

# Monthly Information Package from Guatemala

Number 123 - December 2013

#### 1. CURRENT SITUATION

Monthly selection of news on the situation in Guatemala as highlighted by the press, related to the main thematic areas of PBI Guatemala's work: the fight against impunity, land issues and the negative effects of globalisation on human rights.

## Defend those who defend human rights in the Americas, International Day of Human Rights Defenders and Human Rights - 10/12/13<sup>1</sup>

During 2013, throughout the Americas, human rights violations against human rights defenders continued and in some cases intensified. Given this alarming situation fifteen years since the adoption of the United Nation's Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, it is imperative to call upon States to strengthen their protection efforts to ensure the full protection of those who promote, defend and protect our human rights.

In 2013 alone Amnesty International has documented dozens of cases of attacks against individuals working in defence of human rights throughout the region. Guatemala represents an example where verbal attacks against human rights defenders, in particular, have increased.

One of the latest attacks was recorded on November 26, when the Minister of the Interior, while in a meeting with businessmen in which these media was present, referred to official complaints by human rights defenders before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) as "blackmail and extortion, like those from street gangs." The next day the Minister said that he should not have referred to human rights defenders in that way and argued that what he meant was that "some organizations purpose is to generate conflict which leads to an ungovernable situation due to the influence they have..."

The commemoration the International Day of Human Rights Defenders should include a particular emphasis and concern for all types of attacks that human rights defenders continue to face. There is a wide range of attacks used to interfere or curtail the legitimate work of human rights defenders. These range from murder, death threats, kidnapping and the criminalization of their work through false law suits, illegal searches and defamation.

#### CICIG see mechanisms of impunity and abuse shelters preliminary hearings<sup>2</sup>

Iván Velásquez, the head of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), regrets that the constitutional protections originally in place for the protection of fundamental rights, are increasingly being used abusively as mechanisms of impunity and to hinder the Guatemalan justice system.

Mynor Franco, president of the Chamber of Appeals and Preliminary Hearings of the Supreme Court explained that most pre-trial actions "are spurious" and when directed against judges or magistrates "are used by the parties as instruments of intimidation" therefore stand against and block court judgments. The judge acknowledged that the vast majority of lawyers use the appeal "as a delay tactic against the administration of justice." Meanwhile, Claudia Paz y Paz, attorney general, said that the abuse of the said legal action becomes an obstacle to the prosecution and favours a review of these legal processes.

The Chamber of Appeals and Preliminary Hearings reported that in 2013 they received 2,114 appeals, while in 2012 there were 1,729. Known figures of preliminary hearings in 2012 were 352 and 428 in 2013.

#### Elections in Nebaj uncertain and extremely tense<sup>3</sup>

The repeat electoral process for Nebaj's mayor in El Quiché, is proving to be very tense and filled with complications.

http://conexihon.info/site/opiniones/palabra-libre/defendamos-quienes-defienden-los-derechos-humanos-en-el-continente-american

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and El Periódico 03.12.2013, http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/es/20131203/pais/239002/

<sup>1</sup> Conexihon, Amnistía Internacional, 10.12.2013

<sup>2</sup> El Periódico, 10.12.2013, <a href="http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/es/20131210/pais/239404/">http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/es/20131210/pais/239404/</a>

<sup>3</sup> Diario de Centro América, 18.12.2013, http://www.dca.gob.gt/index.php/template-features/item/25339-repetici

Elections for council of Santa María Nebaj, conducted in September 2011, are to be repeated at the request of the candidate Virgilio Guzman Bernal, of the Patriot Party, who claimed a violation of his rights.

In late November 2013, the president of the departmental electoral board of el Quiché, Odilo Jesus Lopez Gonzalez was killed. His body was found on Sunday, last December 1<sup>st</sup> inside a stranded pickup truck. Two other bodies were also found in the car; all three bodies were bound with their hands tied with black bags over their heads.

Uncertainty clouds over the date the elections will take place. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has changed the date three times already. First, December 15 was announced, but the current mayor and candidate Cobo Raymundo required a postponement, arguing that he and his political party did not have enough time to campaign and promote their image. As a result the tribunal fixed January 26 only to advance it to January 12<sup>th</sup> as residents requested that it be sooner rather than later.

#### **Other News**

#### Guatemalan organizations present report to Global Forum<sup>4</sup>

Member organizations of the Convergence for Human Rights presented at the World Forum convened by the UN. The organizations expressed concern in the increase and intensification of the criminalization and conflict that prevails in Guatemala. The root being the state's installation of a context that, on the one hand, heavily favours the extractive industry and hydroelectric projects and on the other is repressive towards community leaders.

According to Jorge Santos of the International Centre for Human Rights Research, in recent years there has been an increasingly repressive model of response to disputes over important issues such as: territoriality, the imposition of extractive companies and the search for truth and justice for human rights violations. In addition companies and their representatives are not limiting themselves to their corporate activities but also are going far beyond this influencing much deeper social processes as was observed during the genocide trial against General Efraín Ríos Montt.

#### High pregnancy rate in Santa Rosa⁵

In 2013, there were 1516 pregnant minors registered only in Santa Rosa, to the southeast of Guatemala, 131 of them less than 14 years. According to information published in Prensa Libre, Sandra Yanira Hernandez of the Department of Social Welfare of Women, attributed the increase to the fact that many adolescents are vulnerable to both sexual and psychological abuse and violence. Ms. Yanira Hernandez added that machismo in the home is a problem and in many of the cases, the girls were impregnated by close relatives. According to UNICEF, Guatemala is one of the countries with the highest rates of adolescent fertility in the world with a rate of 114 births per thousand women are from mothers between the ages 15 to 19. Half of these young woman start a union, either formal or consensual, before the age of 20.

#### Number of violent deaths on the rise<sup>6</sup>

Between January 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> 2013 there were 4,838 violent deaths recorded, that is 127 more than in the same period of 2012 according to the National Institute of Forensic Science (Inacif). According to the official data, October registered 419 homicides, while November showed a decline with 393 deaths recorded. However, the overall trend for the year is showing an increase in murders from year to year. Furthermore every progressive month is showing an increase in the category of murders cause by firearms, knives and dismemberment.

#### 2. ACCOMPANIMENT

PBI accompanies social organisations and individuals who have received threats for their work in the defence and promotion of human rights. In this context we are accompanying social processes in the fight against impunity, the issue of land and the negative impacts of globalisation on human rights.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> CERIGUA, 06.12.2013, http://cerigua.org/1520/index.php?

 $<sup>\</sup>underline{option} = \underline{content\&view} = \underline{article\&id} = 16696 : \underline{organizaciones} = \underline{guatemaltecas} - \underline{presentan} - \underline{informe-ante-foro-mundial\&catid} = 37 : \underline{derecho} \\ s-\underline{humanos\&ltemid} = 10$ 

<sup>5</sup> CERIGUA, 05.12.2013, http://cerigua.org/1520/index.php?

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<sup>6</sup> Prensa Libre, 04.12.2013, http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/Muertes-violentas-van-aumento 0 1041495861.html

<sup>7</sup> For general information and background on our accompaniments see:

http://www.pbi-guatemala.org/field-projects/pbi-guatemala/who-we-accompany/

This month we continued the accompaniment of the Central Campesina Coordinator of Chortí New Day. In December, we accompanied the organization on four occasions. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, we observed a workshop on the rights of indigenous peoples and the criminalization of social protests in the community of Las Flores, locotán. The workshop was led by Hugo Morales from CALDH. On December 11th, we observed the public forum titled "Chortí Women make gains in their demands from the Guatemalan State: Paradigmatic Case: Judgment falls in favour of five children whose right to food was violated". Magaly Cano, from the Guatemala Without Hunger Campaign, Ingrid Lorena Carrillo Ramirez and Carlos de La Torre from OHCHR and Omar Jeronimo from the Coordinator all helped present during the forum. The presenters underlined the sentence in this specific case of malnourished children and approached child malnutrition from a legal point of view. They focussed on this particular judgement's contribution to forming public policy on combating hunger in children. On December 14th, we attended an intercommunity meeting organized by the Suchiquer Coordinator. We also attended a rally in the community of Pellilo Negro on December 20<sup>th</sup>. On both occasions many members of the organization gathered to share experiences of community resistance in the region and to express the concern for the hydroelectric project Las Tres Ninas the communities of Camotán and locotán. The community members attest that this hydroelectric project was developed with no consultation or notice to the regional indigenous populations. It is worth highlighting the constant climate of intimidation that community leaders from the organisation are dealing with. Both times we were with Reverend José Pilar Álvarez, the ILUGUA representative. On December 13<sup>th</sup> we met with the mother of Carlos Hernandez, who was killed on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 ( see MIP n.114 ) to follow up on what happened to her son. She re-emphasized the need for the case to be resolved and full clarification of the facts in the case.

During the month of December we continued communication with the Twelve Communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez. We observed two of their weekly meetings in Santa Fe Ocaña. We also followed up on the

implementation of the State protective measures for the community member Chivocque Uluc Sian that were activated in November. We also met with members of the 12 communities on December 11<sup>th</sup> as part of the hearing on La Puya (See Resistance Pacifica La Puya). On the 17<sup>th</sup> we also attended Francisca Gómez Grijalva's press conference (See Observations) in which a community leader from the of the resistance expressed the solidarity between the 12 communities and noted the threat to freedom of expression shown by the case filed against a journalist by representatives of the company Cementos Progreso.



Demonstration in San Juan Sacatépequez, 13/7/19. Photo: PBI 2013

Just as last month, on the 6th and 13th December we were present at judicial hearings in which three members of the organistion are on trial for social protests carried out in 2011. On December 6th the hearing was once again canceled while on the 13th it was held in the Tribunal of Mixco. The tribunal opened proceedings against the three community leaders accused of posession, instigation, criminal activities and armed gathering – with this last accusation added by the judge in the hearing. The judge also suggested that the Prosecutor of San Juan Sacatepéquez open a new investigation against the community for their participation in social acts in 2011. The first presentation of evidence took place on December 19th. Members of the 12 Communities, including the defene attoneys, indicated that these cement factory.

This month we visited the **Peaceful Resistance of La Puya** on three occasions maintaining our international presence in the area. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> we provided accompaniment for three members at a hearing where the members have been facing charges of coercion, threats and false imprisonment, in which the judge declared the provisional closure of the case for two months and suspended the alternative measures for the defendants. In a similar situation we also

supported multiple members at a hearing on December 11<sup>th</sup> which was suspended due to lack of records. During this hearing we also met different members of other social organizations such as the CUC, the 12 communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez and from the 48 cantons of Totonicapán. All were present to stand with them in a show of solidarity for the community's resistance. On December 10 we observed the delivery of the annual award for the "Order Juan José Gerardi". This year Yolanda Oquelí from the Human Rights Office of the Archbishop of Guatemala (ODHAG) was honoured. During the month of December, the organisation's members repeatedly expressed concern towards the unusual presence of the army in the area near the encampment. They considered this a form of intimidation towards the Peaceful Resistance La Puya. There has been a marked increase intimidation and threats against their members recorded this month, especially directed towards Yolanda Oquelí.

This month we continue to have telephone contact with members of the **Association of Indigenous Women of Santa María de Xalapán in Jalapa (AMISMAXAJ)**. During a meeting, members of the association shared the positive results of Lorena Cabnal's tour of Mexico and the United States where she had presented the political situation in Guatemala and the status of women in the country.

In December we kept in touch with members of the **Peoples Council of K'iche** (CPK ) and **Cunén Communities** Council.

This month we maintained regular contact and meetings with various members of the Verapaz Union of Campesino Organisations (UVOC). During these meetings members expressed concern about the stagnation of the dialogue process to allocate land for the Finca La Primavera. They also highlighted the increase of rumours concerning arrest warrants against some leaders and also the possibility of a forced eviction in the near future. Community members of La Primavera also underlined an increase in surveillance, intimidation and threats. On December 11th and December 25th we visited the headquarters of the office and did meetings in the area. On December 16th we accompanied them to the Public Prosecutor's Office in La Tinta.

We held meetings during the month and weekly visits to the headquarters of the **Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala (UDEFEGUA)** where they updated us on the status of Monte Olivo, Barillas, Lanquín and other high conflict areas in the country. On December 11th we accompanied UDEFEGUA to the Public Prosecutor's Office in Cobán as part of its verification process of the violent events in Monte Olivo on December 8th (see Observations).

In December we continued accompanying the **Human Rights Law Office**. In particular we accompanied lawyer **Edgar Pérez Archila** during his travels and also held weekly visits to their headquarters. On December 12th we observed the forum "Can justice prevail in Guatemala? Lessons learned from the Genocide Trial" where a member of office gave a presentation on the legal and political steps taken in the case of genocide. We also accompanied various the lawyers to different court hearings.

On December 9th we accompanied members of the National Coordination of Widows of Guatemala (CONAVIGUA) in the framework of an activity against the hydroelectric project Xalalá in Uspantán. The objective was to deliver to the mayor of a protest letter identifying the possible consequences of hydropower in the territory that was signed by many communities in the area. The delivery of the document was not possible because of the absence of the mayor. During the month of December we held weekly meetings and site visits CONAVIGUA in the capital.

#### Follow up

During December we followed up with the Historical Archive of the National Police (AHPN) through phone calls and regular visits. Between January 2009 and November 30, 2013, the AHPN received more than 9,000 requests for digital copies of documents. The Public Prosecutor's Office had 3,258 requests, there were 2371 private, 624 from the PDH and 389 PNC (389). Many other individuals and organizations also made requests all of these requests amounted to the delivery of 250 016 documents and images.

#### 3. INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION

PBI Guatemala provides international observation of public events as requested by Guatemalan social organisations, to bring attention and

international interest and to communicate outside the country what we observe.

On December 5, we observe the **Defects and Benefits of Hydro Electrics in Guatemala Forum** at the headquarters of Madre Selva, in which the problem of building a hydroelectric plant in the community of San Buenaventura, Chuarrancho was addressed. The forum was attended by organizations, community members and company representatives.

On December 5, we observed the **press conference** organized by members of the **Xinka parliament**, in which they denounced the defamation and criminalization cases against its members by the government. They also highlighted a number of other situations in which human rights of the Xinka people were violated.

On 8 December there was an **emergency in the community of Monte Olivo**, when four community were attacked by other community members who, according to members of the resistance to the hydroelectric project Santa Rita, work for the company. PBI went to Coban to monitor the situation. On December 11 w accompanied UDEFEGUA to the Public Ministry in Coban to follow complaints (See UDEFEGUA) and we went to visit the injured people in hospital in Coban. On December 12, we observed a meeting between communities in resistance and COPREDEH in Alta Verapaz, at the headquarters of ADICI. The same day we met with several community of Monte Olivo, in which they highlighted their strong concern at the continuing climate of violence and threats in their communities. They highlighted the importance of establishing the facts around the deaths of the two children (See PIM n. 119).

On December 9 we were present at the **Annual Meeting of Defenders of Human Rights**, organized by the European Union, the Norwegian Embassy, the Embassy of Switzerland and the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, which numerous Guatemalan social organizations and representatives of the diplomatic corps attended. In this meeting the human rights violations that occurred in 2013 were highlighted and social organizations highlighted their petitions to the European international community, which pledged to follow up their complaints.

In December, we followed the case of the civil complaint filed by representatives of Cementos Progreso against Francisca Gómez Grijalva, a columnist for Prensa Libre, who exercising their right to freedom of expression, published an opinion column 6 February 2013 referring to the social unrest caused by the installation of cement plant in San Juan Sacatepéquez. On December 9, we observe a meeting between Francisca Gómez and members of the 12 Mayan Kaqchikel communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez and on December 17 we were present at the press conference of columnists at Casa Cervantes. On this occasion, member organizations of the Convergence for Human Rights, feminists, academics, 12 Kaqchikel Mayan communities journalists columnists, social organizations and Francisca publicly expressed their concerns about the conflict which the 12 communities face and which threatens the right of free speech and journalism in Guatemala that the complaint against the journalist represents.

In December we made our **annual trip to Petén**. Peace Brigades International Guatemala makes an annual trip to follow up with human rights organizations working in Petén. We take advantage of this trip to meet with organizations and follow up on some of their concerns. We met with members of the Cooperativa Nuevo Horizonte in Santa Ana. We were also able to reach El Naranjo, located on the border with Mexico and where the there is the pass to reach communities in the Laguna del Tigre. Here we met with members of the local initiative of the Recovery of Historical Memory (REHMI) who expressed their concerns about the lack of dialogue in negotiating cooperative agreements.

In La Libertad we met with the organization ACDIP and some members of the community Centro 1 which was evicted in 2009 from the Sierra del Lacandón National Park. The families of Centro 1 remain in a very worrying situation. According to the community it's been 4 years and they have had no follow-up by state institutions to their situation. They remain landless and the families who were part of the community are now divided between the municipality of Las Cruces and the municipality of La Libertad.

We also held meetings with La Otra Cooperativa and el Frente Petenero. In the municipality of Las Flores we met with some people of Nueva Esperanza community. The community was evicted in 2011 from the Sierra del Lacandón National Park. Following their eviction towards Mexico they were allocated land in the municipality of Las Flores. However they expressed concern that they have not been able to get any state support since the municipality does not recognize their land as community land but as private land. Therfore they are prevented from choosing their COCODEs

or other support from the government.

During this annual trip we also met with officials and state institutions. This time we met with the director of Fontierras, Aixa Marisol Aguirre, and the regional director of the SAA, José Manuel Mendez. In addition we held meetings with the regional management consultant CONAP, Abel Antonio Santos and CONAP Regional Director, Gustavo Morales Pinelo Israel.

We had the opportunity to meet with some people from NGOs such as Roan Balas McNab, director of the Wildlife Conservation Society and Jorge Soza Castillo sub - director of Defenders of Nature.

We met with the regional assistant Stuart Pugain the PDH and the PDH regional official in Naranjo - Diego Gaspar González .

In La Libertad we met Gustavo Diaz, Mayor of the Municipality La Libertad. We also passed by the PNC station in San Benito to meet Edwin Franco Suchite, Deputy Chief Commissioner of the PNC.



New land of Nueva Esperanza community, Petén, December 2013. Photo: PBI 2013.

#### 4. POLITICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

#### Meetings with the diplomatic corps, international organisations and Guatemalan authorities.

Meetings with national and international authorities are an important tool for PBI to make known our objectives and work. In these meetings, where this is necessary, we express concerns in a restrained way about critical situations we know first- hand from the work we do on the field.

This month we met with several members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations present in the country. On 16 December we met with Motsabi Rooper, HRO, Embassy of United Kingdom, to present our work and provide an update on our accompaniment work in different areas of the country. On 18 December we met Luis Rodríguez-Piñero Rojo, adviser to the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya, to update him on the issues where we accompany and particularly to share our concerns about the situation in the Twelve communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez, Monte Olivo and Chiquimula region (under the accompaniment of Campesino Central Coordinator Chortí New Day). On the 23rd of this month we met again with Luis Rodríguez-Piñero Rojo and Catalina Lleras from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Guatemala, to highlight our concern about the situation in Monte Olivo and the 12 communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez.

During the month of December we met with Guatemalan authorities and entities. On December 11, we held a meeting with Carlos Guillermo , assistant PDH Alta Verapaz , and COPREDEH staff in Alta Verapaz where we expressed our concerns about threats and assaults reported by the community population of La Primavera, in San Cristóbal (see Accompaniment UVOC) and the assaults in recent months in Monte Olivo (see Observations Monte Olivo , PIM n . 119 and 122). On December 15, we met with the mayor of San Cristóbal Alta Verapaz, July Romeo Suram Chun. We explained our role in the region with regards to our accompaniment of UVOC and the community of La Primavera and highlighting our concern regarding the context of threats and attacks in the region. Similarly we have met with staff of the substation of the National Civil Police (PNC) of San Cristóbal, Alta Verapaz, and in San José del Golfo, department of Guatemala.

#### Meetings with civil society organisations

The team in the field meets regularly with civil society organisations, with the aim of monitoring the situation of human rights defenders' human rights, to inform each other about the work being done and to gather information to help develop the analysis of the political situation. We coordinate aspects related to the field of international involvement.

In December we maintained contact with various organizations and personalities of Guatemalan civil society. We met Duilio Monterroso , of the Human Rights Office of the Archbishop of Guatemala (ODHAG) to put forward our concerns related to the various local contexts in which we develop the work of international accompaniment and observation. On 11 December we met with Joseph Cubur , of the Campesino Unity Committee (CUC) as part of our accompaniment to the 12 communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez. In the course of this month also regularly visited the headquarters of the Madre Selva and the Women's Sector .

Likewise, we had meetings with international social organizations in Guatemala . Throughout the month we maintained contact with the Coordination of International Accompaniment in Guatemala ( ACOGUATE ) and the Forum of International Non -Governmental Organisations (FONGI). We also met with Ramón Cadena of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) for an exchange on the situation in the department of Peten in preparation for the PBI exploratory trip (see Observations ) and to discuss the situation in the 12 communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez (see Accompaniments).

#### 5. ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA OUTSIDE GUATEMALA

Outside the country we constantly develop and strengthen the network of support for the Guatemalan PBI project, as this is one of the essential tools necessary to protect defenders of human rights. Regional Representatives, the Project Office Coordinator and other members of the committee and the Project Office and national groups of PBI, conduct public relations campaigns with many NGOs, agencies and national governments, parliamentarians and others. In this context we develop actions and public relations campaigns, and / or advocacy aimed at protecting defenders of human rights.

The European project representative participated from 2 to 4 December in the Second Annual Forum of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights in Geneva. On December 4 there was a meeting (again in Geneva) with Pedro Vera, the official responsible for Guatemala in the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. On December 5-6, the European representative also participated in the EU- NGO Forum on Human Rights, organized by the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels.

#### 6. NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

In this section we publish statements (some abbreviated) from human rights organisations in which they express their concerns regarding recent events.

Comunidad nacional e internacional: Cese de la censura y la criminalización a la libre expresión del pensamiento para las defensoras y defensores de los derechos de las mujeres y Pueblos Indígenas en Guatemala.

Petición creada por Feministas y académicas: "¡No callamos! " En solidaridad con Francisca Gómez Grijalva

En Guatemala hay un largo historial de amenazas y de represión contra el elemental derecho a la libertad de opinión y de expresión consignado en la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos, cuyo artículo 19 dice "...este derecho incluye el de no ser molestado a causa de sus opiniones, el de investigar y recibir informaciones y opiniones, y el de difundirlas, sin limitación de fronteras, por cualquier medio de expresión".

Nuevamente asistimos a un acto de prepotencia, misoginia y racismo en el marco de la tendencia criminalizadora de la lucha social; ahora de la empresa Cementos Progreso que pretende intimidar a Francisca Gómez Grijalva, columnista de Prensa Libre y una de las pocas mujeres indígenas que cuenta con una columna periodística, quien en ejercicio de su derecho a la expresión opina en torno a la situación de conflictividad que ha causado la instalación de una fábrica cementera en San Juan Sacatepéquez, comunidad kaqchikel cercana a la capital (Prensa Libre 6/2/2013).

Como feministas y académicas expresamos nuestra indignación ante la violación de derechos fundamentales reconocidos en la Constitución de la República de Guatemala y los procedimientos establecidos para los casos de libertad de expresión del pensamiento, recurriendo a maniobras aparentemente legales, con las que esta empresa pretende limitar el derecho a la libertad de expresión de Francisca Gómez, a quien reconocemos como una defensora de los derechos humanos, porque desde su columna de opinión recopila información, investiga y reporta violaciones a

los derechos humanos de los pueblos, de las mujeres y mujeres indígenas, a nivel comunitario, nacional y regional. Derechos consagrados en la Declaración de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho y el Deber de los Individuos, los Grupos y las Instituciones de Promover y Proteger los Derechos Humanos y las Libertades Fundamentales Universalmente Reconocidos.

#### Ante estos hechos:

Manifestamos nuestra solidaridad y respaldo a Francisca Gómez, columnista y académica.

#### Demandamos:

- A los tribunales competentes, que no se presten a este tipo de acciones que atentan contra el Estado de Derecho, puesto que la acción de Cementos Progreso es poco transparente en términos legales.
- Al gobierno de la República, que cumpla las medidas contempladas en el Plan para Protección a Periodistas, como parte de la estrategia de seguridad que recientemente presentó ante los medios de comunicación.
- A las organizaciones de mujeres, sociales, de pueblos indígenas, su solidaridad ante las intimidaciones y vulneración del derecho a la libre expresión y opinión.

Guatemala, diciembre 2013

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