



PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALAN PROJECT

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1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

IMPUNITY

Carlos Castresana named by the UN to direct the CICIG

United Nations, 15.09.2007 (PL).- The Secretary General of the United Nations (UN), Ban Ki-Moon has named the Spanish lawyer Carlos Castresana head the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). Castresana has considerable experience as a public prosecutor and judge in areas relevant to CICIG's mandate. He worked in the anticorruption division of the Public Prosecutor Office in Spain between 1995 and 2005, where he was in charge of "important cases" that were processed in Spain's National High Court and other instances. On 28 March, 1996, in name of the Progressive Union of Lawyers, Castresana presented charges of genocide, torture and terrorism against the Chilean general Augusto Pinochet, leading to the general's arrest and detention in London.

Congress receives proposal for the framework law on violence against women

Guatemala, 17.09.2007 (AC).- The women's movement presented the "Framework Law on Violence against Women" to the members of the Human Rights Commission of the Congress of the Republic's, with the aim of initiating discussion, and assuring the bill's presentation to parliament and prompt approval. The main objective of the proposed law is to establish the necessary legal basis so that the State can guarantee a life free of violence for women, as well as the classification of different types of violence against women, including femicide.

"Social cleansing" groups operating in Santiago Atitlán, Sololá

Guatemala, 24.09.2007 (EP).- More than 35 extrajudicial executions have been registered this year alone among the populations of Santiago, Cerro de Oro and San Lucas Tolimán, Sololá. The murdered people have been accused of corruption, drug trafficking, infidelity, rape, and others who, according to executioners, participate in witchcraft. The Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH) in Santiago Atitlán is receiving monthly more than 10 reports of death threats attributed to four groups, who are holding the population held in fear. There are only 20 agents of the National Civil Police (PNC) providing security for the whole municipality, which has a population of over 40 thousand.

Director of the National Civil Police abandons his post after the murder of five youths

Guatemala, 27.09.2007 (SV).- The Home Office Minister, Adela Camacho de Torrebiarte, requested the resignation of the Director of the National Civil Police (PNC), Julio Hernández Chávez, considering that his presence could affect the investigation of the presumed extrajudicial execution of five youths in the "El Gallito" district, in zone 3 of the capital. Those allegedly responsible are police escorts who worked with Hernández.

LAND

Campesinos commemorate third anniversary of the Nueva Linda Masacre

Retalhuleu, 01.09.2007 (AC).- Three thousand *campesinos* from various communities in Retalhuleu commemorated the third anniversary of the massacre that occurred on the Nueva Linda Estate, Champerico, with an event held in an area known as "El Zarco" located on kilometre 179 of the Pacific highway. The campesinos demanded that the government find a prompt solution to the land access problems and also compensation for the victims of the Nueva Linda Massacre.

CUC condemns the eviction of 10 000 families during the actual governments mandate

Guatemala, 12.09.2007 (LH).- The *Campesino* Unit Committee (CUC) estimates that approximately 10,000 campesino families have been evicted during the actual government's mandate. Rafael González, one of the CUC's leaders, named Quiché, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz and Izabal as the departments where the majority of the evictions have taken place. He said that those responsible were landowners that have the resources to hire people to intimidate the families.

GLOBALIZATION

CC Magistrates: Popular Referendums held in Zacapa and San Marcos are non-binding

Guatemala, 06.09.2007 (PL).- The Constitutional Court (CC) ruled that the popular referendums held in Río Hondo, Zacapa, and Sipacapa, San Marcos, where the inhabitants voted against the construction of hydroelectric dams (Río Hondo,) and the exploitation of minerals (Sipacapa), are not binding in the decision making process in these municipalities. CC magistrate José Quesada explained that the opinion of the population could be taken into account, but in no way should it be taken to determine the local authorities' decision, as that would constitute a constraint upon their independence.

OTHERS: ELECTIONS

21 women elected to congress for 2008-2012

Guatemala, 11.09.2007 (AC).- Female representation in the Guatemalan Congress will increase slightly in the next legislative session. In the current Congress women represent 8.8%, of the 158 members. In the next session there will be 21 women, representing 13.29% of the total number of members.

129 mayors' offices will be lead by indigenous people

Guatemala, 13.09.2007 (PL).- Indigenous participation in the current elections is reflected in local authorities, where "little by little, the political parties have respected and taken the opportunities of the leadership and potential of the indigenous population", said the Guatemalan Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (AGAAI). Of the 332 mayoralties, 129 will be lead by indigenous people, a slight increase from the 2003 elections, when 123 indigenous people occupied this position.

Electoral Observatory received 286 official complaints

Guatemala, 14.09.2007 (PL, EP).- Representatives of the Electoral Observatory, organised by the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH), the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Guatemala and San Carlos University, presented their report on the general elections of 9 September. More than eight thousand volunteers posted throughout the country received 142 complaints of irregularities in the voting centres, 28 complaints of active campaigning on voting day and 27 complaints of attempts to buy votes. Threats and intimidations, verbal and physical aggression, road blocks and violent behaviour were causes of other complaints, among which the mayoral elections in Villa Nueva, Guatemala and Ixcán, Quiché, featured heavily.

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: 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), Marion Sornay (France) and Maren Enders (Germany).

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 September meetings were held with the following authorities:

- Braulio Miguel Jochola, Official of the National Civil Police, El Estor, Izabal
- Agent José Luis Reyes Reyes, National Civil Police, Playa Grande
- Carlos Enrique Barrios Sacher, Mayor of San Marcos
- Axel Humberto López Anzuelo, Governor of San Marcos

Diplomatic Corps:

- Francisco Falçao, Ambassador for Central America (Portugal)
- Camila Krich, Researcher, British Embassy
- Jean-Pierre Villard, Ambassador (Switzerland) and Natalie Boesch, Mission Chief, Swiss Embassy

2.2 MEETINGS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

The PBI Guatemala Project team holds regular meetings with civil society organisations. This enables us to monitor the situation of human rights defenders and to exchange information on the work being carried out, as well as to gather information which helps us to develop our analysis of the internal political situation. During September meetings were held with the following organisations:

Civil Society Organisations:

- Arturo Chub and Pablo Zavala, Security in Democracy (SEDEM)
- Clara Arenas, Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences in Guatemala (AVANCSO)
- Eric Carrillo, Humanist Front 2007 (FREHU)
- Pascual Pérez, Episcopal Conference of Guatemala
- Marco Antonio Garavito, Guatemalan League of Mental Health

International Organisations and Agencies:

- Lorena Fernandez Alvarez, Catalan Agency of Cooperation and Development (ACCD) and Jaume Saura Estapà, President of the Catalan Institute of Human Rights
- Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG), Guatemala City.

2.3 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 September 2007 we continued accompanying him in his weekly movements around the capital and in other journeys, specifically to training workshops in San Juan Sacatepéquez and Panajachel, Atitlán.

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. We have continued accompanying them during September 2007 their office in Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz and their activities in Alta Verapaz. Also, we have accompanied them in activities in the capital. Our concerns continue regarding the security of members of the organisation, who continue to be the subjects of threats and suspected surveillance.

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 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 September we have continued accompanying Eloyda in her activities in El Estor, where we also observed the elections of 9 September.

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.

PBI has accompanied the **Madre Selva Collective** since June 2004 with regular visits to its office and has had frequent contact with its members during their work in different departments throughout the country. During September 2007 we continued accompanying Madre Selva, attending a number of their events in the capital on environmental issues.

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 received a series of threats after its publication. This situation 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 Coordinator of Guatemalan Widows (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 September we continued with visits to their office and also accompanied members of the association to an exhumation in the village of La Estancia, in the department of 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 September we accompanied Julio in his activities in the department of San Marcos. Our concerns continue regarding the case of Julio, an example of the tendency to criminalise 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. Nevertheless, the following month the Appeals Court in Quetzaltenango authorised more time for the further investigation of the case.

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 September 2007 we have regularly visited the office of OASIS and have accompanied Zulma in her medical appointments, her movements around the capital and her activities with OASIS.

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 September we have continued to visit their office regularly and have also been present during some of their activities in the capital.

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 September 2007 we continued accompanying Roly Escobar with regular visits to the association's office and in his activities with CONAPAMG. We observed an event in the community of Juan Pablo II in Zone 21 of the capital, held to commemorate the 6th anniversary of CONAPAMG and to celebrate the coming into effect of Decree 26-07, the Land Legalisation Law.

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.

The **Guatemalan Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (AGAAL)**. Since a break-in in the office of AGAAL on 20th March we have provided accompaniment through regular visits to the office and some movements outside the capital. During September we continued with frequent visits to AGAAL's office.

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 AGAAL 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 AGAAL for their work in supporting and accompanying the mayors 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 September we continued accompanying this person in their movements between work and home and in their activities in the capital.

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, defence 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.

In September 2007 we observed, as unaccredited observers, the general elections in the municipality of Playa Grande, Ixcán, Quiché, where there were fears of a repetition of disturbances that occurred during the 2003 elections. Fortunately, voting day passed without any grave incidents.

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, a tool that is indispensable for the functioning of PBI's international presence in Guatemala.

On 11 September Montse Garcia, Project Coordinator, and Maripaz Gallardo, Guatemala project support staff, participated in a meeting with the Human Rights Office of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Relations and Cooperation in Madrid. The meeting concerned the Sixth Session of the Human Rights Council and the 62nd General Assembly of the United Nations.

On 26 September Kerstin Reemtsma, European Representative of the Project, participated in the meeting of the Guatemalan workgroup of the Copenhagen Initiative for Central America and Mexico (CIFCA) in Brussels.

On 27 September Kerstin Reemtsma, together with members of the project support group of PBI Germany, met with the new Central American manager of German Cooperation, in Bonn, to whom they presented the work of PBI and the Guatemala project, and our concerns regarding the current situation.

On 28 September Montse García, PBI-Guatemala Project Coordinator, Susana Fernández of PBI-Spain and Guro Nilsen, European Representative of the PBI-Colombia Project, met in Santander, Cantabria, with José Félix García Calleja, the Cantabria regional government's General Director of European Affairs and Development Cooperation.

Tara Ward, member of the Project Committee, maintained communication with PBI Canada during this month in order to support them in their preparation of the quarterly meeting of the Americas Policy Group (APG), which will take place on 2-3 October in Ottawa, Canada.

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.

Asociación de Comités de Desarrollo Campesino

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ATENTADO CONTRA PRESIDENTE DE CODECA

El Comité de Desarrollo Campesino, hace su más enérgica condena por el atentado que sufriera el compañero Estanislao Calel Tzic, presidente de nuestra Junta Directiva, el día de ayer martes 25 de septiembre, eso de las 10 de la mañana en jurisdicción de Aldea Barrios, sector El Asfalto, del municipio de San Antonio Suchitepéquez por desconocidos que se conducían en un picop moderno tipo agrícola marca Toyota Tacoma con vidrios polarizados, al dispararle con un arma de fuego de calibre ignorado que no logró impactar en el cuerpo del compañero ni de la motocicleta en que se conducía, pero debió huir para resguardar su vida.

Estanislao Calel tiene 44 años de edad es actualmente uno de los más reconocidos líderes de CODECA, sobre todo en los municipios de San Antonio Suchitepéquez, San Miguel Panán, Santo Tomás La Unión, San Pablo Jocopilas, en este último, participó como candidato la alcaldía por el partido URNG-MAIZ.

En ese mismo lugar de los hechos, el pasado 6 de agosto fue asesinada la compañera miembro de CODECA, María Juana Xojolá Pelicó, de quien su crimen aún no se ha esclarecido pero que llevaba como mensaje claro la intimidación el terror hacia nuestros hermanos hermanas campesinos con ello evitar el crecimiento avance de las luchas del pueblo.

Este acto otros que tristemente cubren de rojo cada vez más páginas de los diarios noticieros de radio televisión, son la prueba más fiel de que nuestro país está a merced de las bandas armadas clandestinas que ejercen autoridad paralela al Estado que mantienen la zozobra en la población, por lo que es urgente que los mismos sean investigados, combatidos, desarticulados juzgados como la ley establece por el Ministerio Público Policía Nacional Civil.

Patentamos que este hecho no hará el más mínimo retroceso ni mucho menos detendrá el avance de la organización popular que impulsamos por una Reforma Agraria Integral, la justicia laboral, los derechos humanos el desarrollo rural.

Por lo anteriormente expuesto, hacemos un llamado urgente al pueblo en general y a las organizaciones pro derechos humanos nacionales e internacionales para manifestar su rechazo y exigencia de justicia y plena vigencia de la libertad de organización y movilización en Guatemala, además, su solidaridad con el compañero Estanislao Calel y nuestra organización.

Guatemala, 26 de septiembre 2007

ALIANZA DE COMUNIDADES INDIGENA Y CAMPESINA DEL NORTE

"Nadie nos manipula, solo seguimos las huellas de nuestros ancestros, que nos guían hacia la libertad total"

**A la Comunidad Nacional e Internacional
A las Organizaciones pro Derechos Humanos
A la opinión Pública en general
Se les hace saber:**

Posterior a las elecciones, las comunidades y cientos de familias Mayas Qeqchi de Alta Verapaz denuncian nuevamente la ola de atropellos de que son objetos por políticos y terratenientes de la zona y con la complicidad del fondo de tierras por la irresponsabilidad en el manejo de los casos de cientos de familias en el acceso de la Tierra. El día jueves 13 de septiembre cinco hombres armados fuertemente se

presentaron en la comunidad Excesos de Chitoc, del Municipio de Cobàn, Departamento de Alta Verapaz y por mas de media hora dispararon sobre las humildes viviendas de doce familias que ocupan la finca desde hace mas de ocho años. El fondo de Tierra realizó un geoposicionamiento de la finca y encontró un exceso de más de 18 manzanas y son las tierras que hoy se ocupan, pero el supuesto propietario Marvin García Buenafe, diputado actual y acaba de perder la reelección ha dado ordenes a sicarios a desalojar extrajudicialmente a las 12 familias de campesinos que viven en las tierras que ya esta comprobado que es un exceso. Al mismo tiempo amenazó a las familias y les dijo que les da ocho días para abandonar la finca o procederá a un desalojo. Ante tal suceso responsabilizamos al Señor García Buenafe de lo que suceda a las doce familias de campesinos que actualmente viven dentro de la finca. A las entidades de Derechos Humanos su solidaridad ya que creemos que se desata una ola de violencia en contra de la organización campesina.

Cobàn, Alta Verapaz, Septiembre 15 de 2007

**POR EL DERECHO A LA TIERRA Y AL SAGRADO MAIZ
NUESTRA LUCHA ES POR EL DERECHO A LA VIDA!**

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

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