



Monthly Information Package Guatemala

Number 250 - July 2024

1. THE CURRENT SITUATION

Monthly update 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 defense of territory.

UN High Commissioner deeply concerned about criminalization and prosecution

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk visited the Republic of Guatemala from July 16 to 19, as a follow up to the meeting he had with President Bernardo Arévalo during his trip to Geneva in February. During this visit, Türk met with the heads of the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), the Presidential Secretariat for Women's Affairs (SEPREM), the Ministry of the Interior (MINGOB), the National Civil Police (PNC), the Penitentiary System (Sistema Penitenciario) and the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (PDH). He also held meetings with activists and indigenous leaders, human rights defenders (HRDs), justice operators, civil society organizations, and survivors of human rights violations, as well as with people from academia, trade unions and business associations.¹

At the end of his visit, the High Commissioner concluded that he had seen "the firm commitment of the government of President Bernardo Arévalo to the rule of law, democracy, and human rights" and was pleased to see "the creation of an effective mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders" among his priorities. However, Türk stated that "for a State to function, the three powers must work in harmony. And at the moment, this is not happening." Quoting one of the human rights defenders he met with, he stated that "democracy is still in danger. We must do whatever it takes to change the status quo." Among the most important challenges he highlighted are: "gender inequality and violence against women and girls, the discrimination, racism and inequality faced by the Maya, Xinka, and Garifuna indigenous peoples; the high number of evictions taking place; the lack of recognition of the collective rights of indigenous peoples; etc." He also noted his deep concern for "the improper use of criminal legislation for the purposes of persecution of human rights defenders, justice operators, journalists, students, and indigenous authorities." "Dozens have been criminalized and face judicial proceedings based on spurious arguments. More than 50 have been forced to leave the country fearing for their safety and living in exile." He therefore urged "the Attorney General to take the necessary measures to put an immediate end to this persecution. All exiles should be able to return in dignity and safety."² However, in a press conference Türk "informed that the Attorney General, Consuelo Porrás, internationally accused of leading the persecution of justice operators and of having tried to reverse the 2023 electoral results, cancelled their meeting at the last minute."³

After a second sentence against her, Virginia Laparra goes into exile to save her life

On July 18, Virginia Laparra, former head of the Special Prosecutor's Office against Impunity (FECI) in Quezaltenango and an Amnesty International prisoner of conscience, made public her decision to go into exile to save her life. She did so through a letter signed the previous day, in which she began by saying that no one should have to suffer what she has suffered. She has been arbitrarily detained for two years and subjected to inhumane treatment. The judicial persecution began in 2017 and "threatens to continue without stopping" to this day, having been unjustly convicted twice. In her letter she also pointed out that the only reason she has been subjected to all this, is for doing her work independently and keeping her dignity intact.⁴

¹ García, O., [Alto comisionado de derechos humanos dialoga con Arévalo sobre los "obstáculos" que enfrenta la democracia](#), Prensa Libre, 16.07.2024.

² Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos, [El Jefe de Derechos Humanos de la ONU Volker Türk concluye su visita oficial a Guatemala](#), 19.07.2024.

³ Morales, R., [Alto comisionado de la ONU califica de preocupante la criminalización política en el país](#), Agencia Guatemalteca de Noticia, 19.07.2024.

⁴ Maldonado, A., [«Yo, Virginia Laparra, decidí salir al exilio para preservar mi vida»](#), Agencia Ocote, 19.07.2024.

"Laparra was in prison between 2020 and 2022, for a case relating to an alleged case of abuse of power that was prompted by a complaint by Judge Lester Castellanos, who has several corruption charges against him, as well as a sanction by the United States. Last week the lawyer was sentenced to a five-year commutable prison term for allegedly disclosing confidential information from a case in 2017." During her stay in prison, Laparra's defense and international organizations denounced violations to her rights and health complications that the authorities did not attend to in a timely manner."⁵

The "two criminal proceedings against Laparra have been led by the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) under Consuelo Porras, with former judge Lester Castellanos acting as the alleged victim. In addition, in both cases, the judges allowed the lawyer Omar Barrios and the Foundation Against Terrorism (FCT) to form part of the prosecution through their representative Ricardo Méndez Ruiz. Porras, Castellanos, Barrios and Méndez Ruiz are on the "Engel list", a registry of Guatemalan, Honduran and Salvadoran citizens accused by the United States of being anti-democratic actors and promoting corruption."⁶

"On March 8, President Bernardo Arévalo presented Laparra with an award for his excellent work during an official ceremony held at the National Palace of Culture".⁷

Arbitrariness and judicial persecution continue in the José Rubén Zamora case.

The hearing for the review of journalist José Rubén Zamora's alternative measures was scheduled for Monday, 22 July, but was cancelled for the sixth time in recent months. Reporters Without Borders calls on the government of Bernardo Arévalo and Supreme Court President Oscar Cruz Oliva to take a stand against the abusive maneuvers that have cruelly and unjustly prolonged the pre-trial detention of the journalist, who has been in prison for more than 720 days. The decision to extend the hearing was made on the basis of a complaint filed by Ricardo Méndez Ruiz, director of the FCT, for the alleged collusion between the judge and Zamora so that the journalist would be released, all without the presentation of any evidence. The magistrate denied the accusation and argued that the complaint would be taken to a higher court to avoid any suspicion about her impartiality. The maneuver could cause the hearing to be delayed for several months.⁸

National and international entities have expressed concern about the delays in the process against Zamora.⁹ The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention considers the journalist's deprivation of liberty to be arbitrary and that it contravenes six articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.¹⁰ They have also stated that, considering all the circumstances of the case, the appropriate remedy would be to release Mr. Zamora immediately and to grant him an effective right to compensation and other forms of reparation, in accordance with international law.¹¹ The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) notes that Zamora, 67, has been deprived of light, water and sleep, subjected to "sadistic ceremonies of humiliation" and unnecessary restrictions, and "has been detained in unsanitary conditions that pose a danger to his physical health and well-being."¹²

The journalist completed two years of imprisonment on July 29¹³ and currently there are two criminal proceedings and three incidents that are keeping him in prison.

IACHR warns of "abusive use of the penal system" and recommends examining the independence of the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP)

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) visited Guatemala from July 22 to 26, under the invitation of the government of Bernardo Arévalo, to examine "issues facing the country such as judicial

⁵ Agencia Guatemalteca de Noticias, [Exfiscal anticorrupción sale al exilio en medio de persecución en su contra](#), 18.09.2024.

⁶ Maldonado, A., Op. Cit.

⁷ Agencia Guatemalteca de Noticias, Op. Cit.

⁸ Reporters Without Borders, [Guatemala: Jose Rubén Zamora's hearing postponed for sixth time amid international allegations of arbitrariness, abuse, torture and ill-treatment](#), 24.07.2024.

⁹ Barrientos, M., [Audiencia de Jose Rubén Zamora es aplazada por sexta vez y ratifican denuncia contra juez Jimi Bremer](#), Prensa Libre, 25.07.2024.

¹⁰ Arroyo, L., [La ONU considera arbitraria la detención de José Rubén Zamora y pide su inmediata liberación](#), El País, 2.07.2024.

¹¹ Grupo de Trabajo sobre la Detención Arbitraria, [Opiniones aprobadas por el Grupo de Trabajo sobre la Detención Arbitraria en su 99° período de sesiones, 18 a 27 de marzo de 2024](#), 17.05.2024.

¹² Committee to Protect Journalists, [Llamado urgente a la ONU dice que el periodista José Rubén Zamora fue torturado y debe ser liberado](#), 19.07.2024.

¹³ Valdez, A., [Accionan ante la ONU para solicitar la liberación de Jose Rubén Zamora](#), Prensa Comunitaria, 18.07.2024.

independence and human rights, two issues that have been affected under previous administrations and which "increased" during the administration of former President Alejandro Giammattei."¹⁴

A press conference was held at the end of the visit in which the Chair of the IACHR, Roberta Clarke, presented the main conclusions and recommendations. Clarke explained that they received information on human rights from various sectors. Among the issues highlighted were the high levels of violence against women and girls as well as the lack of public policies to end discrimination against LGBTQ+ people. Regarding indigenous peoples, she pointed out that "they experience high levels of poverty, precarity, uncertainty, land dispossession and discrimination." The Commission found that the criminal justice system has been used against human rights defenders, as well as against those who have participated in or continue to participate in peaceful protests and social mobilizations in defense of democracy and the rule of law, or who have been part of the fight against corruption and impunity. The IACHR confirmed that there is an "abusive use of the penal system" against justice operators, human rights defenders, legislators, journalists, students, teachers and even against Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo and Vice President Karin Herrera." The commission was alarmed by "the enormous number of people who have been, or continue to be under investigation by the Public Prosecutor's Office, a practice which has intensified since the departure of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) in 2019." As such, of all the recommendations they made it is worth highlighting the recommendation to "release people who are in pretrial detention criminalized for the exercise or defense of human rights, and conducting an independent review of the functioning of the Public Prosecutor's Office and its impact on human rights"¹⁵ as well as to reestablish the institutional framework created in the framework of the 1996 Peace Accords.¹⁶

2. ACCOMPANIMENTS¹⁷

*PBI accompanies social organizations 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, land inequality and defense of territory.*¹⁸

THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY

This month we continued accompanying the **Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR)** to the hearings of the "Ixil Genocide" case against Manuel Benedicto Lucas García, former Chief of Staff of the Guatemalan Army and brother of former de facto president Fernando Romeo Lucas García (1978-1982). We observed three hearings. The Tribunal heard, on July 9 and 23, expert reports on the exhumations of skeletons found and identified in the Ixil region, many of which belonged to women and children. On July 16, members of the Ixil population presented testimonies regarding the maneuvers and the military presence in the region.

Regarding the **Association of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared of Guatemala (FAMDEGUA)**, this month we accompanied them to the Supreme Court of Justice, alongside the **Human Rights Law Firm (BDH)** and the Center for Legal Action on Human Rights (CALDH), for the public hearing regarding the injunction filed by the accused Toribio Acevedo, them within the framework of the **Diario Militar (DM)** case. The hearing involved the presentation of the plaintiffs against the injunction presented by Acevedo, who alleged that the substitute measures that were granted and later revoked were unconstitutional. We also accompanied FAMDEGUA and Jennifer Harbury in the **Bámaca** case. Harbury was visiting Guatemala for her testimony at the oral hearing in the case of the forced disappearance of her husband, Efraín Bámaca Velásquez, perpetrated in 1992. Before the



¹⁴ España, D., [CIDH en Guatemala: Comisión iniciará semana de observación sobre independencia judicial y derechos humanos](#), La Hora, 21.07.2024.

¹⁵ AP, [CIDH concluye visita a Guatemala con recomendación de examinar la independencia de la fiscalía](#), 26.07.2024.

¹⁶ Najarro, F., García, O., [CIDH advierte "uso abusivo del sistema penal" en Guatemala y da 10 recomendaciones](#), Prensa Libre, 26.07.2024.

¹⁷ We maintained regular contact with accompanied organizations who are not specifically mentioned in this section, but there are no activities to highlight.

¹⁸ See our website for general information on organizations and individuals we accompany: <https://pbi-guatemala.org/en/groups-and-individuals-currently-accompanied-pbi>

hearing began, the judge received notification of an injunction appeal, which was final, even though the judge herself had no prior knowledge of the existence of a provisional appeal. Despite recognizing irregularities in the process, the judge decided to suspend the hearing of the testimonial statement to await the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court (CC).

As part of our accompaniment of the **Luz Leticia case**, we accompanied the family to a hearing relating to new charges, which was again suspended due to two appeals filed by the defense of the accused, Cifuentes Cano. Without knowing the status of the injunctions, the judge rescheduled the hearing for three months and set a new date for October 31, 2024. This makes three hearings that have been cancelled consecutively in the last three months.

We accompanied the **Human Rights Law Firm (BDH)** to 6 hearings:

- Four hearings in the continuation of the oral and public debate in the Hogar Seguro case, where the last recordings of the testimonies of the surviving minors were heard and the recordings of other testimonies of adults related to the case were heard.
- One hearing regarding the Semuc Champey case, where the BDH presented six memorials before the Sixth Court of Appeals of Cobán, in the context of the appeal presented by the MP against the previous sentence in which the innocence of the criminalized persons was declared. They also presented a plea in relation to this case.
- One hearing to submit an appeal in the Sofía case, where a Poqomchí defender of land and territory, who was accused and convicted as an accomplice for the crime of invasion of protected areas, in a sentence with numerous formal and substantive irregularities.



We also accompanied the BDH to the headquarters of the MP in Lanquín (Alta Verapaz), regarding the case of criminalization that a person from the Santa Maria Semuc community has been subjected to for years, for peacefully defending the rights of the communities in the Semuc Champey area. The conciliatory meeting that should have taken place, due to the aggressions suffered by the family of this defender, was suspended due to the fact that the counterpart alleged illness.

THE ISSUE OF ACCESS TO LAND

This month we also visited the South Coast, where we met with members of the **Community Council of Retalhuleu (CCR)** who updated us on the situation in the region. We accompanied its Board of Directors to several meetings with some of the Council's member associations, including the Association of Organised Residents of the Candelaria Community, and the Integrated Association of Farmers and Fishermen's Asociación of Champerico (ASOGRIPEZDICH). The lack of water and the pollution of wells and rivers caused by the extension of sugarcane monoculture and shrimp farming continue to have a significant impact on the lives of peasant families, both in the domestic use of water and in the development of their planting and fishing activities.

In the Department of Chiquimula, we accompanied the **Maya Ch'Orti Indigenous Council of Olopa** to an initial hearing in the case of criminalization against eight people from Olopa, which was cancelled. The lawyers of the technical defense requested a review of the precautionary measures for the defendants who must still go to the court to sign the register, alleging the economic cost and the physical, emotional and psychological toll caused by the delays in the process. This revision of measures was accepted by the judge. We also met with members of the **indigenous community of San Francisco Quezaltepeque**, who updated us on the problems of the region in relation to their struggle for the recovery of their ancestral lands. They also shared with us their concern about the threats and criminalization processes they face for their work in defense of their rights.

In the department of Guatemala we attended an event to mark the "Presentation of the historical titles of the communal lands of the **Maya Poqomam people of Santa Cruz Chinautla.**" The community was presented with the research initiated in 2018 with the support of the lawyer Juan Carlos Pelaez, which includes title certificates dated from the years 1753 and 1899, which demonstrate the registration of the lands in the name of the common people of Chinautla. We also accompanied the Peaceful Resistance of Chinautla during the visit of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to the Poqomam territory, where the delegation was able to observe the difficult situation and listen to the indigenous authorities explaining the various problems they face in the territory: impacts of clay extraction pits, clandestine dumps and pollution of the Las Vacas and Chinautla rivers.



DEFENSE OF THE TERRITORY

We continued our accompaniment of the **Community Council of the Highlands (CCDA) - Las Verapaces Region.** We met with one of their coordinators and accompanied her on a visit to the house where the families of the evicted community of Las Pilas are currently living.

With respect to the **Union of Peasant Organizations Las Verapaces (UVOC)**, this month we accompanied the women of the Ixoc Mayaj association, who are members of UVOC, to their training workshops. The women meet every two months to discuss issues related to the defense of land and territory and the role they play in this struggle. We also held our regular meetings with the general coordinator, Carlos Morales, and other members of the organization, to follow up with and receive updates on their security situation and the work in defense of access to land that they carry out, especially in the context of the actions that UVOC is leading together with other indigenous and peasant organizations. In both spaces we were able to update on the worrying situation of evictions in the Verapaces.

3. POLITICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

Meetings and other contact with the diplomatic bodies, international organisations and Guatemalan authorities.

Meetings with national and international authorities are an important way for PBI to make known what we do and what our objectives are. Through these meetings, where necessary and in a reserved manner, we share our concerns about worrying situations that we have witnessed first-hand from the work we do in the field.

In our dialogue with the diplomatic corps and with international organizations present in Guatemala, this month we met with:

- Paolo de Nicolo, **Italian Ambassador.**
- Robertha de Beltranena, Program Officer from the **Swiss Embassy.**
- Sebastian Palou, Head Councillor at of **Argentinian Embassy.**
- Misha B. McDonald, Political Affairs Officer at the **U.S. Embassy** and Nidia Melisa Portillo Nájera of USAID Guatemala's Office of Democracy and Governance.
- Sara Lodi, Alexandra De Almeida, Victoria Pologuerra and José González, officials from the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).**

With respect to our dialogue with Guatemalan authorities, this month we met with:

- Claudia Samayoa, from the Human Rights Department of the **Ministry of the Interior.**
- Jaqueline Valenzuela and Fernando Trabanino, from the **National PDH office.**
- Alejandro Reyes, from **the Special Investigations Department of the PDH.**

- Moises Salvador, Inspector of Substation 34-12 of the **PNC of Champerico**.
- Minor López, Deputy Commissioner of the **PNC of Retalhuleu**.
- Carlos, Officer of the **PDH in Retalhuleu**.
- Engineer Fernando Mazariegos, **Governor of Retalhuleu**.
- Óscar Victorino, Municipal Secretary from the **Municipality of Retalhuleu**.
- Elman Ronaldo Vix, **Governor of Baja Verapaz**.
- Dilia Margarita Co Coy, **Governor of Alta Verapaz**.
- Julio Santiago López Hernández, Chief of Services at the 51st Police Station of the **PNC Department in Alta Verapaz** (Cobán).
- Jorge Chávez and Jorge Pérez, Inspectors at the 52nd Precinct of the Departmental office of the **PNC in Baja Verapaz** (Salamá).
- Gilma Liseth López Escobar, Chief of Services of the 23rd Police Station of the **PNC Department in Chiquimula**.
- Olinda Mo, Duty Officer of the **PDH in Alta Verapaz**.

4. INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION

PBI Guatemala is present in international public events when requested to do so by Guatemalan social organisations, in order to show international attention and interest and in order to report internationally on what we observe.

On July 28 we observed the **peaceful march** carried out by the **Residents Association of Chicoyogüito, Alta Verapaz (AVECHAV)**, to remember the violent eviction experienced by the Chicoyogüito community on July 28, 1968 at the hands of the army. The march began at the entrance of Cobán and ended at the military zone N°21, a place known today as CREOMPAZ (Centro Regional de Entrenamiento de Operadores de Mantenimiento de Paz). The march was also accompanied by the Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders of Guatemala (UDE-FEGUA), OHCHR and the PDH. 56 years after these painful events, the survivors are still living in extreme poverty and scattered across different regions of the country. This was the first peaceful march after a pause three years, due to the criminalization experienced by 21 members of the Association. They also condemned the forced disappearances and tortures experienced at the time and demanded the State the restitution of their ancestral lands and the fulfillment of the Peace Agreements. The installation of military base 21 resulted in the eviction, dispossession, uprooting, forced labor and death for the Q'eqchi, Poqomchi and Achi peoples. Exhumations of the site were carried out between 2012 and 2014, during which the skeletons of 553 people were found in the 85 graves that were opened in the clandestine cemetery located within what is now CRE-OMPAZ.



5. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA

On July 2 and 3, we held a **security workshop** in Santa Catalina La Tinta (AV) with young people from the Caquiha I community, with the participation of eight women and 12 men. The workshop was divided into two parts: a legal clinic on the rights of indigenous peoples, facilitated by the Q'eqchi' lawyer Santiago Choc Cú and a workshop led by the Q'eqchi' human rights defender and security expert, Arturo Chub Ical, who presented on security strategies for the defense of rights with a focus on gender and youth rights.

6. 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.

This month the European Representative of the project participated in the 17th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva and in an informal session of the Working Group of the Council of the European Union on Latin America COLAC. She also held meetings with:

- Ramón María Muñoz Castro, Counselor to the United Nations of the **Permanent Representation of Colombia in Geneva**.
- Alfred Cunningham, member of the **United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, with Belén Rodríguez de Alba Freiria, Coordinator of the Mechanism's Secretariat and Arturo Requesens-Galnares, Human Rights Officer at **the section on indigenous peoples and minorities, rule of law and non-discrimination at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**.
- Pierre Mlnard, First Secretary to the **European Union Delegation in Geneva**.
- Lilit Bikoghosyan and Francisca Mararena Orrego, **Human Rights Officers at the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**.
- Alexia Ghyoot, Coordinator of the Responsible **Business Conduct Section** and member of the Secretariat of the **UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights**.
- Sophie Helle, Human Rights Officer at the office of the **UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders**.
- *Mariya Stoyanova, Human Rights Officer at the office of the **UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing**.*

7. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

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



CIDH en Guatemala Víctimas de graves violaciones a los derechos humanos y organizaciones denuncian retrocesos en el acceso a la justicia

Ciudad de Guatemala. 24 de julio de 2024

Las y los integrantes de la *Mesa de Supervisión de Cumplimiento de Sentencias de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos contra el Estado de Guatemala* valoramos positivamente la visita que realiza la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH) a Guatemala para monitorear *in situ* la situación de derechos humanos en el país.

En el marco de los diálogos sostenidos sobre memoria, verdad y justicia hemos denunciado que el derecho de acceso a la justicia sigue siendo una deuda histórica del Estado guatemalteco, tal como lo refleja el estado de cumplimiento de las 14 sentencias que la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (Corte IDH) ha emitido por graves violaciones cometidas durante el conflicto armado interno.

A pesar de algunos avances logrados en la década anterior, la impunidad aún impera en el país. Los casos de graves violaciones que están en la jurisdicción nacional siguen evidenciando problemas estructurales históricos como faltas a la debida diligencia, la inacción de la fiscalía y el incumplimiento del deber reforzado de investigar los crímenes de lesa humanidad. A este panorama se añaden enormes retrocesos en los últimos 8 años en virtud de las dinámicas de obstaculización activa de las investigaciones, permisividad y complicidad de personas juzgadoras en el uso malicioso de recursos, decisiones judiciales abiertamente ilegales y contrarias a obligaciones internacionales y la amenaza permanente de iniciativas de leyes de amnistía en procura de impunidad para los perpetradores. Preocupa que incluso se continúen realizando resarcimientos a ex militares y militares señalados por delitos de lesa humanidad.

Sumado a lo anterior, fiscales, jueces, abogados defensores e incluso las propias víctimas, sufren denuncias, criminalización, actos de intimidación, campañas de desprestigio y estigmatización. La salida forzada al exilio de jueces y juezas independientes ha generado graves retrocesos en los casos que tenían a su cargo. Hoy, la cooptación del sistema de justicia pone en riesgo el cumplimiento de las sentencias de la Corte IDH y en general el Estado de Derecho.

Hemos solicitado a la Comisión que en sus diálogos con el Estado le recuerde su obligación de garantizar de forma efectiva el acceso a la justicia de las víctimas y familiares sobrevivientes que durante décadas han esperado sentencias que les dignifiquen. Para ello se requiere que las investigaciones pendientes avancen, que los procesos judiciales se desarrollen con las debidas garantías, que se garantice la seguridad de familiares de las víctimas y el más absoluto respeto a la independencia de las personas funcionarias de justicia y representantes legales que participan en ellos.

El Estado debe demostrar un verdadero compromiso para implementar las medidas de reparación digna e integral que han sido ordenadas desde el sistema interamericano, y que podrían asegurar que estos hechos no se repitan nunca más. Para ello se requiere una promoción activa de la memoria histórica y asegurar un sistema judicial probo e independiente.

Esperamos que esta visita inste a todos los órganos del Estado a que se comprometan con la implementación de cambios reales para garantizar la efectiva protección de los derechos humanos, el acceso a la justicia y el respeto a la institucionalidad democrática e independencia del poder judicial.

Integrantes de la Mesa de Supervisión de Cumplimiento que suscriben este pronunciamiento son:

ADIVIMA

Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos y Desaparecidos de Guatemala (FAMDEGUA)

Bufoete Jurídico de Derechos Humanos (BJDH)

Centro Para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos (CALDH)

Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL)

Familia Molina Theissen

Familias de víctimas caso Gudiel Álvarez y otros (Diario Militar)

Fundación Myrna Mack

Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo

Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales de Guatemala (ICCPG)

Pedro Chitay (Caso Chitay Nech)

Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos - Guatemala (UDEFEQUA)

Red de la No Violencia contra las Mujeres (REDNOVI)

The team of volunteers in PBI Guatemala is currently composed of Amparo Terrón Salvador (Spain), Carlos Fernández Arrúe (Spain), Marina García Alacreu (Spain), Elisa de Oliveira Ribeiro (Brazil), Gisela Farell Reviejo (Spain), Leonie Malin Höher (Germany), Anna Morales Mateu (Spain), Ana Gabriela Ascarrunz Ponce (Bolivia), Sebastián Aguirre Orozco (Colombia) y David Félix Azemar (Spain).

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**GUATEMALA PROJECT
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