



The Community in Resistance “La Trementina” of the municipality of Zacapa, Zacapa, Guatemala, The Council of Maya Ch’orti’ Authorities and the accompanying organizations:

We manifest:

The Community of La Trementina, located on the edges of "The Mountain of Las Granadillas," protects the only and main source of water that benefits more than six hundred thousand mestizo and Mayan inhabitants Ch'orti', in the driest region of Central America located between the municipalities of La Unión, Gualán, and Zacapa in the department of Zacapa; Jocotán, Camotán and Chiquimula in the department Chiquimula, Guatemala, Central America.

The State of Guatemala has authorized licenses for the immoderate logging of the forests of La Montaña De Las Granadillas, favoring local farmers. This is happening despite the existing proposed law (5193) through which has declared "The Mountain of Las Granadillas" as a protected area in its legal status as a Spring Water Protective Reserve.

On August 15 of this year, The Ministry of the Interior through SUBSTATION 24-11 COMMITTEE 24, ZACAPA, NATIONAL CIVIL POLICE, according to official no. 525/2019 Ref... edcj, requested:

HEAD MUNICIPAL OVERSEER OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF ZACAPA, that “WITH URGENCY are presented from 8:30 hours in Sector Los Cocos de Aldea La Trementina of this municipal jurisdiction. REASON: that, as of today, in the follow-up to the agreements reached in institutional technical tables that have been given in the Departmental Government related to the problem of the residents of the upper part of Zacapa and the inhabitants of Trementina, they are expected to go down the 6 trucks loaded with forest products, so it is of vital importance the presence of all the actors and government representatives as an entity that ensures respect for Human Rights. The presence of Public Ministry is necessary because a group of residents of the Trementina Zacapa never accepted any way of Dialogue...

That day, the National Civil Police, Public Ministry, DIPRONA, PDH, among other entities were present in our community, to use force and violence and thus evict our neighbors who remained in resistance against the logging of forests of the Mountain of Las Granadillas. Thus perpetuating the violation of our human rights, physical and psychological violence against women and children present in the town, violating our physical integrity and therefore our life itself.

This resistance against the felling of the Mountain of Las Granadillas has been going on for more than 15 years, during which different proposals have been made for conservation and proper use of the forest, because we are aware that it is the only mountain where there is water that supplies the populations of Zacapa and Chiquimula.

As stated by official no. 525/2019 dated August 15, 2019, issued by the Ministry of the Interior and faithfully complied with by the instances of the State of Guatemala, the “institutional



technical tables” developed exclusively for the benefit of the farmers who are engaged in the extraction of the wood of our mountain without considering our requests or listening to our proposals. The consequences are not in the future, because today La Trementina and its surroundings have not been receiving the vital liquid in their homes for more than 3 months. The municipal head of Zacapa has been affected with the decrease of home water service, because its sources of supply have declined dramatically.

We deeply reject the claim that “a group of people from Trementina Zacapa never accepted any means of dialogue” because we and all the neighbors who are in peaceful resistance have discussed the technical, legal, and viable proposals to avoid depreciation of the mountain of the granadillas.

We demand from the State of Guatemala, for the abuses and violations of our human rights, dignified and prompt reparation for the damages caused, we AFFIRM our REQUIREMENT so that the immoderated logging of the Mountain of Las Granadillas is prohibited, and consider our proposals to its protection and preservation.

We denounce that the state institution once again made itself available and at the service of the economic powers of Zacapa, allowing the violation of environmental legislation, human rights, and the Political Constitution of the Republic, by not ensuring the welfare of all the inhabitants of the Republic of Guatemala.

Our community will remain in resistance to ensure the welfare of our generation and generations to come. The Mountain of Las Granadillas is not of exclusive benefit for our communities, but of common good for all humanity.

Stop at the felling of the Granadillas Mountain!

Guatemala City, August 19, 2019