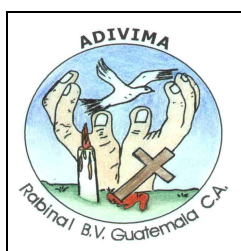


ADIVIMA NEWSLETTER



July 2007 Volume 1, Issue 1

This newsletter contains information about the work being done by the Association for the Integral Development of the Victims of Violence in Verapaces, Maya Achi (ADIVIMA) with the essential purpose of publicizing the activities carried out by the Association, in the hopes of attaining technical support and possibly some financial support that will strengthen the work that ADIVIMA is doing to benefit the survivors of Guatemala's internal armed conflict. ADIVIMA is also establishing strategies in the search for justice for the families of those killed in the tragic violence that our country suffered, specifically indigenous people in the rural areas of the Rabinal region. For more information, please contact the Director of ADIVIMA, either by email: adivima@yahoo.com or by telephone: (502) 7938-8230.

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*** Message from the Director:**

Dear Friends,

This publication is to inform the national and international community of the advances made in our efforts as survivors of genocide and serious human rights violations.

Guatemala, particularly the survivors of genocide, has lived through a period of pain and terror. This gruesome history has caused deterioration of the social fabric in many communities, extreme poverty and lack of access to justice aimed at reconciliation.

Our efforts are aimed at finding truth, justice and reconciliation.

Significant steps have been taken toward obtaining disinterments at clandestine cemeteries, monitoring legal cases against those responsible for genocide and serious human rights violations, problems with authorities at all levels, the search and demand for reparations for damages caused by the State to communities of the famous mega projects and support of survivors' children in the form of scholarships.

A solidary salute to our friends who are interested in learning the truth about Guatemala.

Juan de Dios García

Director

Association for the Integral Development of the Victims of Violence in Verapaces, Maya Achí.

ADIVIMA

*** Legal Cases:**

Two years and nine months after suspending oral public debate on the case surrounding the March 13, 1982 massacre against the village of Río Negro, Rabinal Baja Verapaz, the limitation period for the action of protection and issues of legal unconstitutionality in the particular case presented by the Instituto de la Defensa Pública Penal (State Legal Defense Institute) in favor of the indicted ex-members of the Auto defensa Civil (PAC) has been reset for July 2nd of this year, and the case has been suspended again because the Criminal Trial Court of Baja Verapaz did not adhere to the law. If the Supreme Court of Justice does not resolve this problem, the case will be dismissed and the victims left without justice for the 70 women and 107 children who were cruelly murdered.

*** Disinterments:**

Due to the demand from families of victims to exhume their loved ones killed during the internal armed conflict and lying in clandestine cemeteries, ADIVIMA, an institution that has already widened coverage of this event, is currently working in Baja Verapaz in the Rabinal, Cubulco, San Miguel Chicaj and Salamá regions and also in Alta Verapaz, Cobán, Carchá, Cahabón, Chiséc and San Cristóbal. A large number of clandestine cemeteries has been detected in those areas and have been reported to the Public Ministry. Although in some cases the Public Ministry process is slow, various monitoring strategies have been developed so that the disinterment process can be expedited.

From January to June of 2007 little progress in the disinterments has been made. During this period only 4 disinterments have been carried out:

- 1) Chuategua, February 22nd. Part of 3 human skeletons were recovered: an adult woman, a young girl and a baby girl only months old. Said persons were kidnapped and murdered by the army.
- 2) Pahoj, disinterment done February 22, 2007. In the grave were found the skeletons of two adult males who, according to relatives of the victims, were chopping wood when members of the army searching the area found them and murdered them on the spot.
- 3) March 13th-15th, la Ceiba. Two graves were reported and the skeletons of two adults males were precisely located; father and son were murdered by the Guatemalan army during one of its proceedings carried out in said community.
- 4) Family members of victims report two graves in which the skeletons of three people were found--two women and a man.

On June 4th and 5th of 2007, fifteen disinterred skeletons in Chichupac, Sauce, Pueblo Viejo Chuategua, Chiac, El Pilar Buena Vista y Las Ventanas I and II were buried 25 years after the fact in a legal cemetery. The little progress that has been made in relation to the disinterments is due to the fact that the forensic anthropology foundation of Guatemala does not have funds to work the

disinterment cases, and this has been becoming clearer because the national compensation program stood before the international community and assumed to support these processes. As of this date it is not known if they plan to finance the disinterment process, including the social and legal monitoring that ADIVIMA provides to the victims' relatives. They have an agreement with DIGAP PNUD until August; from here on out we do not know what will happen.

Monthly informational workshops for victims' relatives are taking place with the goal of strengthening their abilities.

*** Citizen participation and community social development:**

In the area of citizen formation, organization and participation, ADIVIMA is working on various activities focused on the social development of the most vulnerable families and communities, such as:

In rural communities of the Rabinal region, several families suffered the effects of the internal armed conflict, currently being seen specifically in the area of education; for that reason ADIVIMA is promoting an educational grant to young girls and boys who wish to continue studying. So far ADIVIMA is helping two girls from the community Río Negro who are studying at the intermediate level, but expects to help three other people.

Political impact workshops take place about every two months with leaders and young people from the local communities for the purpose of increasing their ability to make decisions in the areas of culture, society, politics and education at local, regional and even national levels. For the month of July they are scheduled to visit 36 communities with 20 young people participating in the following workshop of ***Citizen Participation and Democratization***.

ADIVIMA was founded by the widows and survivors of the internal armed conflict. ADIVIMA was founded on April 24 during the burial of 70 Río Negro women and 107 children who were massacred by the army and members of Auto Defensa Civil PAC. This organization is a reminder of our struggle as survivors of the human rights violations suffered between the years of 80 to 84, and is an example to our sons, daughters, brothers and sisters of Rabinal so that they never again will there be violations in our town.

For more information or to donate to ADIVIMA visit the ADIVIMA web page:
www.ativima.org

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