



## **STATEMENT FROM FONGI ON THE EXCESSIVE DEPLOYMENT OF GOVERNMENT FORCE IN THE COMMUNITY OF CHAPÍN ABAJO, EL ESTOR, IZABAL, GUATEMALA**

The member organizations of the Guatemalan Forum (FONGI), representing 31 civil society organizations from Germany, Belgium, Canada, Spain, the United States, the Netherlands, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, as well as international federations, express our grave concern over the disproportionate use of force by police officers who entered the Mayan Q'eqchi' community of Chapín Abajo, in El Estor, Izabal, Guatemala, with rifles in hand, on December 6 of this year, generating a climate of violence and insecurity for the children, the young people, the women and the general population that inhabit said community.

According to what was reported by community members, during the police incursion, belongings were stolen, people were shot and injured, women were assaulted, and minors were detained; all of them actions of massive aggression against the Indigenous population that should be investigated and criminally prosecuted so that they do not go unpunished.

We remind the Guatemalan authorities that, in 1979, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved provision 34-169 that contains instructions for law enforcement officials, declaring that those who have these powers must respect and protect human dignity and that they will maintain and defend the human rights of all people within their actions as security officials.

FONGI calls on the State of Guatemala that, in compliance with its human rights obligations, the security forces protect and guarantee the full enjoyment of these rights; likewise, it asks the international community to take these facts into consideration and to follow up on them during the next Universal Periodic Review that Guatemala will undergo in January 2023.

Guatemala, 7th December 2022