

Justice is Today!

An encounter with history

An encounter with the voices of the Mayan Q'eqchí women from Sepur Zarco that waited for more than thirty years to obtain justice, and that have gone through a long path full of obstacles to finally arrive at this historic moment.

This encounter with history began in spite of the complaints by lawyers representing the accused, who argued about the judges' suitability. All and each of the appeals presented were refused by the court; this form of malicious litigation on the part of these lawyers has been recurrent during the whole process.

Opening Allegations

After settling the appeals presented, each of the procedural parties continued to present opening allegations. The accusing party highlighted that sexual violence forms part of the continuum of violence against women, in the patriarchal system so present in Guatemalan society.

To support and prove the facts, experts and scientific reports, witnesses' testimonies, and documentary evidence will be presented. *"This case will set a precedent at the national and international level, because in a national court crimes of international significance will be judged, such as sexual violence, and sexual and domestic slavery"*, the accusing women argued, while the Esteelmer Reyes defense refused to present opening allegations.

Male witness points out the accused

Three witness gave their testimony in this first hearing of public and oral debate. One of the witnesses, Rogelio Güitz, clearly pointed out the two accused as responsible for the grave violations of the victims' human rights, while he exhibited his scars produced by the torture he was submitted to.

At 4:30 p.m. judge Jazmín Barrios closed the hearing, calling on the two parties to continue the process the next day, February 2nd at 8:30 a.m.



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