to visit the office regularly and accompanying him during movements in the capital.

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 18th August 2006, Carmen Sagastume, another member of the organisation, was brutally murdered. Following this, on the morning of 10th 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 20th March we have provided accompaniment through regular visits to his office. During August 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 25th 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 20th 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 7th May 2007. On 17th 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 16th May 2007 we have intensively accompanied the person who suffered this grave incident. During the month of August we have continued with the accompaniment of this person in their daily movements from work and home and during visits to the PDH and the MP.

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, 7th 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 17th 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.

On August 1st we observed a demonstration of various organisations of the civil society outside the doors of the Congress of the Republic that were supporting of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). The CICIG was

passed in Congress that very day. Among the organisations that were present were, CALDH, Security in Democracy (SEDEM), International Centre of Human Rights Research (CIIDH), COS, Mutual Support Group (GAM), Women's Sector, Guatemalan National Counsel for Displaced Persons (CONDEG), Human Rights Office of the Archbishop of Guatemala (ODHAG) and the MNDH.

3. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA: OUTSIDE GUATEMALA

The Regional Representatives, the Coordination Office of the project in Madrid and other members of the Project Committee, as well as PBI national groups, carry out public relations campaigns with numerous NGOs, national governments and agencies, parliamentarians, etc. These meetings work to develop and strengthen the "Support Network" of the project, an tool that is indispensable in the functioning of PBI's international presence in Guatemala.

On 29 August, Kerstin Reemtsma, European Representative of the project, met with the German europarlamentarian Peter Liese, of the Christian Democrat Party, and member of the Centroamerican Delegation, in the European Parliament's headquarters in Brussels.

In addition, on 30 of August, Kerstin participated in a meeting also held in Brussels to follow up the conclusions of the Conference "10 years of the Peace Accords in Guatemala: Balances and Perspectives of International Cooperation", which took place in the Belgium capital on the 2, 3 and 4 of last May.

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.

Libertad de Acción y Pensamiento Derechos Fundamentales de la Democracia

Desde hace tres meses el Colectivo de Organizaciones Sociales inició una CAMPAÑA CIVICA para llamar la atención de la ciudadanía sobre los peligros que se ciernen en el marco del proceso electoral.

La campaña ha impulsado tres mensajes centrales "NO VOTE POR MILITARES" "NO VOTE POR EMPRESARIOS CORRUPTOS" y "NO VOTE POR MAFIAS Y CRIMEN ORGANIZADO" nuestra oposición y preocupación a que gente ligada a estos sectores pueda acceder al Congreso de la República, a las alcaldías municipales y/o a puestos de gobierno radica principalmente en:

- 1.- Miles de violaciones de derechos humanos (actos de genocidio, masacres, ejecuciones extrajudiciales y desapariciones forzadas etc.) fueron perpetradas durante el conflicto armado interno por militares. A pesar que estos hechos siguen impunes están presentes en la memoria de las víctimas y familiares que continúan exigiendo justicia.
- 2.- Históricamente el Estado ha sido por la Oligarquía Nacional como un medio para la imposición y defensa de privilegios y mecanismos para la acumulación y concentración del reparto de la riqueza así como el fomento de la corrupción.
- 3.- Durante los últimos años se ha puesto en evidencia el poder del Crimen Organizado y de las mafias, su infiltración y cooptación de la institucionalidad del Estado guatemalteco.

A estas razones se suma la debilidad del sistema de partidos políticos que se traduce en una pobre oferta programática y una oferta electoral de candidatos vinculados y/o con intereses de los poderes fácticos del país. La campaña impulsada por el COS ha promovido principalmente afiches y calcomanías los cuales han sido destruidos y pintados. Así mismo se intento transmitir spots radiales que han sido adversados y cuestionados sin ningún fundamento legal.

A pesar que los mensajes de la campaña no hacen alusiones personales ni tampoco institucionales hemos visto con preocupación que diversos candidatos y agrupaciones políticas que se han sentido aludidos con dichos mensajes han tratado de bloquear la realización de la campaña.

Es preocupante que a diez años de la firma de los acuerdos de paz, no se comprenda que uno de los valores fundamentales de la democracia es el derecho de la libre expresión del pensamiento y que la tolerancia política e ideológica son factores claves para la convivencia pacífica y el fomento de una cultura de paz.

Las actitudes asumidas por estas personas e instituciones que se han sentido aludidas reflejan la intolerancia, la prepotencia el autoritarismo y la cerrazón política que se vivió en el pasado. Pero fundamentalmente se constituyen en precedentes inaceptables que pretenden restringir derechos fundamentales de los ciudadanos.

Ante esta situación las organizaciones de Derechos Humanos firmantes

Rechazamos todo intento que implique una restricción de los derechos fundamentales de libertad de acción y pensamiento de los guatemaltecos.

Demandamos de los partidos políticos y candidatos una actitud seria, responsable y respetuosa de las posturas e ideas diferentes a las que ellos profesan.

**CALDH-CIIDH-COINDE-MOVIMIENTO TZUKIM POP-COS- ICCPG-
ODHAG- SEDEM-SECTOR DE MUJERES-FGT-
UNIDAD DE DEFENSORES MNDH-UNAMG-SERCATE-CNP TIERRA-**

LA ASOCIACION MAYA CAMPESINA JUN Q´ANIL, de Champerico, Retalhuleu, miembro de la Coordinadora Nacional Indígena Campesina CONIC, a la opinión pública Nacional e Internacional,

MANIFESTAMOS:

Ante la actitud represiva del Gobierno de la Gran Alianza Nacional GANA que solo utilizó los diálogos y negociaciones como pretexto y excusas para rechazar e incumplir con las Demandas de las comunidades para acceder a la Madre Tierra. El gobierno oligárquico en sus cuatro años de administración nos ha respondido con desalojos violentos y Muertes Extrajudiciales, tierra arrasada y genocidio, tal como el caso de Nueva Linda cuando 800 familias mayas y campesinas, exigimos tierra para trabajar y vivir, asesinaron extrajudicialmente a 9 de nuestros hermanos y hermanas, 32 capturados y encarcelados, con señales de tortura y 21 heridos y heridas de balas, convirtieron en cenizas 800 humildes ranchos donde vivíamos, mataron, quemaron y se llevaron nuestros animales domésticos el 31 de agosto del 2004, acto cometido por el ejército y la policía nacional "civil". Estamos conmemorando el TERCER ANIVERSARIO de este genocidio, donde no hay ni un responsable en la cárcel, mucho menos procesado por la justicia. La MASACRE DE NUEVA LINDA sigue en la IMPUNIDAD.

Ni con masacres, ni con represión detienen nuestra lucha y organización. Nuestra lucha continúa porque la necesidad por la Madre Tierra continúa. Han pasado tres años la masacre, el gobierno ha instalado mesas de negociación, hemos llegado a acuerdos, hemos hecho propuestas, todo se ha incumplido, hasta hoy día seguimos en la calle.

La Comisión Humanitaria de Alto Nivel, que se formó para el caso de Nueva Linda, presidido por Frank Larue, presidente de COPREDH no atendió la responsabilidad que se le asignó, demostrando su incapacidad y falta de voluntad política.

29 de Marzo del 2006, realizamos una Marcha Pacifica desde Retalhuleu a la ciudad Capital para insistir al Gobierno la atención a nuestra de tierra. El 30 de Marzo llegamos a la ciudad capital y nos unimos al Levantamiento Maya y Popular convocado por CONIC. El 31 de Marzo el Gobierno de la GANA nombro a Luís Felipe Polo, Asesor del Vicepresidente de la República Eduardo Stein y la Licda Claudia Villagran sub.Secretaria de la Secretaria de Asuntos Agrarios para atender nuestro movimiento, el Consejo Directivo de Fondo de Tierra emite el punto resolutivo 25 – 2006, para agilizar el proceso de resolución a la demanda, a cambio de suspender la Manifestación, el 31 de marzo suscribimos dicho acuerdo, hasta la fecha no ha tenido ni un cumplimiento.

La Asociación MAYA Jun Q´anil cumplimos de entregar todos los requisitos que se acordó en dicha resolución. Nos hemos reuniendo con el Secretario de Fondo de Tierra Ingeniero Carlos Alberto Avalos Ortiz , sin embargo ha jugado con el tiempo y la burocracia y se ha burlado de nosotros.

Nos indigna que la Comisión Negociadora, Coordinada por la Secretaria Asuntos Agrario ha rechazado 3 ofertas de fincas, supuestamente evaluadas por FONAPAZ, ponen diferentes pretextos con tal de no comparar las fincas. Esta es la expresión de la falta de voluntad.

Por lo tanto exigimos al Gobierno, atender nuestra demanda de tierra, porque estamos artos de tantos engaños, de lo contrario estaremos tomando nuevas medidas de hecho, porque las 600 familias no encontramos trabajo, la pobreza nos esta matando

Exigimos al Señor Presidente y Vicepresidente de la República, una audiencia de emergencia, para atender nuestra demanda.

Guatemala, 21 de Agosto, del 2007.

ASOCIACION MAYA CAMPESINA JUN Q'ANIL.

Santiago Itzep
Presidente

Blas Alberto Ordóñez
Vice Presidente.

Genaro Vicente
Secretario

Francisco Javier Avac.
Tesorero

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

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