



## Monthly Information Package Guatemala

Number 193 - October 2019

### 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.*

#### **The State of Emergency is Extended**

Following President Jimmy Morales' request, the Congress approved and ratified an extension of the State of Emergency (SoE) by one month as of the 10<sup>th</sup> of October with 91 votes in favour and 3 against. Therefore, it is still in effect in 22 municipalities of the departments of Izabal, Petén, Zacapa, El Progreso, Baja Verapaz and Alta Verapaz.<sup>1</sup>

There have been numerous pronouncements from Guatemalan civil society organizations calling for the derogation of the SoE. The Peasant Development Committee (CODECA) is one of these and they have called for the derogation of the law that regulates it, the Law of the Public Order of 1965, which applies in "cases of invasion of the national territory of severe disturbance of peace, public calamity or activities against the State's security." According to Gilmar Guzmán, CODECA's coordinator, the SoE is only serving to protect "the large industries operating in these places, such as Naturacites or the Guatemalan Nickel Company (CGN)". The CGN continues to operate in the territory despite the fact that the Constitutional Court (CC) has ordered a suspension of its operations. Their contempt of the court order has yet to be penalised. In addition, Guzmán states that "the residents of the region have been deprived of their right meet and peaceful demonstration and that "the army has used repressive actions in the region."<sup>2</sup>

Also US Members of Congress have rejected the SoE and sent a letter to the Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, "expressing concern about human rights defenders, indigenous leaders, journalists, and judges in the areas under the SoE", and asking him to mediate with President Morales.<sup>3</sup>

In the same vein, 30 MEPs "sent a public letter to President Jimmy Morales (...), in which they express their concern about the SoE being imposed in the country and the risk that there could be human rights violations as a result." They also expressed concern over the statements by President Morales "linking the defence of human rights and being a peasant with illegal acts, thereby criminalizing the peasant population and increasing the vulnerability of people, organizations and communities" adding that "these kinds of declarations (...) could expose the population to greater acts of violence against them." Likewise, they requested that the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (PDH) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OACNUDH) be allowed carry out "a monitoring and observations of the human rights situation in the affected municipalities".<sup>4</sup>

Some media have been reporting the different ways in which the population of El Estor is being affected by the SoE. This is the case for Ricardo Tec Quinich, who was an activist in the recovery of community La Revolución's lands in 2006. He was captured on the October 4 by members of the Specialized Division in Criminal Investigation (DEIC), at the entrance of the CGN, in El Estor. This arrest was for the charge of aggravated trespassing. Despite the fact that "the law outlines in article 257 that the arrest must take place

<sup>1</sup> Quino Tzoc, H., [Congreso ratifica estado de Sitio en 22 municipios](#) Por Hedy Quino Tzoc, La Hora, 10.10.2019.

<sup>2</sup> Solano, F., [Codeca pide derogación del estado de sitio](#), Nómada, 17.10.2019.

<sup>3</sup> Herrera, O.F., [Congresistas estadounidenses piden finalizar el estado de sitio](#), El Periódico, 02 .10.2019.

<sup>4</sup> Rojas, A., [Eurodiputados piden garantías](#), Prensa Libre, 24.10.2019.

at the moment and in the location of the act relating to the charges” Quinich “was not arrested according to the law, as the community of La Revolución and land mentioned are located 25 minutes from the urban center of El Estor, where he was detained.” Mr. Quinich remained in the Puerto Barrios penitentiary for five days before being released on October 9.<sup>5</sup> Another case relates to radio station Xyaab 'Tzuultaq'a (The voice of the hill), which is located at the center of El Estor and which shares an office with the Q`eqchi Defense organisation, which was also raided by staff from the Office of Public Prosecutions who were accompanied by members of the National Civil Police (PNC). However, this radio station had ceased to broadcast since the SoE had been declared. “For the members of the radio the raid was an act of revenge for their editorial policy; the inspector in charge of the operation, who did not want to identify himself, claimed it related to the use of a frequency without the authorization of the Telecommunications Superintendent.” Eduardo Bin, Vice President of the Fishermen's Association of the Estor, said that the work of Xyaab 'Tzuultaq'a was a key in his resistance, that he listened to them every day. The radio was an important source of information, but now, however, “the only source of reliable information is face to face.”<sup>6</sup>

### **Criminalisation of the victims and Survivors of the Virgin of the Assumption Safe Home**

The organization Women Transforming the World (MTM), co-appellant in the case of a fire in the Virgen de la Asunción “Safe” Home, where 41 girls died and 15 were injured, revealed with sadness and outrage that there has been complaint filed against the 15 survivors of the tragedy. The complaint delineates the crimes of rioting, murder, mild and serious injuries, incitement to escape, threats, aggravated shock, aggravated theft and robbery, arson, aggravated arson, attacks, disobedience, public disorder and incitement to commit a crime. This action is intended to hold the 15 adolescents responsible for what occurred on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 and limit their free and spontaneous participation in the case through without being subject to external pressures. Paula Paula Barrios, of MTM says, “with a complaint of this nature, they are not going to feel protected or safe enough to be able to give their declarations freely.”<sup>7</sup>

According to the human rights defender and jurist Jorge Morales Toj, “these complaints are filed, just when the girls must present their declaration of evidence in advance of the judicial process that will be heard through the courts.” In his opinion, the most outrageous thing is that it is “intended to revictimize the adolescents and redirect the course of investigation. Furthermore, the Law against sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons of Guatemala (Article 2), indicates that with regard to processes regulated by the law, any action or omission that damages the physical, mental or psychic state of the victim, the principle of non-revictimization must be fulfilled by the different State institutions involved in the case, but especially the MP.” In addition, “the surviving girls have precautionary measures issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, who have “requested the State of Guatemala to apply the appropriate measures to support and assist the families of children (girls, boys and adolescents) to facilitate the reintegration, and prohibits the entry of more children to the home.”<sup>8</sup>

The Children’s Refuge, denounced Ludwin Jacob Sandoval Jerez, the person who filed the complaint against the surviving girls, “for the crimes of abuse against minors, false accusation, slander and insult.” Leonel Dubón, director of said institution, explained that they made the denunciation “on behalf of the teenagers, who they have cared for before and after the fire in the Home”. Dubón points out that “after finding out about the complaint filed against the adolescents, those affected began to arrive at El Refugio again” and one of them went into crisis, because “these actions revive the trauma they experienced, and some have even attempted suicide.” Dubón is clear that the girls are victims and that they did not commit any crime, on the contrary there was negligence of the State and police violence. Dubón expects a rapid reaction from the MP against those who continue to affect the girls. To all this he adds that “they have seen there are people interested in criminalizing the girls and that this complaint may be a strategy of the defendants to try to divert the attention of the justice system.”<sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Ayala, A., [Detenciones arbitrarias en medio del estado de sitio, a favor de minera suizo rusa Solway Investment](#), Prensa Comunitaria, 30.10.2019.

<sup>6</sup> García, J., [Historia desde el Estado de Sitio: la excusa para neutralizar a El Estor](#), Nómada, 07.10.2019.

<sup>7</sup> Castañón, M., [Criminalizan a víctimas de Hogar Seguro](#), La Hora, 21.10.2019.

<sup>8</sup> Morales Toj, J., [No se debe revictimizar a las adolescentes sobrevivientes del “hogar seguro”](#), La Hora, 30.10.2019.

<sup>9</sup> Castañón M., [Interponen acción legal contra denunciante de víctimas de Hogar Seguro](#), La Hora, 29.10.2019.

### **Congress Attempts to have Human Rights Ombudsman, Jordán Rodas, Removed**

The Congressional Human Rights Commission was convened on October 29 to present their arguments for removal of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH), Jordán Rodas. During this session, Aníbal Rojas, president of this Commission, read a document detailing the reasons why they are asking for his removal from office. There have been several claims made against him, all of which are highly questionable according to civil society organizations and other national and international actors. These accusations include: that he does not defend private property; that he did not condemn the Association of University Students (AEU) when "they took the university's facilities in protest against the administration of the university's president, Murphy Paiz's, who took office last year and implemented internal measures that affected the public nature of higher education"; for presenting "an injunction in favor of the Swedish ambassador, Anders Kompass, whose stay in the country was vetoed by the Jimmy Morales' government"; for supporting "the march of The Powerful Vulva, a protest held on March 8, 2018 for the rights of women." The dismissal of the Ombudsman was not achieved in this session, because "it ended when Nineth Montenegro withdrew from the Commission and broke the quorum."<sup>10</sup>

Although this Commission of deputies failed in their attempt, "they threatened to convene next week to seek 105 votes in the Congressional plenary to achieve his removal." According to the Guatemalan Federation of Radio Schools (FGER), in reference to these attempts by the Congress to dismiss the Ombudsman, "the so-called Corruption Pact or Criminal Alliance of businessmen, politicians, military and members of organized crime is still in force, they continue to seek ways to benefit from corruption and impunity."<sup>11</sup>

### **The third case relating to the Ixil Genocide has begun**

On October 25, César Octavio Noguera, former Chief of Army Operations during the government of Fernando Romeo Lucas García (1878-1982) was arrested. He will be tried in the third case relating to the genocide of the Ixil people, along with Manuel Benedicto Lucas García, former Chief of the General Staff of the Army, and Manuel Callejas y Callejas, former Chief of Military Intelligence. These last two "were already in prison having been sentenced for the crimes against the siblings Emma and Marco Antonio Molina Theissen." In addition, Benedicto Lucas García (who was already sentenced to 56 years in the Molina Theissen case), has another case pending against him in relation to "the discovery of more than 500 human remains in the military center of Cobán, Alta Verapaz (Creompaz)." He is currently imprisoned in the Military Medical Center.

The investigation in this case, prepared by the Human Rights unit from the Public Prosecutor's Office together with the Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR), complainant representing the victims, have "focused on the three years and nine months during which Fernando Romeo Lucas García ruled, from July 1978 to March 1982, when Efraín Ríos Montt overthrew him. The investigators claim that over that period, 31 massacres were committed, resulting in 1421 victims, 23 villages razed, 97 selective deaths, 117 deaths caused by forced displacement, 26 cases of sexual violence and 53 forced disappearances "

"The judge from the Higher Risk B Court, Miguel Ángel Gálvez, who is handling the case, had to suspend the first declaration hearing on Monday, October 28 because Benedict Lucas did not have access to his trusted lawyer."<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> García, J., [Uno de los reclamos contra el PDH es un copy-paste de la Cámara del Agro](#), Nómada, 30.10.2019.

<sup>11</sup> Rivas, C., [Siguen los intentos para destituir a Jordán Rodas](#), FGER, 01.11.2019.

<sup>12</sup> Coronado, E., [El genocidio Ixil será juzgado por tercera ocasión en Guatemala](#), Plaza Pública, 28.10.2019.

## 2. ACCOMPANIMENTS

*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.<sup>13</sup>*

### THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY

During the month of October we have held regular meetings with the members of the **Human Rights Law Firm (BDH)** and we have accompanied them to the hearings in the following cases:

- Case of the Virgen de la Asunción “Safe” Home (HSVA): We were present at the Courthouse on October 22, 23 and 28. On October 22 the court requested statement from the surviving girls represented by the BDH. The lawyer of one of the defendants appealed for an amicus in favor of the girls and then challenged the judge. He was summoned for the next hearing. At the hearing on October 23, the complainants presented the following documents: list of the girls and adolescents present at the HSVA on the day of the events and security protocols. In addition, several reports were presented on the psychological care of direct and indirect victims. At the hearing on October 28, the lawyers from the BDH asked for the early receipt of testimonies, but the lawyers of the accused party requested the lifting of coercive measures, which was approved by the judge. There were not many advances in the case, so a date for a new hearing was proposed for November 6.
- Ixil Genocide Case. On Monday 28 we accompanied the BDH to the first hearing where the military defendants were to testify. Manuel Benedicto Lucas García, Manuel Antonio Callejas y Callejas and César Octavio Noguera Argueta, all former high-ranking officers of the army during the Romeo Lucas García government, are facing trial for crimes of genocide and forced disappearance. The hearing was suspended twice and has been postponed until November 4.

We continue to accompany the **Chicoyogüito Neighborhood Association of Alta Verapaz (AVECHAV)**. Their General Assembly was held on October 13, with the main objective of electing the new board of directors for 2019-2021. The advances in the case of request for land restitution and justice for the crimes of forced disappearance and crimes against humanity were also addressed

### THE ISSUE OF ACCESS TO LAND



Throughout October we continued our visits to the offices of the **Community Council of the Highlands (CCDA) - Las Verapaces Region** and met with their leaders on several occasions. We remain attentive to the security situation of the people who are in the organization's coordination.

The National Agrarian Congress was held on October 20 and CCDA was present along with various other organizations. We accompanied members of the CCDA coordination to this activity whose objective was to contribute to the unity of indigenous and peasant organizations and communities to address the agrarian conflict in Guatemala.

<sup>13</sup> See our website for general information on organizations and individuals we accompany: [Groups and individuals currently accompanied by PBI](#)

In addition, this month we accompanied members of the organization to a round-table dialogue held in the People's Hall at the Congress of the Republic. The objective of this round-table was to follow up on the commitments assumed by state institutions in the round-table dialogue between the CCDA and the Guatemalan Government. CCDA expressed concern about the next scheduled evictions.

On October 22 we were present at the hearing in the murder case of Ramón Choc Sacrab, a member of the CCDA and an indigenous authority of the Ixloc San Pedrito de Cobán community, Alta Verapaz. The next and last hearing is scheduled for November 6.

On October 30, we were at the CCDA Press Conference that took place in Cobán, Alta Verapaz, where concerns about possible evictions, criminalization of people from the communities, threats and lack of effectiveness of the roundtables for dialogue were communicated. That same day we attended the oral and public debate in the case against Jorge Coc Coc and Marcelino Xol Cucul of the Choctun Basilá village, members of the CCDA, who have been criminalized and imprisoned for 20 months. The hearing took place in the Second Court of Criminal Sentencing for Narcoactivity and Environmental Crimes at Cobán (Alta Verapaz). Judge Luis Paniagua found them guilty and sentenced them to 35 years in prison for the crimes of manslaughter and attempted homicide. In response to this ruling, UDEFEGUA said that "both human rights defenders had been criminalized by the Chilté Cooperative, operating in the village Choctun Basilá, a company which is depriving them of their territory and has been involved in the murder of community leaders in the area. The co-optation of the justice system and the criminal policy of the State to demobilize and repress the defense of human rights in the country, mainly defenders of the territory, is evident once again." As in previous months, we visited both human rights defenders at the Cobán Penitentiary Center.

With regard to our accompaniment of the **Union of Peasant Organizations (UVOC)**, we continue to monitor their security situation closely. On October 12 we met with the coordinator of the organization to learn from him how the SoE is affecting the communities. He also shared his analysis of the security situation in the communities and progress on the different cases that they accompany. In addition, we were present at a workshop with young people on the theme of organic farming, whose objective was to share with the students ancestral agricultural customs, as well as raise awareness about the role of companies and their responsibility to care and protect the environment. This workshop was organized by the president of the Mocohán Village Neighborhood Association and the Women's Commission, who are also members of UVOC.

## **DEFENSE OF THE TERRITORY**

This month we have been closely monitoring the security situation of the members of the **New Day Chorti Campesino Central Coordinator (CCND)** who, following the violent events of July 8 in the community of Lelá Chancó, Camotán (Chiquimula), in which three workers of the Inter-oceanic Corridor were killed, have been victims of threats, intimidation and surveillance. On October 25, we accompanied community members from Jocotán and Camotán to a meeting with delegates from these municipalities to denounce the logging activities in the region, request actions on this and their worrying security situation.

We continue to monitor the situation of the **Peaceful Resistance of La Puya** (municipalities of San José del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc). On October 17 we were present at the sit in where the struggle and the work continues. The Resistance also continues to monitor the international arbitration process that is taking place between the US mining company Kappes Cassidy & Associates and the State of Guatemala.

Within the framework of our accompaniment to the **Peaceful Resistance Cahabón** (Alta Verapaz), we visited the human rights defender Bernardo Caal Xol at the Cobán Penitentiary Center. Bernardo Caal, defender of the territory and member of the Resistance, was sentenced to more than 7 years in prison, in January 2018, due to his legal actions against the Renace company dam project in defense of the Cahabón and Oxec rivers.

Likewise, we have maintained constant telephone communication with members of the Peaceful Resistance of Cahabón in order to monitor their security situation, given the particular concern that the SoE affects different municipalities in which the Resistance works.

As with every month, we accompanied **the TZK'AT - Network of Ancestral Healers of Community Feminism from Iximulew** during the commemoration ceremony in Guatemala City's central square to remember the 41 girls killed in the tragic events of March 7 and 8, 2017 at the Virgin of the Assumption "Safe Home" in San José Pinula (Guatemala). This ceremony was special as they reinstalled the crosses.



Regarding our accompaniment of the **Chinautla Multisectoral**, we have maintained constant communication with several of their members to monitor their security situation. Additionally, we were present on the October 27 for the celebration of the second Festival for Life, Dignity and the Territory organized by the Poqoman people in defense of their right to water.

### 3. 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 October 5 and 7, we observed the security situation during **the elections of the Association of University Students (AEU)** at the University of San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC). These elections were to choose the Association's Board of Directors and the working commissions. We visited six voting points, observed a feedback session and were present at the voting table in the Teacher Training School. All sessions went normally.

On October 23, we observed a public hearing at the Constitutional Court relating to the appeal of the injunction granted by the **Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) to the Q'eqchí communities impacted by the Renace Hydroelectric Power Plant**, where the communities requested that the CC protect and suspend the activities of the Hydroelectric.

### 4. 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.*

As part of our dialogue with the diplomatic corps and international organizations present in Guatemala, we met with the following people this month:

- Roberta de Beltranena, Program Officer, **Swiss Embassy**.
- Alejandro Gallardo, Human Rights Officer, **British Embassy**.
- Michael Grewe, Head of Development Cooperation, **German Embassy**.
- Jennifer Echeverría, Focal Point on Human Rights issues and Focal Point for Human Rights Defenders, European **Union (EU) Delegation**.
- Vanessa Álvarez and Ainhoa Barrenechea, Human Rights Officers and Jackeline Ruiz, Volunteer, from the **OHCHR**.



At national, departmental and municipal level we meet with the following authorities:

- Edgar Juventino Morales, Inspector, **PNC of San Cristóbal Verapaz, Alta Verapaz.**
- Aldana Monzón, Agent, **PNC de Cobán, Alta Verapaz.**
- Elías Jacinto Damian Soch, Substation Chief, **PNC of San José del Golfo, Guatemala.**
- Jhony Jovel, Agent, **PNC de Camotán, Chiquimula.**
- Humberto Cáliz, Procedural Official, **Departmental office of the PDH in Cobán, Alta Verapaz.**

## 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.*

This month the European Representative from the project held **meetings in Brussels** with:

- Soraya Rodriguez Ramos, **MEP from the Renew political group**, member of the Conference of Presidents and of the Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the **European Parliament.**
- Tilly Metz, **MEP from the Greens political group**, president of the Delegation for Central America and member of the Delegation in the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly of the **European Parliament.**

During this month, the project's Field Support person participated **in an advocacy tour of the United States and Mexico** with the objective of raising awareness of the human rights situation in Guatemala.

In the **United States** she met with the following **Congressional advisors**:

- Joe Mingus, Advisor to Congressman Ed Perlmutter, Representative of the State of Colorado.
- Eddie Meyer, Legislative Advisor to Congressman Juan Vargas, Representative of the State of California.
- Marilyn Zepeda, Advisor to Congressman Raul Grijalva, Representative of the State of Arizona.
- David Kimmelman, Advisor to Congressman Adriano Espaillat, Representative of the State of New York.
- Jordan Haedtler, Legislative Advisor and Naomi Lake, Legislative Affairs Officer for Congressman Jesus Chuy Garcia, Representative of the State of Illinois.
- Jasmin German, Legislative Affairs Officer for Congresswoman Katie Hill, Representative of the State of California.
- Kate Chiucchini, Legislative Counselor for Congresswoman Kathleen Rice, Representative of the State of New York.
- Louise Colbath Bentsen, Legislative Director for Congressman Vicente González, Representative of the State of Texas.
- Zach Cafritz, Legislative Director of Congressman Donald Beyer, Representative of the State of Virginia.
- Amelia Faraco-Hadlock, Advisor to Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, Representative of the State of Virginia.

She also met with **representatives of several Senators**:

- Alice Chu, adviser to Senator Dick Durbin, Illinois State Representative.
- Corrinne Paul, Head of Legislative Affairs for Senator Benjamin Cardin, Representative of the State of Maryland.

## Brigadas Internacionales de Paz \_\_\_\_\_ Peace Brigades International

- Josh Klein, Official of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Advisor to Senator Bob Menéndez, Representative of the State of New Jersey.
- Alexandra Davis, Legislative Advisor to Senator Christopher Coons, Delaware State Representative.
- Sam Rodarte, Member of the National Security and Government Affairs Committee of the United States Senate and Advisor to Senator Gary C. Peters, Michigan State Representative.

In addition, she held a meeting with Steve Kenoyer, Head of Guatemala at **the Central American Affairs Office of the US Department of State**.

In **Mexico** she met with:

- Petr Manousek, Responsible for neighboring countries at the **Czech Republic Embassy** in Mexico.
- Johannes Irschik, Minister Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission and Christopher Gabriel Wastian, Political Officer of the **Austrian Embassy** in Mexico.
- Jorge Roza de Oliveira, **Portuguese Ambassador** in Mexico.



## 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.*



Comité de Unidad Campesina  
Cabeza dura, corazón solidario, puño combativo

### **Desalojos en Cobán, Alta Verapaz una respuesta del Estados a Intereses empresariales**

18 familias Maya Q'eqchi' de la comunidad San José El Tesoro del municipio de Cobán, Alta Verapaz, están siendo desalojadas por las fuerzas represivas del Estado (Policía Nacional Civil, PNC, Ministerio Público, MP, Procuraduría General de la Nación, PGN, y Comisión Presidencial de Derechos Humanos, Copredeh). Estos trabajadores públicos están accionando sin notificar previamente a la comunidad. De acuerdo con líderes comunitarios del lugar, la PNC, solo les dijo que se salieran y empezaron a destruir las viviendas, sin mostrar ni entregar copia de la orden judicial.

Al concluir ese desalojo, posiblemente se llevarían a cabo nuevos desalojos en las comunidades Río Cristalino y Cubilguitz. El caso de Río Cristalino es relevante, porque la mayoría de sus habitantes, adultos, tiene orden de captura, es decir, las mujeres y hombres cabeza de hogar podrían ser capturados y sus hijos e hijas podrían quedar desamparadas, al llevarse a cabo un desplazamiento forzoso en ese lugar.

Estas acciones de parte del Estado y encabezada por funcionarios de los organismos Ejecutivo y Judicial responden a intereses de finqueros, de empresarios y de ganaderos. Basta recordar que recientemente Jimmy Morales se comprometió con la Gremial de Palmeros hacer valer el estado de derecho a su favor. También recientemente el Congreso de la República benefició con una ley que exonera y da beneficios fiscales al sector ganadero del país. Asimismo, durante el decreto del Estado de Sitio, Morales, aseguró que iría tras las organizaciones y personas que defienden el territorio y la Madre Tierra; un mensaje de odio y ataque a las personas defensoras de derechos fundamentales en nuestro país.

Se debe tomar en cuenta que por un lado Jimmy Morales ha intervenido a las comunidades Maya Q'eqchi' de Alta y Baja Verapaz con un estado de Sitio y por otro, esta ejecutando desalojos en municipios que no están bajo estado de sitio, tal el caso de las comunidades de Cobán, y la comunidad Artluta, en el municipio de Jalapa, Jalapa.

Alertamos a la organizaciones nacionales e internacionales defensoras de derechos humanos a pronunciarse y estar vigilante ante estas acciones represivas del Estado.

Exigimos al gobierno de Guatemala que respete los derechos de las familias campesinas especialmente los derechos de las niñas y los niños; su derecho a la vida, al acceso a la tierra, al agua y a los bienes naturales que se encuentran en sus territorios ancestrales.

Exigimos a las fuerzas represivas del Estado que se apeguen a los protocolos establecidos para este tipo de acciones, ya que se tiene información que están destruyendo y quemando las viviendas de las familias campesinas.

A la comunidad internacional hacemos saber que el Estado de Guatemala está violando la "Declaración de los Derechos de los Campesinos y de Otras Personas que Trabajan en Zonas Rurales", aprobada por la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas el 17 de diciembre de 2018.

### **A mayor represión, mayor organización**

**Comité de Unidad Campesina -CUC-**

Miembro de la Coordinación y Convergencia Nacional Maya Wajib Kej, Asamblea Social y Popular, La Vía Campesina Centroamérica y Albamovimientos.

Guatemala, 9 de octubre de 2019

**PBI team in Guatemala:** Diana Cabra Delgado (Colombia), Katharina Wagner (Germany), Begoña Navarro (Spain), Ignacio Hernández (Spain), Lucie Costamagna (France), Júlia Sierra (Spain) y María Lafuente (Spain).

*All photos published are from PBI*

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**GUATEMALA PROJECT  
PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL**

Website: [www.pbi-guatemala.org](http://www.pbi-guatemala.org)

facebook: [pbiguatemala](https://www.facebook.com/pbiguatemala)

**Office of the team in Guatemala**

3ª Avenida "A" 3-51, Zona 1  
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala  
Phone/ Fax: (+502) 2220 1032  
E-mail: [equipo@pbi-guatemala.org](mailto:equipo@pbi-guatemala.org)

**Office of the project Coordination**

Avenida Entrevías 76, 4º B  
28053 Madrid, Estado Español  
Telephone: (+34) 918 543 150  
Email: [coordinacion@pbi-guatemala.org](mailto:coordinacion@pbi-guatemala.org)