

THE DENIAL OF JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF THE IXIL GENOCIDE CASE WILL BE THE STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Impunity Watch, member of the **International Platform against Impunity**, expresses its **full support for the victims of Guatemala's internal armed conflict and their lawyers**, in their decision to appeal the verdict of the Court of Appeal (Sala Primera de la Corte de Apelaciones del Ramo Penal, Narcoactividad y Delitos contra el Ambiente), which confirmed the verdict of judge Carol Patricia Flores, issued on 23 April 2013. This verdict annuls all the legal proceedings that have taken place in the case against the generals Ríos Montt and Rodríguez Sánchez, and reverts the process to 23 November 2011. At this date, neither of the two generals was charged.

Impunity Watch considers that if this decision is maintained, it will constitute a clear **denial of justice** for the victims, which will be the responsibility of the State of Guatemala. We are also concerned that the Court of Appeal that emitted this verdict is the same court that could not be set up as a result of the refusal of over seventy judges to comply with the mandate of the Constitutional Court, emitted in November of last year, about the lack of a legal foundation for the granting of amnesty, an appeal that is still pending resolution.

We urge the international community to maintain its attention to this paradigmatic case that demonstrates the **weaknesses of Guatemala's justice system** and that can also have an **impact on the right of Guatemala's citizens to know and discuss their history, which is an essential element to guarantee the non-recurrence of the violations committed during the internal armed conflict**. Moreover, we call upon the international community to start a process of reflection **on the scope and limitations of the models of development cooperation** that have been used up till now, in order to develop solid institutions that are capable of putting an end to impunity.

Guatemala, 13 January 2014