

NATIONAL DAY OF DIGNITY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE INTERNAL ARMED CONFLICT
February 25, 2020

Victims and survivors of the Internal Armed Conflict express to the public:

This day we honor the memory of our loved ones killed and disappeared during the 36 years of the Internal Armed Conflict. With deep sadness we remember the atrocious massacres that our communities faced, the sexual violence against women and girls, as well as the forced displacement we lived in the mountains in order to protect the lives of children, women and the elderly.

Today marks the 21st anniversary of the presentation of the UN-sponsored Historical Clarification Commission Report for truth and reconciliation. The report concluded that there were over 200,000 victims as well as over 45,000 disappeared, of which 5,000 were children, and more than 1.5 million internally displaced people. We lament the fact that, since then, the Guatemalan state has made very few efforts to search for missing people, recover the remains of our loved ones, investigate and punish those responsible, and offer dignified reparations to the families of the victims and survivors of these serious violations.

In recent years we have seen a weakening of the institutionalization of peace and a lack of political will to fulfill the obligations required of the Guatemalan state in relation to truth, justice and reparation for victims. In particular, we see that the Historical Archive of the National Police and the National Compensation Program find themselves at risk.

We are concerned that the plans of the current government do not account for specific policies that would comply with the Peace Accords or protect the rights of victims. We reject the statements made by the Private Secretary of the Presidency, who requested proposals to reform the National Reconciliation Law, even though sentences were passed by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that clearly prohibit Guatemala from approving amnesties for the crimes of the Internal Armed Conflict.

Therefore, we demand that:

1. The three powers of the Guatemalan state assume the commitments made in the Peace Accords and guarantee the victims' rights to truth, justice and dignified reparation.
2. The Executive Branch strengthens the institutions created by the Peace Accords, particularly the Ministry of Peace, the National Compensation Program and the Presidential Commission on Human Rights. These institutions must be directed by people committed to Human Rights and must be provided a sufficient budget to fulfill the commitments towards the victims of the conflict.
3. The Congress of the Republic approves the initiative 3590 regarding the search for disappeared persons and the law initiative 3551 regarding the National Compensation Program. Members of Congress must refrain from approving initiatives that violate

human rights or restrict freedom of association and demonstration, as in the case of the NGO Law.

4. The Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Judicial Branch guarantee justice to the victims. We demand that all those responsible for the crimes committed during the Internal Armed Conflict be prosecuted and punished, such as in the cases of the Ixil genocide, sexual violence against the Maya Achi women, Diario Militar and CREOMPAZ.
5. The Constitutional Court resolves absolutely the injunction filed against initiative 5377, which promotes amnesty, and orders Congress to file this initiative and to refrain from approving any that promote impunity. The Guatemalan state must comply with the sentences of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that prohibit it from approving amnesties for crimes against humanity.

Lastly, we call on society not to forget the horrors of the past and to work together to defend democracy. We cannot allow immoral persons to destroy our longing for justice and peace.

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 Vecinos de Chicoyogüito (AVECHAV) / Asociación de Víctimas por la Paz y la Justicia Oxlajuj Kej / Asociación de Víctimas Rudy Monterroso, San Marcos / Asociación Memoria, Dignidad y Esperanza (AMDE), Santa Lucía Cotzumalguapa / Asociación de Movimiento de Víctimas para el Desarrollo Integral del Norte del Quiché (ASOMOVIDINQ) / Asociación para la Justicia y Reconciliación (AJR) / Asociación Q'anil Maya Kaqchikel / 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 / Consejo de Mujeres Mayas Ixmucané / Consejo Nacional de Víctimas del Conflicto Armado Interno (CONAVIC) / Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala (CONAVIGUA) / Coordinadora de Sobrevivientes del Conflicto Armado Interno en Alta Verapaz (COSAI) / Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Víctimas del Municipio de Ixcán (CORVIMI) / Coordinadora para la Justicia y Dignificación de las Víctimas de Alta Verapaz (CODEVI) / Familiares de Víctimas del Diario Militar / H.I.J.O.S. Guatemala / Movimiento de Víctimas y Sobrevivientes del Conflicto Armado Interno, Coordinadora Regional de Oriente y Nororiente / 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)