



GUATEMALA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION/USA

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Defender Killed: Francisco Munguia, Santa Maria Xalapan Community Vice-President of CODECA

June 11, 2018

On June 10, Francisco Munguia, a 68 year old indigenous Xinca man was buried in his community of Divisadero in Santa Maria Xalapan after being hacked to death by machete on Friday, June 8. He was attacked on his way home from work, and died in the ambulance on the way to the hospital after being found by a child from his community. Mr. Munguia was the father of three small children and was the Vice-President of CODECA, the Committee for *Campesino* Development, in that community. He is the fourth CODECA member killed in a month. The day after his murder CODECA announced a national strike to denounce the murders and lack of government action in response.

Since March, eight *campesinos*, members or leaders of CODECA and the Highland Committee of Peasant Farmers (CCDA) have been killed.. Both organizations support indigenous peasant farmers and their struggle for land justice. Munguia is the fourth member of CODECA killed this year.

On April 20, and then again on May 2, Jimmy Morales criticized the work of the Human Rights Ombudsman and the Public Prosecutor, while particularly vehemently attacking CODECA one of the organizations that has consistently denounced the Jimmy Morales government. A week after President Morales' May 2 attack on CODECA, Luis Arturo Marroquin, part of the National Leadership of CODECA was murdered. The following day, May 10, CCDA reported that José Can Xol had been killed, soon followed by CCDA member Mateo Chaman Paau, murdered on May 14. On June 1, CCDA member Ramon Choc died after a machete attack the previous day in Alta Verapaz. Also in Alta Verapaz, Samuel Chubb from Saqboche was killed on March 1 en route to the CCDA Annual General Assembly. A few days later, on June 6, Alejandro Hernández y Francisco Pérez from the town of Los Cerritos in Jutiapa were found hacked to death by machetes.