

Xinka Parliament of Guatemala

Km. 57.5 CARRETERA AL SALVADOR, SAN JUAN DE ARANA,
CIUDAD DE CUILAPA, SANTA ROSA, GUATEMALA
parlamentoxinka@gmail.com papxigua@hotmail.com

Urgent Communiqué Regarding Violence in Jumaytepeque on June 23, 2019

The Xinka people of San Francisco Jumaytepeque have been part of the Xinka Parliament since its founding and have played a central role in the struggle for our rights.

As part of efforts to strengthen bonds of friendship between Xinka communities, we were invited by the Leadership Council (*Junta de Principales*) of the Xinka people of San Francisco Jumaytepeque to participate in their General Assembly **as observers, without the right to speak or vote**, during the election of a new council. We had also been asked to present the staffs representing authority to those who would be elected during the assembly.

When we arrived at the central plaza of Jumaytepeque, we were met in a violent manner by a group of individuals who carried machetes and firearms. This group was led by individuals who we have managed to identify as Cristina Ana Line Villalta García and her sister, Mayra Eliza Villalta García, who threatened to burn us together with the vehicles we had come in.

The Leadership Council tried to calm the violent attitude of these individuals. However, they continued with their verbal as well as physical aggression against our President and Secretary to such degree that Ms. Cristina Ana Line Villalta García and Ms. Mayra Eliza Villalta García, with the help of a man who was carrying a firearm, and in full sight of everyone, grabbed the staffs representing authority from us. We consider this to be not only robbery, but also a clear violation of and insult against our ways of life and spirituality.

When the Leadership Council managed to get us to a safe place, Ms. Cristina Ana Line Villalta García and a man, who residents identified as Deodoro Pérez, took the microphone to say that we had five minutes to leave or they would set us on fire. Following this, they began inciting the group accompanying them to capture us and set us on fire. Then, these two individuals used the microphones to speak out against lawyer Quelvin Jiménez, asking their supporters to assault him and to set him on fire along with us.

Given the tense situation, the Leadership Council indicated that to ensure our safety, it was better that we leave. However, we were worried about the safety and integrity of lawyer Quelvin Jiménez, given that Ms. Cristina Ana Line Villalta García and Mr. Deodoro Pérez continued to incite the group to violently attack and assault him physically. Ultimately, we decided to leave, believing that it might help to decrease the tension.

Roughly an hour after we left, we learned of the upheaval caused by Ms. Cristina Ana Line Villalta García and the violent group she led. Through live streaming on Facebook, we could

observe how this group of individuals had assaulted us, attacked people with disabilities, as well as elders, women, and children with rocks, machetes, firearms, sticks and lime powder, as well as destroying vehicles.

In the Facebook livestream of Visor Gt Suroriente, you can see Ms. Cristina Ana Line Villalta García and two women, who appear later as having been hit in the face and in an ambulance in the municipal fire station of Santa Rosa de Lima. These women were the ones who assaulted us and led the attack against those who participated in the assembly using rocks, sticks and other objects, even attacking people who were in the church.

It is worth pointing out that to guarantee the security of lawyer Quelvin Jiménez, he was evacuated from the area at the moment in which the violent group led by Ms. Cristina Ana Line Villalta García began to throw rocks and when she began to attack a woman from the community who was preparing the act that would be the record of the assembly.

We hold the above-mentioned people responsible for these violent acts, as well as the National Civil Police, given that on Thursday June 20, the police confirmed with the Leadership Council that they would send 20 agents to the general assembly. However, the police did not arrive until the violence had ended, despite insistent phone calls made by the Leadership Council and lawyer Quelvin Jiménez, who more than three times requested that they fulfil his security measures.

As a result of the above, we **ENERGETICALLY REJECT** the manipulation of these events by Ms. Cristina Ana Line Villalta García making use of several media outlets which lack seriousness and that are willing to lend themselves to distort the truth, particularly considering that these events are documented in video and photographs, including her role as the principal aggressor and person who was inciting these violent acts in Jumaytepeque on Sunday June 23, at which time lawyer Quelvin Jiménez was no longer in the area.

We call on the competent authorities, the Public Prosecutor's office and the National Civil Police to act with respect for the truth and objectivity in this case, given that it is not tenable that the aggressors now try to pass themselves off as victims.

Cuilapa, June 25, 2019