



Monthly Information Package Guatemala

Number 197 - February 2020

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.

Reforms to the NGO Law: Deep concerns over its approval and subsequent suspension by the CC

On February 11, Congress approved the 5257 bill of reforms to the NGO Law “in the midst of claims by opposition blocs, which signaled the use of tricks by the 'officialist pact' grouping”¹ to bring the proposal into the congressional plenary for debate. On February 12, Citizens' Action (AC) and other NGOs filed an appeal for an injunction with the Constitutional Court (CC)² and on February 18, Positive People and other Guatemalan organizations organized a protest in front of Congress to express their opposition to the law. International organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala (OHCHR)³, members of the European Parliament (MEPs), US members of congress and others added their voices to the objections and requested President Giammattei to veto these reforms. This national and international opposition is nothing new, these organisations have been expressing their objections the law since it was first presented in March 2017, when became clear that the approval of the law would result in a number of risks for civil society. Furthermore, according to various analysts, the argument for the need to monitor the activities of NGOs is not justifiable because the country has “legislation which non-governmental organizations are already subject to, and, which contains sufficient requirements for registering and developing their work and for ensuring the proper management of public funds where relevant”.⁴ Despite all this, Giammattei sanctioned the law on February 27.⁵ However, on March 2, the CC decided to grant provisional protection for the actions presented by AC and other organizations, with which the approval of these reforms remains suspended. A statement issued by this Court, justified the suspension because “it considers that the validity of this decree carries the threat human rights violations (...) The court also referred to the fact that right to freedom of association is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, all of which have been signed by the State of Guatemala.”⁶

Giammattei declares a State of Exception four times during his first month as President

Since his inauguration on January 14, 2020, Alejandro Giammatei has declared States of Exception across 12 municipalities, on four different occasions: January 17 and 24 and February 5 and 14. Social organizations criticized this measure from the outset arguing that with these actions “the current government maintains the attitude of several past administrations, who resorted to militarization.”⁷ These organizations believe that the justification given by the government in declaring these exceptional measures – the struggle against crime

¹ Rivera, D., Domínguez, A. y Escobar, I., [Alianza oficialista modifica agenda para aprobar la ley de ONG](#), Prensa Libre, 11.02.2020.

² Escobar, I., [Ley de ONG: Accionan contra el decreto y Giammattei pide tiempo para analizarlo](#), Prensa Libre, 12.02.20.

³ Méndez Donineli, F., [Reacciones a reformas a ley de Ongo](#), ALAI, 14.02.2020.

⁴ WOLA, [Congreso de Guatemala aprueba polémica ley para restringir labor de organizaciones de sociedad civil](#), 12.02.2020.

⁵ Cumes, W. y Orozco, A., [Alejandro Giammattei sanciona Ley de ONG aduciendo que es necesario fiscalizarlas](#), Prensa Libre, 27.02.20.

⁶ Juárez, E., [CC otorga amparo provisional por reformas a la Ley de ONG](#), La Hora, 02.03.2020.

⁷ Ramos, J., [Organizaciones sociales critican medidas de seguridad impuestas por Giammattei](#), Publinews, 22.02.2020.

and citizen insecurity - is not real, that the intention behind this measure is to "dismantle social struggles." On the other hand, "statistics show that, for the moment, the operations been effective in terms of perception, though not in results. At least, not in the results that the Government said they would obtain."⁸

The Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources suspends the license to the Rocjá Pontilá hydroelectric project

On February 11, the *Unidad Nacional de Esperanza* (UNE) party representatives presented an unconstitutionality against the Ministerial Agreement 019-2020 through which the Ministry for Energy and Mines (MEM) had approved the Rocjá Pontilá Central Hydroelectric project. According to the document presented to the CC, the agreement in question violates seven articles in the Constitution, including "the protection of human life, the right to defense, due process, legal certainty, environment, ecological balance and people. In addition, (...) it affects public order and governance."⁹ The Ministry for Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) conducted an analysis of the resolution made by the CC and decided to suspend the license for this project. "The resolution from the CC, includes the requests from the communities of the Laguna Lachuá area as well as reports presented between 2015 and 2016 by the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP) and the National Forest Institute (INAB), who warned against the negative impact on the region's ecosystem and therefore they recommended against the approval of the hydroelectric project. The residents, together with the Community Council of the Highlands (CCDA) and the National Network for the Defense of Food Sovereignty (REDSAG), as well as legal support from the Indigenous Peoples Law Firm, presented two oppositions: the first argued that the project violated the right to the territory of indigenous peoples; and the second argued that that Laguna Lachuá is recognized as a protected area and as a cultural heritage site."¹⁰

Tension over imminent evictions in Baja and Alta Verapaz

Some 300 people are about to be evicted from the Washington community, in the Purulhá municipality, Baja Verapaz. The Thomae family claims to own 700 square meters of land on which the community lives. The conflict became a criminal matter in 2015, when this family denounced the community for aggravated trespassing.¹¹ Also the Q'eqchi community of Chicoyou, in Cobán, "is at risk of being evicted by pressure from the Army" and "denounced violations to the eviction procedure in the order issued by Judge Ricardo Caal (...) responsible for sentencing the Q'eqchi water rights defender Bernardo Caal Xol to seven years imprisonment in 2018."¹²

"Judges acquit defenders of the territory and signal the criminalization of opponents to the TRECSA project by an official from the public prosecutor's office"

Two judges have closed cases against defenders of the territory in Chimaltenango (Arturo Choy and Carlos Sajmoló, leaders of the organization "Neighbors against Corruption" in Patzicía) and Mixco (Aníbal and Ernesto Araujo García, opponents of the company TRECSA - Central América Energy Transport SA - who are constructing electricity transmission towers in the municipality of San Raymundo, in the department of Guatemala). They have also signaled Pedro Pablo Siliezar Peralta, from the Metropolitan District of the Public Prosecutor's Office in facilitating criminalization cases. Rafael Maldonado, defense lawyer in both cases, highlights that "the Colombian company TRECSA and its related companies have developed a clear strategy aimed at criminalizing social protest."¹³

⁸ Rodríguez, F., *Más de 8 mil agentes y soldados para atrapar escandalosos callejeros, posibles delinquentes de poca monta, y dos clicas*, Plaza Pública, 19.02.2020.

⁹ Bolaños, R. M., *Hidroeléctrica Rocja Pontila: Diputados accionan contra proyecto en la CC*, Prensa Libre, 12.02.20.

¹⁰ Prensa Comunitaria, *Por incumplir con la ley, el MARN suspende la licencia al proyecto hidroeléctrico Rocjá Pontilá*, 27.02.20.

¹¹ López, K., *Una añeja pelea por la propiedad de la tierra y un desalojo inminente en Purulhá*, Nomada, 12.02.20.

¹² Toro, D., *Chicoyou, la comunidad q'eqchi en riesgo de ser desalojada por presiones del ejército de Guatemala*, Prensa Comunitaria, 23.02.20.

¹³ Ayala, A., *Dos jueces absuelven a defensores del territorio y señalan a fiscal del MP de criminalizar a opositores del proyecto TRECSA*, Prensa Comunitaria, 06.02.20.

Attempted raid on the house of Esteban Celada, lawyer for the “Safe Home” and Molina Theissen cases

Since 2018, Esteban Emanuel Celada Flores, a renowned lawyer and human rights defender, has suffered approximately 31 incidences of threats to his physical integrity, intimidation calls, anonymous messages and surveillance. On February 5, 2020 unknown people tried to enter his house. Prior to the incident, unknown subjects asked his neighbors about his whereabouts. Front Line Defenders published an urgent action in response to this latest attack.¹⁴

The PDH requests an injunction from the Supreme Court of Justice to protect the Historical Archive of the National Police

At a public hearing before the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) on February 3, the Human Rights Ombudsman, Jordán Rodas, requested an injunction be granted to protect and guarantee the operation of the Historical Archive of the National Police (AHPN), a fundamental tool in reconstructing the country's historical memory and in guaranteeing due process within transitional justice framework.¹⁵ The AHPN was left without hired archival personnel at the end of 2019 and its existence is in danger.

Harassment of Guatemalan women journalists

The Human Rights Ombudsman, Jordán Rodas, spoke on February 12 in support of Guatemalan journalists who have been harassed with phone calls. Rodas said the situation is worrying and should be resolved as soon as possible by the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) for Crimes against Journalists, which has already received complaints from 14 of the victims. Among these are journalists from different outlets based in the capital city such as Prensa Libre and the news station Guatevisión. So far, the motivation and objective of these calls, which are already under investigation by the MP is unknown.¹⁶

¹⁴ Front Line Defenders, [Guatemala: intento de allanamiento en casa del abogado de derechos humanos Esteban Celada](#), 12.02.20.

¹⁵ Velix, C., [PDH pide se otorgue amparo para proteger Archivo Histórico de la PN](#), La Hora, 03.02.20.

¹⁶ Redacción, [PDH se pronuncia por acoso a mujeres periodistas guatemaltecas](#), Prensa Libre, 12.02.20.

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.¹⁷

THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY

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

- Case of the Virgen de la Asunción “Safe” Home (HSVA): On the 17th, we accompanied the BDH to a hearing for the second group of the accused, which was suspended once again, this time due to the absence of two lawyers for the complainant families, one of whom resigned from their representation. The next hearing was scheduled for March 6.
- La Cumbre Case: On February 11, the public hearing in this case continued during which documentary evidence by the MP was presented. In addition, three witnesses for the MP were scheduled to make their statements. They did not show up, however, so the hearing was suspended.
- Samococh Case: On the 17th we accompanied the BDH to a hearing in the Samococh case, which had been paralyzed since May 2019. In this case, 23 former agents of the National Civil Police (PNC) are accused of diverse crimes, including the killing of three Q'eqchi community members from the Samococh village, Chisec, Alta Verapaz, which occurred on August 15, 2014 when they were exercising their right to demonstrate. The beginning of the oral and public debate had been planned for this hearing. It had to be suspended, however, due to the absence of one of the defense lawyers, and was rescheduled for March 23.
- La Choleña Case: That same day we accompanied the BDH to a hearing in the Choleña case. This hearing was suspended before entering the room because the previous hearing had gone over time. The next hearing will be April 30.
- Samuel Choc Case: On February 24, we accompanied the BDH to a further hearing in the public debate over the accusation of aggravated trespassing, to which the crimes of illegal detentions and instigation to commit crimes have been added. During the hearing, the BDH requested copies of the witness testimony so that the defense could adapt to the changes in the accusation. The request was not admitted by the Judge, on the justification that they could obtain the information from the witnesses when they testify. In response, the BDH filed an appeal for grievance replacement, arguing that the decision violated the defendant's right to a defense. The Judge also declared this to be inadmissible. Thus, the court proceeded to the testimony of the accused, who exercised his right to not testify. The court proposed to proceed with the interrogation of the witnesses presented by the MP, which did not occur due to lack of some of the evidence. The next hearing was scheduled for March 10. This hearing was extremely tense as there were constant defamations from the MP and the lawyer for the accusation towards the lawyers from the BDH.



We continue to accompany the **Chicoyogüito Neighborhood Association of Alta Verapaz (AVECHAV)**, monitoring their activities, the security situation of their members and meeting with their coordination in Cobán.

¹⁷ See our website for general information on organizations and individuals we accompany: <https://pbi-guatemala.org/en/groups-and-individuals-currently-accompanied-pbi>

THE ISSUE OF ACCESS TO LAND

Due to the increase in security incidents again the members of the **Community Council of the Highlands (CCDA) - Las Verapaces Region**, we continue to monitor the situation of its members through weekly calls, meetings in their offices and accompaniments to their activities:

- On the 14th we accompanied an assembly of communities affected by the hydroelectric company Rocjá Pontilá. Both the Indigenous Authorities and the other community members expressed concern about the construction of the project in the Río Setoc village. They demanded the cancelation of the agreement signed by the former Minister of Energy and Mines, Luis Alfonso Chang Navarro, arguing that their right to a free, prior and informed consultation was violated.
- On the 18th, we accompanied one of the CCDA coordinators to a meeting with Ruth del Valle, who heads the office for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists which is part of the PDH.
- On the 28th we accompanied the organization to a celebration, in the community of Sapalau, on the occasion of the handover of the deeds of ownership to the land inhabited by this community.



As part of our accompaniment of the **Union of Peasant Organizations (UVOC)**, in addition to meetings and weekly telephone follow-up, this month we accompanied them to an act of judicial recognition of the boundaries of the communities of El Chico and Saq-Ixim in the Finca La Primavera, in San Cristóbal Las Verapaces, which was due to be celebrated on the 14 but was suspended due to the absence of the Justice of the Peace. The ownership of a part of these lands was already granted to the communities in 2015; however, conflicts over ownership and access to it have continued. We also accompanied them to the intermediate stage hearing in which one of the members of the UVOC has been accused of illegal logging. His lawyer requested that the case be dismissed due to inconsistencies in the evidence presented by the MP, in addition to the relationship the prosecution have to land dispute, whose property was acquired after a long process. However, the Judge did not observe such inconsistencies and decided to continue with the judicial process, calling the next hearing for March 24.

DEFENSE OF THE TERRITORY

We continued to monitor the security situation of the **New Day Chorti Campesino Central Coordinator (CCCND)** closely throughout the month as they continue to be a target for threats, intimidations and surveillance. This month we provided the following accompaniments:

- On February 7 we attended the community of La Prensa, in Olopa, to a peaceful march in defense of the territory and against the extraction activities carried out by the mining company "Cantera Los Manantiales". In November 2019, the CSJ provisionally suspended the company's mining activities by recognizing that the prior consultation process had been violated and that the environmental impact assessment had not received a favorable decision from MARN. Now, together with the Nim Ajpu Association of Mayan Lawyers and Notaries, they are fighting to ensure this sentence is final. The company had been operating for seven years, but it was not until 2015 that its impact began to be noticed, both in nature (pollution of rivers), and among the people (harms to their health). The communities directly affected include: El Amatillo, Carrizal and La Prensa (Olopa) and Carboneras (Chiquimula). In addition, on the 25th we were able to accompany them in the celebration of the first anniversary of their Peaceful Resistance. On February 25, 2019 they set up the protest camp in front of the mine (see short video on our website: [The Olopa Sit-In Blockade: "Our Struggle continues"](#)).

- On the 18th we were present at the CCCND assembly in Camotán, which was attended by community representatives from the villages of Camotán, Jocotán and Olopa. The main objective was to sign of an agreement for cooperation between the Popular University of Nicaragua and the Ch'orti 'Knowledge Institute.
- On February 26 we accompanied one of the members of CCCND to testify before the MP, in relation to the complaint that he filed for the events that occurred at the meeting to elect the new Community Development Council (COCODE), held in the community of Matasanos (Jocotán) on February 20.

We continue to monitor the situation of the **Peaceful Resistance of La Puya** (municipalities of San José del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc) through weekly calls to the members of the camp where the communities have remained for more than seven years at the entrance to the mine. Furthermore, on February 12 we visited them at the protest camp that the communities have maintained for 8 years at the entrance of the Progreso VII Derivada mine. In 2016, the CC resolved an injunction filed by the Resistance, ordering the temporary suspension of all mining activity due to lack of free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected populations. Currently, the Resistance is awaiting the ruling from the arbitration process at the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) that the US mining company Kappes Cassidy & Associates brought against the State of Guatemala in response to the CC's injunction.



Regarding our accompaniment of the **Peaceful Resistance of La Laguna**, in San Pedro Ayampuc, we monitored their member's security situation through calls.



Within the framework of our accompaniment to the **Peaceful Resistance Cahabón (Alta Verapaz)**, this month we visited the communities of Caserio Las Tres Cruces, Sacta, Cheslau, Tzacpec and San Martin Chichaj, among others, all of whom form part of this Resistance. The communities are currently exercising their right to defend their territory from the imposition of a hydroelectric project without free, prior and informed consultation. In addition, we accompanied them to a meeting in the municipality of Cahabón to present a series of requests to the Vice-Mayor and the Municipal Council. Among other issues, the members of the Resistance requested that the good faith consultation conducted in August 2017 be recognized. They also demanded that the municipality does not grant the license for the construction of the OXEC III project without organizing a consultation to the affected communities.

On February 11 we also accompanied members of the Resistance to the MP office in San Pedro Carchá to file a complaint for the aggressions received from workers allegedly linked to the OXEC hydroelectric plant.

Regarding our accompaniment of the **TZK'AT - Network of Ancestral Healers of Community Feminism from Iximulew**, in addition to remaining attentive to their security situation and meeting with many of their members, we also accompanied them on February 7 during the monthly ceremony in commemoration and remembrance of the girls killed in the HSVA fire, which took place in the central square of Guatemala City.

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.

This month we observed **three public events:**

- On February 3 we observed a **public hearing at the CSJ relating to the injunction presented by the PDH in support of the AHPN**. In his presentation, the Human Rights Ombudsman, Jordán Rodas, argued the reasons why the injunction should be granted and for the prevention of a possible removal of the documents that form the AHPN.
- On February 18 we observed a **demonstration in front of the Congress**, convened by the Positive People organization, **to demonstrate their rejection of the reforms to the NGO law**.
- On February 25 we observed the activities organized for the commemoration of the **National Day of the Dignification of the Victims of the Internal Armed Conflict in Guatemala**. This day, which coincides with the 21st anniversary of the presentation of the Report of the Historical Clarification Commission (CEH) "Guatemala: Memory of Silence", the participating organizations made various demands, among which they highlighted: the State powers were asked resume the commitments made with the signing of the Peace Agreement and strengthen the institutions created by these Agreements; The CC was asked to resolve the injunction filed against bill 5377 that proposes an amnesty of persons accused of crimes against humanity.



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:

- Edoardo Pucci, **Italian Ambassador**.
- Ricardo González, **Consul of Spain**.
- Michael Grewe, Head of Cooperation for the **German Embassy**.
- Fernando Alameda Alvarado, Council Minister for the **Colombian Embassy**.

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

- Dorotea Gómez Grijalva, Women's Defender at the **PDH**.
- Alfonso Fuentes Soria, President of the **Presidential Commission Coordinating the Executive Policy on Human Rights (COPREDEH)**.
- Rosa María Camacho Leal, Head of the **PNC substation in San José del Golfo**.
- Denis Cristian Fraatz Sierra, Vice-Mayor in the **Municipality of Cahabón**.

5. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF PBI GUATEMALA IN GUATEMALA

On February 13 we organised a **public forum on the impacts of hydroelectric megaprojects on human rights in Guatemala** and the presentation of the documentary "The Blood of the Earth." Human rights defenders, national and international social organizations, representatives of the PDH and representatives of the international community participated.

On February 26, we presented the **documentary "The Blood of the Earth"** again, followed by forum on the climate crisis and the worrying water shortage.



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 project's European Representative held **meetings in Brussels** with the following people:

- Agnes Faelldin, Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union (EU), Swedish representative in the Council Working Group on Latin America and the Caribbean COLAC.
- Rafael Reig, Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU, Spanish representative in COLAC and the COLAC Human Rights Council Working Group.
- Victoria von Hammerstein, Permanent Representation of Germany, German representative at COHOM.
- Iban García del Blanco, Spanish MEP for the S&D Political Group, member of the Delegation for Latin America of the European Parliament, and Karina Gaete Llanos, advisor to the Spanish S&D delegation.
- Sandra Pereira, Portuguese MEP for the GUE Political Group, member of the Delegation for Latin America, and Luis Capucha, advisor to the Portuguese delegation of GUE.
- Assistants Kevin Schoos and Charlotte Wirth of Luxembourg MEP Charles Goerens, Renew Political Group, and member of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and the European Parliament Development Commission.
- Assistant Jessica Knein of the German MEP Jens Gieseke, EPP Political Group, and Vice President of the Delegation for Central America of the European Parliament.
- Ioanna Logofatu, from the secretariat of the European Parliament Development Commission.
- Djamila Chikhi, head of Latin America and Nicolas Joel, assistant, at the Secretariat of the Human Rights Subcommittee of the European Parliament.
- Jennifer Echeverría, Human Rights focal point of the EU Delegation in Guatemala.
- Tomás Reyes Ortega, Centroamérica desk, and Karolien Kras, assistant for El Salvador of the European External Action Service (EEAS).
- Raphael Warolin, head of Central America of the Human Rights Unit of the EEAS.

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.

DÍA NACIONAL DE LA DIGNIDAD DE LAS VÍCTIMAS DEL CONFLICTO ARMADO INTERNO

LAS VÍCTIMAS Y SOBREVIVIENTES DEL CONFLICTO ARMADO INTERNO MANIFESTAMOS A LA OPINIÓN PÚBLICA:

Este día honramos la memoria de nuestros seres queridos asesinados y desaparecidos durante los 36 años del conflicto armado interno. Con profundo dolor recordamos las atroces masacres que cometió el ejército en contra de nuestras comunidades, la violencia sexual en contra de mujeres y niñas, así como el desplazamiento forzoso que vivimos en las montañas para resguardar la vida de niñas, niños, mujeres y adultos mayores.

Hoy se cumplen 21 años de la presentación del informe de la Comisión para el Esclarecimiento Histórico, el cual reveló que hubo más de 200,000 víctimas; 45,000 desaparecidos, de los cuales 5,000 fueron niñas y niños; y más de un millón y medio de desplazados internos. A pesar de que se han logrado algunos avances en la justicia como en los casos Sepur Zarco, Molina Theissen, Masacre de la Embajada de España y Dos Erres, lamentamos que el Estado de Guatemala haga muy pocos esfuerzos para buscar a las personas desaparecidas, recuperar los restos de nuestros seres queridos, investigar y castigar a los responsables, y no ha cumplido con los compromisos de ofrecer una reparación digna a los familiares de las víctimas y sobrevivientes de las graves violaciones a los derechos humanos.

En los últimos años hemos visto el gran debilitamiento de la institucionalidad de la paz y la falta de voluntad política para cumplir las obligaciones del Estado de Guatemala con relación a la verdad, la justicia y la reparación para las víctimas. Particularmente vemos el riesgo en que se encuentra el Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional y el Programa Nacional de Resarcimiento.

Vemos con preocupación que en los planes del actual gobierno no se contemplan políticas específicas para cumplir con los Acuerdos de Paz ni garantizar los derechos de las víctimas. Rechazamos las declaraciones del Secretario Privado de la Presidencia quien solicitó propuestas para reformar la Ley de Reconciliación Nacional, cuando existen sentencias de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos que claramente le prohíben a Guatemala aprobar amnistías por los crímenes del conflicto armado interno, así como un amparo provisional otorgado por la Corte de Constitucionalidad.

POR LO TANTO, DEMANDAMOS QUE:

1. Los tres poderes del Estado de Guatemala retomen los compromisos asumidos en los Acuerdos de Paz y garanticen los derechos de las víctimas a la verdad, justicia y reparación digna.
2. El Organismo Ejecutivo fortalezca las instituciones creadas por los Acuerdos de Paz, particularmente la Secretaría de la Paz, el Programa Nacional de Resarcimiento, la Comisión Presidencial de Derechos Humanos y el Consejo Nacional para el Cumplimiento de los Acuerdos de Paz. Estas instituciones deben ser dirigidas por personas comprometidas con los derechos humanos y contar con el presupuesto suficiente para cumplir con los compromisos hacia las víctimas.
3. El Congreso de la República apruebe la iniciativa 3590 sobre la búsqueda de personas desaparecidas y la iniciativa de ley 3551 sobre el Programa Nacional de Resarcimiento. Los diputados deben abstenerse de aprobar iniciativas que violen los derechos humanos, como en el caso de la Ley de ONG que restringe las libertades de asociación y manifestación. Por lo cual pedimos que el Presidente de la República vete la Ley de ONG.
4. El Ministerio Público y el Organismo Judicial garanticen la justicia a las víctimas. Exigimos que se juzgue y castigue a todos los responsables de los crímenes que se cometieron durante el conflicto armado interno, como en los casos de genocidio Ixil, violencia sexual contra las mujeres Achi, Diario Militar y CREOMPAZ.

5. La Corte de Constitucionalidad resuelva en definitiva el amparo presentado en contra de la iniciativa 5377 que promueve la amnistía. La Corte le debe ordenar al Congreso archivarla y abstenerse de aprobar cualquier otra iniciativa que promueva la impunidad. El Estado de Guatemala debe cumplir las sentencias de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos que le prohíben aprobar amnistías por crímenes de lesa humanidad.

Finalmente hacemos un llamado a la sociedad a no olvidar los horrores del pasado y trabajar en unidad para defender la democracia. No podemos permitir que personas sin escrúpulos destruyan nuestros anhelos de justicia y paz.

GUATEMALA, 25 DE FEBRERO 2020

Organizaciones de víctimas

Asociación Civil Oxlajuj Q'anil / Asociación de Autoridades Ancestrales Indígenas Campesinas de / Víctimas del Conflicto Armado Interno / Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos y Desaparecidos de Guatemala (FAMDEGUA) / Asociación de Movimiento de Víctimas para el Desarrollo Integral del Norte del Quiché (ASOMOVINDINQ) / Asociación de Vecinos de Chicoyogüito (AVECHAV) / Asociación de Víctimas de Uspantan / Asociación de Víctimas por la Paz y la Justicia Oxlajuj Kej / Asociación de Víctimas Rudy Monterroso, San Marcos / Asociación de Víctimas y Sobrevivientes de BV / Asociación Memoria, Dignidad y Esperanza (AMDE), Santa Lucía Cotzumalguapa / Asociación para la Justicia y Reconciliación (AJR) / Asociación Q'anil Maya Kaqchikel / Colectiva Jalok'U, Sepur Zarco / Comité de Desplazados Internos Los Josefinos, Petén / Comité de Familiares de Sobrevivientes de Las Dos Erres, Petén / Comité de Familiares de Víctimas, El Recuerdo, Petén / Comunidades de Población en Resistencia CPR-Ixcán / Comunidades de Población en Resistencia CPR-Sierra / Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala (CONAVIGUA) / Consejo de Mujeres Mayas Ixmucané / Consejo Nacional de Víctimas del Conflicto Armado Interno (CONAVIC) / Coordinadora de Desplazados forzadas de las colonias de la ciudad / Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Víctimas del Municipio de Ixcán (CORVIMI) / Coordinadora de Sobrevivientes del Conflicto Armado Interno en Alta Verapaz (COSAI) / Coordinadora de Víctimas Qanil de Chimaltenango / Coordinadora de Víctimas Qanil de San Andrés Sajcabaja / Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala (CONAVIGUA) / Coordinadora para la Justicia y Dignificación de las Víctimas de Alta Verapaz (CODEVI) / Coordinadora Regional de Oriente y Nororiente / Desplazados forzados del Ixcán Grande de Escuintla / Familiares y Víctimas del Diario Militar / Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo (GAM) / Hijas e Hijos por la Identidad y la Justicia contra el Olvido y el Silencio (H.I.J.O.S. Guatemala) / Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas Q'anil Tinamit / Movimiento Regional de Víctimas de Alta Verapaz / Red Nacional de Víctimas / Unión Nacional de Comunidades por los Derechos Humanos Integrales (UNACODHI)

Organizaciones de derechos humanos y organizaciones sociales

Asociación Bufete Jurídico Popular (ABJP) / Asociación de Abogadas Indígenas (Chomija) / Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios "Oliverio Castañeda de León" (AEU) / Asociación Feminista La Cuerda / Bufete Jurídico de Derechos Humanos (BDH) / Centro de Análisis Forense y Ciencias Aplicadas (CAFCA) / Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos (CALDH) / Comité de Unidad Campesina (CUC) / Conoce tu pasado / Coordinación y Convergencia Nacional Maya Waqib'Kej / Equipo Comunitario de Atención Psicosocial (ECAP) / Fundación Rigoberta Menchú Tum (FRMT) / Human Rights Defender Project (HDRP) / Impunity Watch (IW) / Mujeres Transformando el Mundo (MTM) / Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado de Guatemala (ODHAG) / Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos (UDEFEHAG) / Unión Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas (UNAMG)

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**GUATEMALA PROJECT
PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL**

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