

NO TO REMILITARIZATION

The social organizations and communities of Ixcán express our concern for and rejection of the installation of the 6th Infantry Brigade, ratified by the President of the Republic despite firm rejection demonstrated by the majority of the Ixcán communities.

The men and women of this municipality have not forgotten the grave suffering that the war caused us. In the region of Ixcán alone, 102 massacres were committed, resulting in the deaths of 2,500 people. Scorched earth policies caused 96% of the municipality's population to be forcibly displaced. The communities that remained in the area were subjected to strict military control and forced to participate in the PAC (civilian defense patrols). Nearly thirteen years after the signing of the Peace Accords, the majority of the communities and people victimized by the armed conflict have yet to be compensated for the human, material and moral damages that they suffered.

THE RETURN OF THE MILITARY IS AN OFFENSE TO HISTORICAL MEMORY AND A VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF A POPULATION THAT HAS NOT HEALED FROM THE TRAUMAS THAT WERE INFLICTED UPON IT DURING THE WAR

In order to expand its installations, the Department of Defense wants to take land that is currently occupied by the Health Center (hospital), the only institution that provides medical attention to the 100,000 inhabitants of the region. The communities of Ixcán reject this measure because health and education are priorities for development. In a meeting on September 30, 2009, the Inspector General declared the land in question property of the State.

We are tired of violence and insecurity. However, an increased military presence will not bring more security and tranquility. It will bring more bars, brothels and violence to the municipal capital. In a democratic society, the fight against common delinquency is not the military's responsibility; it is the duty of the civil police. Militarization is NOT the solution. While impunity and corruption still exist in the justice system, delinquents continue operating freely in the country because 98% of crimes committed in Guatemala remain in impunity.

In reality, the presence of a military brigade in Ixcán will protect the investments of transnational corporations whose interests lie in exploiting our natural resources and intimidating the communities who reject megaprojects (hydroelectric dams, oil extraction, African palm and mining). Peace, development and security are not achieved with militarization and repression, but with acceptance of our communities' rights to exist, to work the land, to be consulted and to define our own methods of development as established by the Constitution of the Republic and Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization.

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A TOWN WITH HUNGER IS A TOWN WITHOUT PEACE

2 de Diciembre de 2009

Red de Organizaciones de Mujeres de Ixcán ROMI; Comunidad Primavera del Ixcán – CPR DEL IXCÁN; Asociación de Desarraigados de las Microregiones II y VI ADEREMCO; Coordinadora de Víctimas del Municipio de Ixcán; Asociación de Defensa de la Tierra y los Recursos Naturales; Federación de Cooperativas de Comercialización de Ixcán; Asociación de estudiantes de Santa María Tzejá y aldeas circunvecinas; Asociación de Educadores Noroccidentales; Pastoral Social de Ixcán; Puente de Paz; Servicios Jurídicos y Sociales; Asociación Comunitaria de Servicios de Salud; Fundación Guillermo Toriello; Fundación Solidaria Ixcán; Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Salud de Guatemala, filial Ixcán; Organización de Mujeres Guatemaltecas Mamá Maquín; Asociación Justicia y Reconciliación; Centro para la Acción Legal Derechos Humanos; Frente Guatemalteco de Afectados y Amenazados por las Represas y en defensa del Agua; FAMDEGUA; Waq`Ib Kej; Asociación Ukux`be´; Movimiento Nacional por los Derechos Humanos; HIJOS; Bloque Antiimperialista; Asociación Comunicarte; Servicios Ecuménicos en Centro América; Derechos en Acción; Asociación Civil El Observador; Casa Artesana; Sector Mujer; Colectiva Feminista de Mujeres de Izquierda; Frente Nacional de Lucha; Frente Popular; Tercera Promoción de la Maestría en Psicología Social y Violencia Política USAC; Plataforma Agraria.