



PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL – GUATEMALAN PROJECT

MONTHLY INFORMATION PACKAGE - GUATEMALA

Number 49, October 2007

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1. NOTES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

IMPUNITY

Justice: Court grants Menchú injunction to decide Spanish extradition orders of ex-military personnel

CERIGUA, 26 Oct, 2007. A court has granted an injunction to Rigoberta Menchú ordering the competent tribunal to resolve the Spanish extradition request of two ex members of the Guatemalan military, who are being prosecuted in Spain. The Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) of Guatemala informed the press that the judgment of the Second Court of Appeal instructed the Fifth Division Criminal Court to resolve the applications. The accused are Ángel Anibal Guevara, ex-Defence Minister, and Germán Chupina Barahona, director of the now defunct National Police (PN), both members of the government of General Romeo Lucas Garcia, according to a report of Emisoras Unidas,

Government reveals alarming femicide figures

Guatemala, 02.10.2007 (AC).- The Government Ministry, according to cases known to the National Civil Police (PNC), revealed that 377 violent deaths of women were recorded this year between 1st January and 2nd October. The poor and the young were disproportionately affected. The departments of the country most affected were Chiquimula, Jalapa, Jutiapa and Petén. According to the study Violent Deaths of Women and Children 2007, of the Women's Commission of the Congress of the Republic, the PNC has only achieved the capture of 12 supposed attackers, and no cases have been recorded in which the perpetrators were brought to justice nor sentenced.

European Parliament pronounces itself against “feminicidio” in Mexico and Central America

Brussels, Belgium, 12.10.2007 (PL de EFE-AFP-DPA).- The European Parliament has, by a significant majority, urged the European Union and its member states to grant a high priority to the struggle against the indiscriminate murder of women in the negotiations and agreements of association with Mexico and Central America. The resolution, based on the report “The murders of women in Central America and Mexico and the role of the European Union in the struggle against this phenomenon” of the Spanish europarlamentarian Raúl Romeva, was approved by 560 votes with only 4 against and 7 abstentions. The text of the resolution not only asked for a bigger commitment from the EU in the struggle against “feminicidio” but also urged the affected countries to redouble their efforts to put an end to the “impunity” and “all other discrimination towards women in national laws”.

LAND

Organisations demand Integral Agrarian Reform for national development

Guatemala, 01.10.2007 (AC).- The Coordinator of Non-Governmental Organisations and Cooperatives (CONGCOOP) and the Agrarian and Rural Studies Institute (IDEAR) jointly with a group of social organisations, demanded an Integral Agrarian Reform (RAI) to progress national development in Guatemala.

The key element of the historical demand is the allocation of land to *campesinos* who have no – or insufficient – land. The organisations raised the point that their demand was consistent with the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala, which guarantees access to private property for all Guatemalans, considering such access to be a right inherent to all human beings.

PDH: Rise in agrarian conflict

Guatemala, 06.10.07 (CDHG). – The central headquarters of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH) has received 50 reports of agrarian conflicts during the course of the year. According to Marco Tulio Álvarez Bobadilla, of the PDH's Research and

Analysis Unit, these include cases in which *campesinos* reclaim their right to land, but also landowners who demand the respect of their constitutional right to private property.

According to Álvarez, the State does not view the situation as a whole. A strengthening of institutional activities in agrarian issues is necessary, as is the good will of all parties, he explained.

GLOBALIZATION

Mining company announces extension of its residency in the country

Guatemala, 31.10.2007 (SV).- The company Montana Exploradora, subsidiary of Goldcorp, estimates that it will extend its operations in the country, more particularly San Marcos, beyond the 13 years originally envisioned. Recent investigations reveal reserves that offer the duplication of the quantity of precious metals.

Some environmental organisations have stated that the presence of the mining company contradicts 12 community referendums carried out in Huehuetenango and 5 in San Marcos, decrying the lack of supervision of the company's activities, declared the representative of the Environmental Coalition, Natalia Atz.

New roads of the Puebla-Panama Plan (PPP) will cause contamination and deforestation

Guatemala City, 01.10.2007 (PL).- The document "An environmental and economic analysis of the road projects in the Maya Jungle: A regional study", carried out by the Strategic Conservation Fund and Duke University of the USA reveals that the construction of 8 stretches of highway that form part of the Puebla-Panama Plan (PPP) will have negative and irreversible environmental and economic effects on the jungle of Petén. For example, the construction of the Caobas route, between Quintana Roo and Tikal would provoke the deforestation of 47 thousand 318 hectares in the Maya Biosphere Reserve within 30 years. One of the most grave aspects is that the increase in the fragmentation and accessibility of the Maya Jungle will increase the vulnerability of the ecosystem to disturbances like fires and hurricanes; increasing anthropogenic (human effected) pressures, such as the infringements on protected areas, the indiscriminate deforestation and the illegal traffic in species of flora and fauna, according to the 47 page document.

OTHERS: ELECTIONS

Analysts raise alert regarding presence of organised crime in political parties

Guatemala, 30.10.2007 (LH).- According to political analysts, the weakness of the political parties and of the electoral system have allowed organized crime and drug-trafficking to achieve a significant degree of influence in the recent elections. Sandino Asturias, analyst of the Security in Central America Study Centre (CESC), explained that the parties needed funds for their campaigns because the State does not finance them. In this sense, the powers behind organized crime and its interests play a key role in party finance because, due to the latter's lack of autonomy, they are likely receive funds from such sources, even though it may be "dirty".

Elected mayors to inherit debt from predecessors

Guatemala, 08.10.2007 (CDHG).- At least 147 mayor-elects, who begin their mayoralties on 15 January, will find themselves lumbered with unpaid debts of previous administrations. The sum of the outstanding debts is more than 1,143 million Quetzals (almost 102 million euros), according to the Institute of Municipal Development.

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), 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 October meetings were held with the following authorities:

- Monsignor Álvaro Ramazzini, Bishop of the diocese of San Marcos and President of the Episcopal Conference of Guatemala

Diplomatic Corps:

- Fabien Moury, First Secretary, Embassy of France
- Peter Lindner, German Ambassador

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 October meetings were held with the following organisations:

Civil Society Organisations:

- Luz Méndez, National Union of Guatemalan Women (UNAMG)
- Sandra Morán, the Women's Sector
- Claudia Samayoa, National Movement for Human Rights (MNDH)
- Andrés Cabanas, Journalist
- Arturo Chub, Security in Democracy (SEDEM)

International Organisations and Agencies:

- Coordinating Body for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (CAIG)

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 October 2007 we continued accompanying him in his weekly movements around the capital and in other journeys, specifically to training workshops in Panajachel, Sololá.

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 October 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 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 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 2007 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 October we have continued accompanying Eloyda in her activities in El Estor.

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 October 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 October we continued with visits to their office and also accompanied members of the association to an exhumation in the village of Xesic, Santa Cruz del Quiché 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 October we accompanied Julio in his activities in the department of San Marcos.

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 October 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 October 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 October 2007 we continued accompanying Roly Escobar with regular visits to the association's office and in his activities with CONAPAMG.

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 (AGAAI)**. Since a break-in in the office of AGAAI on 20th March we have provided accompaniment through regular visits to the office and some movements outside the capital. During October we continued with frequent visits to AGAAI'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 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 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 October we continued

accompanying this person in their movements between work and home and in their activities in the capital. We are worried by the surveillance suffered by members of the organisation during this month.

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."

2.4. 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 October 2007, we observed the public hearing held in the Second Court of Appeals (Penal Branch) in Guatemala City. The hearing for an appeal for the reactivation of extradition proceedings of four ex-army men and two civilians accused of crimes against humanity. The extradition order was requested by the Spanish National High Court last November.

We also observed the bona fide community referendum on mining that took place in San Sebastián, Huehuetenango, the annual 20 October march in the capital city, and on 4 October, we were present a march commemorating the International Day of Habitat, also in the capital. On 12 October we observed a march to mark the Day of Indigenous Resistance in Cobán.

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 4 October, during a visit to Spain, Maripaz Gallardo, support worker of the Project in Guatemala, met with Rosa I. Hernández del Campo, General Delegate Councillor for Social Wellbeing, Employment and Family, of Valladolid Council.

On 8 October, Montse Garcia, Project Coordinator, held a meeting with Fernando Fernández-Arias, Director of the Office of Human Rights of the Spanish Foreign Ministry.

On 15 October, Mayte Quesada, Project Administrator, together with the Coordinator of PBI Spain, Susana Fernandez, held a meeting with the member of Congress for Spain's *Partido Popular*, Jesús López-Medel. Mr López-Medel has visited Guatemala on several occasions, and participated as international observer in the elections on 9 September, as part of a Mission of the Organization of American States.

On 23 October, Kerstin Reemtsma, European Representative of the Project, together with Montse Garcia, participated in the meeting of the Working Group on Guatemala of the Copenhagen Initiative Network for Central America and Mexico (CIFCA) in Brussels. The following day they also attended the CIFCA General Assembly.

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.

EXCOMISIONADOS Y EX PATRULLEROS CIVILES
AMENAZAN A FAMILIARES DE VICTIMAS
DEL CONFLICTO ARMADO

En diferentes comunidades de Alta Verapaz y a raíz de las exhumaciones que deben realizarse para la recuperación de los restos de las víctimas, se han venido produciendo una serie de amenazas en contra de los familiares para que desistan de sus propósitos de exhumar o continuar con la tramitación de documentos para obtener el resarcimiento.

Es el caso de los familiares de las víctimas de las Aldeas Chix Balamté y El Chioyal, de Cahabón, Alta Verapaz, que han estado siendo amenazados y perseguidos por los ex comisionados militares de esa región. Concretamente se trata de las amenazas que han proferido los expatrulleros Antonio López Chub y Alejandro López Chub, quienes junto a otros, les han dicho que "no vuelvan a llegar a la comunidad porque los van a matar"

Varios de los familiares de las víctimas que sobrevivieron a las masacres que cometió el ejército en esa región a lo largo del año de 1983, se desplazaron al Petén para salvar su vida, y han estado volviendo a sus comunidades para hacer trámites de documentos personales que exige el Programa Nacional de Resarcimiento, así como para darle seguimiento al proceso de exhumación de sus familiares el cual está pendiente de ser realizado. .

Ya en otra de las comunidades como La Planada, en Chisec, de Alta Verapaz, los patrulleros no permitieron a los antropólogos y autoridades darle continuidad a las exhumaciones, obligándolos a paralizar los trabajos de exhumación de víctimas en uno de los cementerios clandestinos de la comunidad.

Famdegua exige al gobierno el control de los ex comisionados militares y expatrulleros civiles y garantizar la vida de los familiares de las víctimas.

Las exhumaciones son una obligación del Estado que las organizaciones de derechos humanos han asumido por la ausencia y despreocupación del mismo, y lo mínimo que puede hacer, es garantizar el desarrollo del trabajo de los miembros de las organizaciones y de los antropólogos.

Solicitamos también, la intervención del Programa Nacional de Resarcimiento en relación a la obtención de documentos legales de los familiares de las víctimas, para que, en las instituciones públicas, no pongan obstáculos para su obtención.

Junta Directiva

FAMDEGUA

Guatemala 17 de Octubre 2007.

CONDENAMOS ASESINATO DE NUESTRO COMPAÑERO Y ALCALDE AUXILIAR DE LA COMUIDAD EL TROJE, COATEPEQUE QUETZALTENANGO.

Condenamos enérgicamente el asesinato de nuestro compañero Manuel López y López, sucedido el domingo 28 de octubre en el caserío El Troje del municipio de Coatepeque, departamento de Quetzaltenango. El compañero fue asesinado de 15 impactos de bala por dos desconocidos que se conducían en una moto. Nuestro compañero era miembro activo del CUC y actualmente Alcalde auxiliar de dicho caserío.

El Comité de Unidad Campesina CUC, condena este hecho de violencia, la que pretende silenciar las demandas de las comunidades sobre el cumplimiento de sus derechos laborales en el campo y la ciudad, la problemática de la tierra.

En los últimos años, miembros del Comité de Unidad Campesina han sido víctimas de asesinatos, amenazas e intimidaciones por parte de los

diferentes grupos armados ilegales que se encuentran en distintas partes del país.

Los trabajadores y trabajadoras que procuran mejorar sus vidas mediante las actividades sindicales, organizativas ó comunales se enfrentan con crecientes niveles de represión e intimidación cada vez más en las diferentes regiones del país. Lo más preocupante, es que nadie de los responsables ha sido capturado, mucho menos enjuiciados.

POR LO QUE DEMANDAMOS DE URGENCIA

1. Investigación de estos hechos de sangre que a todas luces violaron los Derechos Humanos y que los responsables sean capturados y condenados con todo el peso de la ley.

2. Que estos hechos no queden impune y que el gobierno actual cumpla con las leyes Internacionales relacionados con el fiel cumplimiento a los Derechos Humanos.

3. Nos solidarizamos con las familias del compañeros caído y los instamos a seguir luchando por la paz y la democracia.

Guatemala

31 de octubre de 2007

COMITÉ DE UNIDAD CAMPESINA -CUC-

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

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