



Monthly Information Package from Guatemala

Number 122 – November 2013

1. CURRENT SITUATION

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

López Bonilla lashes out against human rights groups¹

Denunciations brought by human rights groups in October before the International Human Rights Commission (CIDH) against the criminalisation of social protests in the country were criticised by the Minister of the Interior, Mauricio López Bonilla in a meeting held with business leaders: he said that what the human rights groups do outside of the country "is no more than blackmail and extortion like that of gang members".

Among other things, social and human rights organisations demand the right to prior consultation with regard to mining. In response, Bonilla said that "governability must be maintained in order to avoid social problems".

In September, the head of the treasury announced that foreigners who come to the country with tourist visas and who participate in social protest activities will be declared "non gratos" and expelled from the country.

Genocide case against Ríos Montt will open again in 2015, according to the Sentencing Tribunal in charge²

The Major Risk B Sentencing Tribunal president, Jeannette Valdez, said that hearings in the case against ex-chief of State, José Efraín Ríos Montt, and the ex-chief of Military Intelligence, José Mauricio Rodríguez, will begin on 5 January 2015; she explained that the genocide case in which they are accused was included in the court agenda because items pending resolution now have been included in the file.

According to Alejandro Balsells, ex-president of the Center for Defence of the Constitution (CEDECON), it is impossible to comply with the order of the Constitutionality Court to return the process to 18 April since it is not possible for one tribunal to carry one part of the hearing and another tribunal to take charge of another part; therefore, in his opinion, the case should open from the beginning.

Arturo Aguilar, assistant to the Public Ministry (MP), said that the year and two months of waiting until January of 2015 is an example that other major risk tribunals need and dismissed the possibility that the Attorney General would bring other action in order to move the case forward. Héctor Reyes, prosecuting attorney and member of the Legal Action Centre for Human Rights (CALDH), hopes that the debate is rescheduled before that date, as in the case that took place earlier. According to Francisco Palomo, lawyer for the defence of Ríos Montt, the date for beginning debate is uncertain given that resolution of appeals are pending in relation to request for amnesty, and the decision of Judge Carol Patricia Flores to return the process to November 2011.

Five days left to decide if Ríos Monte is granted amnesty³

The Guatemalan Justice Department must decide if ex-dictator José Efraín Ríos Montt (1982-1983), accused of genocide and crimes against humanity, can or cannot enjoy the amnesty approved in 1986. The First Bench of the Court of Appeals received the file in which the CC granted a period of five days in which to resolve the matter of whether, based on legal arguments, the General can or cannot receive this benefit. Lawyers for Ríos Montt insist that he should benefit from the 1986 amnesty; however, CALDH and the Justice and Reconciliation Association (AJR), complainants in the case, maintain that genocide and other crimes against humanity cannot benefit from amnesty.

Other News

¹ Prensa Libre 26.11.13 http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/lopez_bonilla-activistas-derechos_humanos-protestas-informe-camara_de_la_industria_0_1036696428.html

² El Periódico, 6.11.13 <http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/es/20131106/pais/237436/>

³ Siglo 21, 27.11.13 <http://www.s21.com.gt/nacionales/2013/11/26/cinco-dias-para-decidir-si-rios-montt-amnistiado>

United Nations Rapporteur denounces persecution of human rights defenders⁴

The Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights defenders, Margaret Sekaggya, denounced the persecution suffered by human rights defence workers who support communities affected by large-scale projects such as hydro-electric dams, mines, and others carried out by extractive industries. In her annual report presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations (ONU), Sekaggya said that defenders are labelled anti-government or anti-development or even enemies of the State; she added that activists who express reservations about the construction of large, hydro-electric dams, roads or mining projects receive death threats and are persecuted when they carry out their work. The UN Special Rapporteur said that the defenders of territories and human rights are not opposed to development in the countries, rather they know it plays an important role in progress, so they watch to be sure that it is carried out in agreement within frameworks of local and international law.

During her presentation, the expert said that it is essential for the communities affected by mega-projects to participate in decision-making and share their opinions about the design and execution of the project.

An account given by the Mesoamerican Initiative of Human Rights Defenders (IM-Defensoras), reveals that Guatemala is the country in Mesoamerica that reports the highest incidence of aggression and threats against human rights defenders, accounting for 30% of the cases. According to IM-Defensoras, 38 women who defended enforcement and fundamental guarantees were assassinated between 2010 and 2012 in Mesoamerica; 38% of the victims defended land, territory and natural resources.

Migrants vote in the USA⁵

In an historic event, indigenous organisations coordinated voting in the United State as part of a consultation to measure support and opposition to mining. The Franciscan Council of Los Angeles (CFLAC) and For the Defence of Land, Territory, and Sacred Places held the first extra-territorial consultation of the migrant population with roots in San Francisco El Alto, Totonicapán living in the United States. 4,260 votes were cast at 10 stations installed in Los Angeles, and all were opposed to any exploitation of natural resources done for mining.

According to Nim Sanik, member of the Council of Western Villages (CPO), the process included persons with cultural roots to San Francisco El Alto who, living outside of their country, exercised their right to political and cultural participation. Despite that they are far from their families, the migrants contribute to the development of their communities, "because we prefer water to gold; the mountains that give life over the exploitation of our resources", said Sanik. Marcos Hernández, a Community Council leader from San Francisco El Alto, the Municipal Mayor and Council, community leaders and members of CPO, travelled to the United States to be part of the voting process. José Gómez, member of CPO, who served as observer, said that the participation of the villages is important in making both political and cultural decisions, and is provided for in Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Experts and analysts criticise change of candidates for president of the Supreme Court of Justice⁶

According to judicial experts, the change of candidates for the presidency of the Supreme Court of Justice (CS) confirms again the power struggle and personal interests of the two groups of magistrates: "To change the candidates again, one in the group of the 6 and another in the 7, is not a demonstration of 'good will'said Ramón Cadena, Director in Guatemala for the International Commission of Jurists (CIJ). In addition, he said that the magistrates nominated for the contest, Mynor Franco and Gustavo Bonilla, are not candidates named by consensus: "To achieve an agreement, the two groups must put aside their interests and consider the Justice that Guatemala needs"he recommended.

Gabriel Orellana, independent analyst, said that the good will about which the candidates to the CSJ speak is only words and added that "we remember that on paper they can take it; if not, what accounts for the fact that yet today we remain without an elected president".

2. ACCOMPANIMENTS

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

⁴ Centro de Reportes Informativos de Guatemala (CERIGUA), 29.10.2013

http://cerigua.org/1520/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16161:relatora-denuncia-persecucion-contra-defensores-de-derechos-humanos&catid=37:derechos-humanos&Itemid=10

⁵ El Quetzalteco 5.11.13 <http://elquetzalteco.com.gt/quetzaltenango/migrantes-votan-en-ee-uu>

⁶ CERIGUA 8.11.2013 <http://www.monitoreodemedios.gt/wp/ven-falsa-voluntad%C2%AD-en-magistrados-de-la-corte-suprema/>

⁷ For information on our accompaniments see: <http://www.pbi-guatemala.org/field-projects/pbi-guatemala/who-we-accompany/>

We continued accompaniment in the eastern part of the country with **Chortí New Day Campesina Central Coordinator**. On 12 November, we were observers in the community of Las Flores, municipality of Jocotán (Chiquimula), during a workshop on security facilitated by the Unit for Protection of Human Rights Defenders of Guatemala (UNDEFEGUA), and on the 25th, we attended a Intercommunity Assembly organized by the Coordinator in Guareruche, Jocotán in which were shared experiences of community resistance in the zone confronting the El Orégano hydro-electric project being promoted by Las Tres Niñas, SA. Members of the organisations expressed concern over the increased police and military presence in the zone this month. In addition, the attack against a member of the organisation on the 21st bears mention: he was beaten unconscious for his involvement in the organisation. The same day, a denunciation was filed before the MP in Chiquimula against these acts which occurred in the community of Suchique, Jocotán. The father of the victim had been wounded with a bullet in April for his defence of communal measurement of the land.

In November, as well, we maintained contact with the **Twelve Communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez**, observing weekly assemblies in Santa Fé Ocaña on two occasions. As in the previous month, on 13 November we attended a court hearing in which three members of the organisation are accused for their participation in social protests in 2011⁸; however, it was cancelled again due to the absence of one of the judges.

We continued follow-up of the events of the last month in the community **Asunción Chivoc** (see MIP No. 121). At the end of this month, the citizens attempted to protect the property of a person who lives in the community by constructing a barrier around it; according to what they said, staff from Cementos Progreso tried to widen the road that passes in front of the land and to displace the owner. The next day, the barrier was taken down by the staff of the same company.

On 25 November, we accompanied a community delegation to the national Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH) where the threats and repeated attacks against the landowner in Asunción Chivoc were denounced and where protective measures were requested for his protection. In addition, they repeated their concern about the passage and entry of trucks to the cement plant by way of the road in the community.

On 26 November, a delegation of the Twelve Communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez were present at the forum on indigenous peoples and extractive industries organised by the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights (OACNUDH); the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, participated in the event along with many social movements from the country.

This month, we visited three times with the **Peaceful Resistance of La Puya** which continues its permanent occupation on the edge of the municipality between San José del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc (Guatemala). On 14 November, we accompanied several of its members to a hearing for charges against them for their participation in a demonstration here in 2012; four of the eight accused were present. According to organisation sources, the four persons not present at the hearing had not received respective personal notifications. As a result, the MP issued arrest orders against them and against other members of the resistance.

This month we maintained regular contact with the members of the **Association of Indigenous Women of Santa María de Xalapán in Jalapa (AMISMAXAJ)**. At the end of the month, we accompanied one of its members during the release from prison of three persons incarcerated during the state of siege declared in the area in May, among them Laura Vázquez who was accused of explosives theft in November 2012, carrying a prison sentence of 6 months.

On 5 November, we observed a meeting in El Quiché in which members of the **Cunén Communities Council** participated along with other communities in the region such as Nebaj, Chajul, and Sacapulas, with the assistant to the mayor of Cunén. During the meeting, they rejected Decree 145-2013 approved by the government in April which declared national urgency and public necessity for the construction of works contained in the Expansion Plan for the System of Electric Energy Transport and the Plan for Rural Electrification⁹. According to social organisations, this decree

⁸ ALERT: Legal accusations, arrest warrants and detention of members of the Kaqchikel communities in San Juan Sacatepéquez 01.08.2013. [http://www.pbi-guatemala.org/los-proyectos/pbi-guatemala/noticias/spanish-news-holder/?no_cache=1&L=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=3902&cHash=2215b7581a2102498351da95f984d0f2](http://www.pbi-guatemala.org/los-proyectos/pbi-guatemala/noticias/spanish-news-holder/?no_cache=1&L=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=3902&cHash=2215b7581a2102498351da95f984d0f2)

⁹ Decree 144 - 2013: <http://www.minfin.gob.gt/index.php/acuerdos-gubernativos/acuerdos-gubernativos-2013/934-no-145-2013-acuerdo-gubernativo-energia-acuerdase-declarar-de-urgencia-nacional-y-necesidad-publica-la-construccion-de-las-obras-contenidas-en-el-plan-de-expansion>

could give rise to forced evictions to make room for these works. At the same time, they rejected the parcelisation of lands in Cunén and demanded revindication of communal lands in the municipality.

In November we continued contact with members of the **Peoples Council of K'iche' (CPK)**. On 8 November, we accompanied one of its members to the municipal offices of La Choleña, San José del Golfo, where she participated in a workshop on sanitation with women from the area.

This month, we had periodic contact and meetings with members of the **Verapaz Union of Campesino Organisations (UVOC)**. The impasse in the adjudication of lands for the community population of the La Primavera Estate, San Cristóbal (Alta Verapaz) and of San Miguelito Cotoxjá, El Estor (Izabal) continues to be of constant concern for the organisation and its members. We also observed a march in which UVOC members participated (see "Observations" section).

We held meetings and made visits each week in November at the office of the **Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala (UDEFEUGA)** during which we were updated on the situation of the Monte Olivo, Barillas community as well as other areas of intense conflict in the country marked by aggressions against the communities and against human rights defenders. On the 6th and 12th of November, we observed two workshops on the Criminalisation of social protest which were organised by UDEFEUGA where great concern was expressed over the increase in such cases in Guatemala and the possibility that the situation would get worse in the next few years.

We also continued accompanied the **Human Rights Law Office**, being present with attorney, Edgar Pérez Archila in his travels. We observed a hearing in the Cotzal case in which two are accused of illegal detention. As well, we continued to accompany attorney Santiago Choc Cu, member of the Office who was the target of intimidation during the genocide trial.

On the 5th and 6th of November, we observed a burial organised by **National Coordination of Widows of Guatemala (CONAVIGUA)**. The remains belonged to members of the Nebaj community who, because of the armed conflict, were displaced to El Triunfo, Retalhuleu, on the country's south coast. Therefore, we accompanied CONAVIGUA to Nebaj to collect the remains and later went to El Triunfo where more than 300 persons were waiting to receive the remains in order to hold a ceremony and burial.

Peace Brigades International has observed and accompanied the **Historical Archive of the National Police (AHPN)** since its founding in 2005, given its key role in the struggle against impunity, the recovery of historical memory, and the application of justice. In addition, it values the relevance of the AHPN in support of documented proof, expertise in ongoing judicial processes in the areas of investigation and clarification of concrete cases of human rights violations committed during the armed conflict and in determining criminal responsibility of the perpetrators. The AHPN is part of the General Archive of Central America, its ownership and location fall within the Guatemalan Ministry of Cultural, and it functions exclusively on donations and funds from international cooperation. The Archive has stored 16 million digitalised images which are added continuously to the Unit for Information Access database. In addition, they are added to the University of Texas website¹⁰ which makes available more than 12 million documents from the historical archive. In recent years of intense work, the AHPN also has formed many relationships with the diplomatic corps in Guatemala which continuously visit the installations with different national and international institutions and foreign universities. This network constitutes an important support for the AHPN which sustains and accompanies its critical work in strengthening the justice system in Guatemala.



Historical Archive of the National Police (AHPN). PBI photo: 2012

Because of this, and because the level of risk for AHPN is considered to have decreased, PBI decided to move its accompaniment into the **follow-up phase** in agreement with the members of the Archive. This means that we will decrease physical accompaniment while maintaining contact with the members through visits and/or phone calls to their work places and offices. At the same time, we will remain available for concrete requests for specific reasons that

¹⁰ <https://ahpn.lib.utexas.edu/>

require an international presence. In November, we maintained frequent contact with AHPN members through phone calls, meetings, and visits to their offices. On 26 November, two new members of the PBI team participated in a tour of the Archive installations.

From January 2009 to 14 November 2013, the AHPN received more than 9,000 requests for digital copies of documents from the MP, from families of victims, the PDH, the National Civilian Police (PNC), as well as many other persons and organisations - having provided a total of 246,634 images of documents.

3. INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION

PBI Guatemala provides international observation of public events as requested by Guatemalan social organisations, to bring attention and international interest and to communicate outside the country what we observe.

On 5 November, we observed a **demonstration in front of the Constitutionality Court** in opposition to the amparo filed by the **San Rafael mine** related to the decision that called for the mining license to suspend exploration. Members of the **Committee in Defence of Life and Peace** from San Rafael Las Flores (Santa Rosa), among other social organisations and movements, attended the demonstration.

On the 8th, a situation of **emergency in the community of Xalahá, Monte Olivo, Cobán** (Alta Verapaz) arose when estate owner, Leonel Ponce, along with private security agents, attempted to evict inhabitants, burning several houses and using fire arms. According to the local population, the land was occupied last year in protest against the **Santa Rita hydro-electric** project in the area, giving rise to threats and intimidations by the land owner. The eviction attempt resulted in several injuries, including those of **Carols Isaías Guitz**, who suffered a gunshot during the attack. The bullet entered through his spine, leaving his spinal column seriously injured. PBI went to Cobán to follow-up on the emergency situation. At the end of the month, Mr. Guitz remained in San Juan de Dios hospital in Guatemala City.

Two days later in Jalapa, we observed a **municipal consultation** focused on the question: "Is there agreement with the development, installation, and operation of chemical metal mining projects in any part of the municipality of Jalapa?" PBI formed part of the international observation focusing on one of the voting stations in the community of **El Durazno**. Of 24,562 persons who participated, **94.19% voted against mining projects** in the municipality.

Mid-month, we observed a **march in the capital** from the Centra Norte to the **Constitutionality Court** where a charge of unconstitutionality was filed in response to **Decree 145-2013** (see *Cunén Communities Council* in "Accompaniment"). Organisations such as UVOC, CODECA, CNOG, and CONDEG attended. Specifically, the claim considered the decree unconstitutional because it contravenes the Guatemalan Constitutions in that it has not been approved by Congress but only by the Government.



Municipal Consultation in Jalapa, El Durazno 10.11.13. PBI Photo: 2013

Finally, on the 25th and 27th we observed **two marches** in the capital marking the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** in which a multitude of organisations participated including CONAVIGUA, the Twelve Communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez, the Women's Sector, and the Committee for Campesino Unity (CUC), demanding the end to the impunity and violence against women in Guatemala.

Peace Brigades International has accompanied the movement in defence of la Granadillas mountain since 2008. In July and August of 2013, the **Ecumenical and Pastoral Coordinator in defence of life in the departments of Chiquimula and Zacapa** was created from a union of communities, churches and non-governmental organisations defending the mountainous zone of Merendón located between the departments of Zacapa and Chiquimula. The members of the Coordinator are: the Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILUGUA), the Catholic Diocese of Zacapa and Chiquimula, the Parish of La Unión and Jocotán, the Chortí New Day Campesina Central Coordinator, the Anglican Church, Chortí indigenous campesino communities of Zacapa and Chiquimula, and municipalities of Gualán, Zacapa,

Jocotán, and Camotán.

The objective of the coordinator is the defence of territory and nature in the zone against deforestation and implementation of mega-projects. Since July, PBI has provided continuous observation of the coordinator's activities, maintaining international presence during assemblies.

The 21st of November, we observed an assembly of the Ecumenical and Pastoral Coordinator in defence of life in the departments of Chiquimula and Zacapa in Camotán municipality where different members met to determine steps for the next several months.

We also made periodic phone calls to Rev. José Pilar Álvarez who is one of the ILUGUA representatives to the Coordinator.

4. POLITICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

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

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

This month we met with staff of several embassies and international agencies in the country: At the beginning of the month, we met with Daniel Ortíz, consul for the **Embassy of Chile**, to present an update of our work. On the 20th, we met with Isabel Ramírez, assistant to the Deputy Chief of Mission for the **Swiss Embassy** with whom we shared our concern over the situation in the Twelve Communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez.

In November we met with Guatemalan agencies and authorities: Mid-month we met with the **mayor of San Pedro Ayampuc**, Alberto Quino and his legal aide, Alfonso Sol, and explained our role in the region within the framework of accompaniment of the Peaceful Resistance of La Puya. We also met with staff of the **National Civilian Police (PNC) substation in Santa Cruz Verapaz** (Alta Verapaz).

Meetings with civil society organisations

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

In November, we maintained contact with several organisations and individuals from Guatemalan civil society: At the beginning of the month, we met with members of the **Committee in Defence of Life and Peace** of San Rafael Las Flores (Santa Rosa). We also were present at a meeting in Cobán, Alta Verapaz attended by social organisations such as the Association of Community Health Services (**ASECSA**), the Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences (**AVANSCO**), the Association Pro-Bienestar en Acción (**Aproba-Sank**), and the Campesino Unity Committee (**CUC**) which focused on the situation in the village of Monte Olivo (see "Observations"). At the end of the month, we met with members from the **Recuperation of Historical Memory (REMHI)** collective in the department of Petén in which they shared their concerns over the situation of intense conflict in the region that profoundly affects several rural communities and their inhabitants. Also this month, we periodically visited the offices of **Madre Selva Collective** and the **Women's Sector** in the capital.

In addition, we met with international or foreign social organisations present in Guatemala: Throughout the month, we were in contact with the **Coordination for International Accompaniment in Guatemala (ACOGUATE)** and with **Guatemalan Human Rights Commission (GHRC)**, coordinating shared documentation to present to the Inter American Human Rights Commission (CIDH) in which we express our concern over the irregularities in implementation of protective measures granted by the Commission for Guatemalan defenders who we accompany. Mid-month, we joined UDEFEGUA in a meeting with the **World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)** which was in Guatemala on an observation mission concerning the criminalisation of social protest. We also met this month with Borislav Petronov, member of the **Open Society Foundation** along with human rights attorney, Edgar Pérez Archila. Finally, at the end of the month we met with Ramón Cadena, director in Guatemala for the **International Jurists Commission (CIJ)** and shared with him information about the context and human rights situation in Petén in light of the next visit PBI will make to the department scheduled for December.

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.

On 19 November, the European representative to the project held a meeting in **Brussels** with Stephanie Roels, Political Officer for Human Rights from the **permanent representation of the Netherlands**. On 22 November, she met with Cornelius Huppertz, First Secretary responsible for human rights for the **permanent representation of Germany before the European Union (UE)**. The same day, she met with Julita Bas and Patricia Bocchi, both from the Human Rights Units of the **European External Action Service (EEAS)**, by its English acronym).

On the 27th, the European representative to the project met with Gerard Schulting, Guatemala desk of the **EEAS** and Miguel Moerth, member of the CIJ in Guatemala. She also participated in the Central American Delegation session of the **European Parliament** in Brussels on the same day.

At the end of October and beginning of November, **guatemalan lawyer, Edgar Pérez**, visited Europe at the invitation of PBI groups in several countries, in particular in **Spain, United Kingdom and Germany**. The Guatemala project contributed to the organisation of the tour¹¹.

At the end of November and beginning of December, **Jorge Luis Morales, lawyer of UVOC**, participated in a tour in Switzerland and Belgium organised by the Guatemala project. He participated in several activities and meetings in **Geneva** with institutions in the United Nations system and in **Brussels** with institutions of the European Union. He also met with human rights defenders and European social organisations.

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 (original language - spanish)

LA CONVERGENCIA POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS MANIFIESTA:

1. En un planteamiento ante empresarios, el Ministro de Gobernación afirmó que la participación de organizaciones de derechos humanos en las audiencias de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH), "no es más que un chantaje y una extorsión como la de los pandilleros".
2. Dicha sentencia, al provenir de un funcionario del Gobierno, establece como política oficial la estigmatización de defensoras y defensores de derechos humanos, así como el uso de un discurso de odio en contra del derechos a defender derechos humanos.
3. Esta lógica discursiva, empleada por el Ministro de Gobernación, reproduce los conceptos incluidos en la política contrainsurgente, durante el conflicto armado interno, que identifica como enemigo interno a cualquier expresión de disidencia o reclamo. Una política de Estado que llevó al Estado de Guatemala a cometer actos de genocidio.
4. Al ser un alto funcionario de Gobierno quien profiere dichos argumentos y términos calificativos que contienen una carga peyorativa, pone en riesgo y alta vulnerabilidad a líderes y lideresas sociales quienes han actuado en el marco de la ley y en legítimo y pleno ejercicio de los derechos que nuestro ordenamiento jurídico reconoce y garantiza.

POR LO ANTERIOR, LA CONVERGENCIA POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS:

- Rechaza rotundamente las afirmaciones del Ministro de Gobernación a quien demanda una disculpa pública por el contenido criminalizador de sus afirmaciones infundadas.
- Requiere del Procurador de Derecho Humanos (PDH), una resolución que demande la destitución de éste y cualquier otro funcionario que incurra en acciones que criminalicen de hecho la labor de Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos.
- Responsabiliza al Ministro de Gobernación de cualquier circunstancia que ponga en riesgo la integridad de quienes participaron en las audiencias de la CIDH, así como de cualquier defensor o defensora que resulte afectada por dichas declaraciones.

Guatemala, noviembre de 2013

¹¹ For an interview and video made during the tour in Spain, see Gómez, Nadal, P., " La lucha contra la impunidad en Guatemala", Otramérica, 01.12.2013 <http://otramerica.com/personajes/la-lucha-contra-la-impunidad-guatemala/3045>

-UNAMG- Unión Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas, -CAFCA- Centro de Análisis Forense y Ciencias Aplicadas, -ODHAG- Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado de Guatemala, -SEDEM- Seguridad en Democracia, -ECAP- Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial, -CALAS- Centro de Acción Legal Ambiental y social de Guatemala, -UDEFEQUA- Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala, -CIIDH- Centro Internacional para Investigaciones en Derechos Humanos

PBI Team in Guatemala: Stephen Bradford (United States), Daniel Butler (United Kingdom), Melanie Rücker (Germany), Valentina Caprotti (Italy), Karen Jeffares (Ireland), Rubén Carricondo Sánchez (Spain), Erika Martínez García (Spain), Danilo Guerrero Díaz (Chile), Sanne de Swart (Netherlands), Felix Weiss (Germany) and Kim-Mai Vu (Switzerland).

The following people voluntarily contributed in translating this publication into English: Alice Schuda, Christopher Moye.

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GUATEMALA PROJECT
PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL

Team office in Guatemala
3ª Avenida "A" 3-51, Zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala
Teléfono/fax: (+502) 2220 1032
Correo-e: equipo@pbi-guatemala.org
Página web: www.pbi-guatemala.org

Project Coordination Office
Rúa Mercado 6, 4ªA
15001 A Coruña, Galiza, Estado Español
Teléfono: (+34) 881 874 772
Correo-e: coordinacion@pbi-guatemala.org