



PRESS RELEASE

Complaint against Claudette Domínguez For DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

Guatemala, December 5, 2019

Today, the Achi women, plaintiffs and survivors of sexual violence during the Internal Armed Conflict in Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, filed a CRIMINAL COMPLAINT in the Public Prosecutor's Office against the lead judge of High-Risk Court "A", MARTA CLAUDETTE DOMÍNGUEZ GUERRERO, for DISCRIMINATION and RACISM.

Seven former Civil Defense Patrols (PAC) were arrested in 2018 for the crimes we filed complaints against between 2012 and 2014. All were indicted on criminal charges and six were charged with CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. However, Judge Domínguez humiliated and intimidated us during court hearings. She asked us if the Public Prosecutor's Office paid us to testify and allowed the defense to use sexist and racist arguments against us. Furthermore, her most serious offense was to not believe our testimony. As a result, on June 21, 2019, the judge released all the accused, putting our lives and those of our children at risk.

During the criminal proceedings presided by Judge Dominguez, we found that sexist and racial stereotypes and prejudices prevail in the justice system against victims of sexual violence, especially in the case of Indigenous women. The judges "do not believe women's words", "blame us for the grievances we experienced", "doubt our morality", and "demand scientific evidence as an indispensable requirement to prove rape". We file a complaint for discrimination and racism with the Public Prosecutor's Office to motivate other Indigenous women to denounce judicial officials who repeatedly discriminate and revictimize survivors of sexual violence, and to set a precedent to end these practices.

Due to the aforementioned:

1. We demand that the Public Prosecutor's Office investigate with due diligence the acts of discrimination and racism carried out against us by Judge Claudette Dominguez.
2. We ask the Human Rights Ombudsman to initiate an investigation into this case and to issue a moral conviction against Judge Dominguez for discrimination and racism.
3. We request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to send communiqués to the Guatemalan State to guarantee Indigenous women's right to justice and guarantee the safety of victims of sexual violence.

Finally, we ask women's organizations, victims of the Internal Armed Conflict and Indigenous peoples, and citizens in general to stand in solidarity and support the struggle for victims of sexual violence.