

The Ixil People Will Continue to Seek Justice

Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR) and the survivors of the Ixil Massacre

For the last 18 years, we've been seeking justice for the genocide committed against our communities by the Guatemalan Army. That demand for justice will not end with the death of Ríos Montt. The trial against Mauricio Rodríguez Sánchez, ex- Director of Military Intelligence under Ríos Montt will continue, as will other cases against those responsible for the genocide and the crimes committed during the armed conflict.

On May 10th, 2013, the 'High Risk Court "A"' sentenced Ríos Montt to 80 years in prison for genocide and crimes against humanity, which is why he died with a guilty sentence and under house arrest. We reject claims that he died a free man and his acts went unpunished. In fact, he died condemned and facing a second conviction.

We regret that the victims and perpetrators of the genocide are dying before justice is served. As of now, 5 witnesses and 3 senior military officers who were responsible for the military crimes of 1982 and 1983 have died. This shows the State's lack of political willpower to guarantee justice for the survivors of genocide and the crimes of the armed conflict.

By signing the Peace Accords, the State committed to prosecuting those responsible for crimes against the civilian population, especially crimes against children, women and campesinos. Nevertheless, the State continues to deny the truth and delay justice for these victims and for the Ixil people in particular.

Thus, We Demand:

1. That the 'High Risk Court "B"' speed up the case against Mauricio Rodríguez Sánchez. It is difficult for the victims to have to travel every 8 days to the capitol to take part in the hearings. We demand that the case be resolved quickly and that Mauricio Rodríguez Sánchez be sentenced.
2. That the Public Prosecutor investigate all of the high and mid- ranking army officers responsible for the Ixil genocide and those responsible for the genocide against the Achí, Kaqchikel, Chuj and Q'anjob'al people.
3. That the Appointments Committee exclude Mr. Roberto Molina Barreto from consideration for Attorney General, because he has denied justice to victims of human rights violations. After Ríos Montt was convicted, Roberto Molina Barreto illegally ordered a repeat trial in order to protect the ex-dictator from his rightful sentence.
4. That the government of Guatemala recognize the truth of our history and stop denying the past. The truth is important value for the Mayan people and we demand that the victim testimonies and the genocide sentence be respected. Reconciliation can only be built upon the foundations of truth and justice and we will forever honor the memory of our parents and grandparents.

Kab'laval "e"
Nebaj, Quiché, April 6, 2018