

THE COSTARICAN STATE RESPONSIBLE FOR MURDER OF SERGIO ROJAS ORTIZ

Bicentenary is stained with blood



In the fight of Salitre and of the indigenous people

- **He was killed March 18th, at 9.15pm at his house**
- **Indignation and shame towards this political crime**

The assassination of Sergio Rojas Ortiz is a political crime which the only one responsible is the Costa Rican State. The lack of action, indolence, negligence and incompetence of this and previous governments to solve the misappropriation of the Indigenous territories, and from the judicial and police authorities of Buenos Aires de Osa, to secure the integrity of Sergio and many other indigenous people, which lead to his murder. Sergio was assassinated at his own home in the Yeri community, Indigenous territory of Salitre, Buenos Aires Puntarenas, south of Costa Rica.

Sergio was founding member and coordinator of the National Front of Indigenous People (FRENAPI), till the day of his death. He was also a member on the Council Ditsö Iriia Ajkonúk Wakpa (CDIAW)/Defenders of Mother Earth. He was an authority in the Bibri community, a man expert in the National and International Indigenous Rights and customary law, he defended the rights of his people by legal and peaceful methods.

The Costa Rican State was perfectly aware of land usurpation actions of the Indigenous territories and other acts of harassment, persecution, threats and direct attempts against Sergio and many other indigenous people. There were several killing attempts against Sergio Rojas and against a lot more Indigenes of Salitre and other territories of the South Part of the Country, who suffered minor injuries and severe attacks with

firearms and handheld weapons, the burning of their houses and physical assault. With all this the Costa Rican State never put the prevention in violence protocols and kept an attitude that continues to promote impunity. In none of these cases the people responsible was accounted for.

Sergio was declared "*persona non grata*" by the Buenos Aires Municipality, August 11th, 2012. On September 9th, 2012, in a meeting at the Rogelio Fernandez Güell School, in downtown Buenos Aires, it was said publicly "We have to end with Sergio Rojas's life", with 2 members of the government deputies present. On September 17th, 2012, there was an attempt on his life on which he gets shoot 6 times, close to the entrance of the Salitre territory.

With all of the threats suffered by the Indigenous people and the request of the Salitre and Terraba communities, the International Human Rights Commission (IHRC), dictated a precautionary measure 321-12-2015, on April 30th, 2015, with the objective being "to secure the life and integrity of the personnel and all of the members of the indigenous people of Teribe of Terraba and Bibri of Salitre". On this precautionary measure the Commission considers "the severity of the situation, urgency and the irreparable damage of such". On December 28th, 2016, on the 14th mission of The Human Rights and Indigenous Autonomy Observatory (ODHAIN), pointed out "The Costa Rican Government hasn't showed effective solutions nor has showed any political willingness to resolve any of these issues", referring to the precautionary measure taken on favor of the indigenous people.

In the event of all the aggressions the police never acted or showed responsibility. This lack of action from the Estate, the Judiciary Instances and the Police Department of Buenos Aires, were, besides racist acts and contempt for Sergio's and other plaintiff's indigene status. This altitudes by the Judiciary authorities and Police department were reported by the originary towns, Human and Social Rights Organizations and the Office of the Ombudsman (Defensoria de los Habitantes de Costa Rica), without a conclusive response. On August 24th, 2018, several Indigenous Organizations of the South part of the country, with the participation of Sergio himself, complaints were formally filled to the Sub Commission of Justice for the Indigenous people of Judiciary Power. March 18th, hours before his assassination, Sergio went down from Olan Salitre to the Police Station of Buenos Aires, to join a group of Indigenous people file new complaints of threats and gunshots against them.

All the aggressions concluded with the criminalization and political imprisonment of Sergio for 7 months starting on November 6th, 2014, with no formal charges ever filed. There was no fundamental reason to justify his arrest. The reason of it was solely to slow the movement of the territory reclaim. These acts were against the national legislation, but also against Agreement 169 of International Work Organization.

The rise of violence against the Indigenous People is a process of historic aggression which only got stronger as the last decades went, particularly from 2010 with the eviction of the indigenous people from the Legislative Assembly. With this violent eviction one of the Indigenous Towns decided to defend the reivindicacion of the Human rights to the people of Bibri and from all the originary people of Costa Rica.

Costa Rican society, the Indigenous People and hundreds of organizations and social movements, demand that there is no impunity. We demand the Costa Rican Estate, which actions were already qualified as "weak" before by the Office of the Ombudsman, in a notification to the Executive Secretary from

the ICHR (DH-PE-1041-2018), who was also accused the “omission of the new governmental authorities of the follow up process” of the Indigenous People.

We demand that an exhaustive investigation is open to find accountable, process and punish the intellectual and material actors of the heinous murder of Sergio Rojas Ortiz. We demand that the state guaranties the integrity and the life of all the indigenous people that were joining Sergio on his fight, since they continue to receive threats and harassment like the one that culminated with the assassination of Sergio.

!Sergio Rojas LIVES on the fight of Salitre and all the Indigenous people!

San José, Costa Rica, March 18th, 2019

1. FRENAPI (Frente Nacional de Pueblos Indígenas)
2. SERPAJ-América Latina (doce países)
3. Comité Nacional de Apoyo a la Autonomía Indígena
4. SERPAJ-CR (Servicio de Paz y Justicia Costa Rica)
5. Consejo Ditsö Iriia Ajkonük Wakpa (CDIAW)
6. Consejo Indígena Regional Pacífico Sur
7. Consejo de Mayores Iriia Jtecho Wakpa
8. Recuperador@s Cabecar de China Kichá
9. Recuperador@s Bribris de Salitre
10. Recuperador@s Broran de Crun Shurin
11. Organización Autónoma Gwrvechi Kare del Territorio Ngäbe de Conte Burica
12. Asociación de Productores de Finca 10
13. Pastoral Indígena-Costa Rica
14. COCRIC-Comunidades cristianas costarricenses
15. Comité de lucha por la tierra de finca Changuina
16. Ditsö
17. Cootraosa
18. Coordinadora de Lucha Sur Sur
19. Colectivo por el Derecho a la Protesta
20. Coordinadora Norte Tierra y Libertad
21. Red Epistemologías del Sur/UNA
22. Proyecto Alfabetización Crítica/UNA
23. Colectivo Autónomo El Quilombo
24. Estudiantes Autónomo.as/UNA
25. Movimiento de alternativas populares al capitalismo/MAPCA
26. Partido Humanista Costa Rica
27. Centro de Amigos para la Paz/CAP
28. Movimiento Humanista
29. Movimiento Indígena Interuniversitario
30. Asoc. Nacional de Educadores/ANDE
31. Partido Vanguardia Popular
32. Voces Nuestras
33. Amigos de la Tierra Internacional/Coeco Ceiba-Costa Rica
34. Asoc. Proyectos Alternativos/PROAL-JÄKÜII
35. Federación costarricense para la conservación de la naturaleza/FECON
36. SINDEU. Sindicato de empleados de la Universidad de Costa Rica
37. KIOSKOS Socioambientales/UCR
38. ASECODES (Asociación Ecologista Desamparadeña)
39. Escuela Ecuménica de Ciencias de la Religión, UNA
40. Asociación de estudiantes IDELA-UNA
41. Grupo Reflexión en Acción
42. Colectiva Coexistir
43. Radio 8 de octubre
44. Frente Patriótico/Estado Social de Derecho
45. BuenVivirCR
46. Universidad Bíblica Latinoamerica/UBL
47. (ILCO) Iglesia Luterana Costarricense
48. Colectiva afrofeminista Akobem
49. Escuela de Trabajo Social UCR
50. Departamento Ecuménico de Investigaciones/DEI
51. MIINTÚ
52. Movimiento MAIZ
53. Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia-Honduras/MADJ
54. Red de solidaridad con Palestina
55. Organízate UCR
56. Bloque Verde
57. Movimiento salud del Este
58. Comité Norte Tierra y Libertad

59. Periódico Surcos digital
60. Era verde/Canal 15-UCR
61. Semilla
62. Curré Yimba
63. COOPA
64. RED TEPALI. Red de teólogas y pastoras por la liberación
65. Código Sur
66. Asociación Tinamaste
67. Red de Mujeres Rurales de Costa Rica
68. Círculo Bolivariano, Yamileth López
69. Hablemos de Derechos Humanos
70. La Cadejos
71. Comunicación Feminista
72. Coordinadora NiUnaSolaMina
73. Comité Patriótico Juanito Mora
74. Justicia Paz Integridad de la Creación/JPICCosta Rica
75. Nuevo Partido Socialista
76. Partido de los Trabajadores
77. Sindicato de Trabajadores del Sector Privado
78. Alianza de Comunidades por la Defensa del Agua en Puntarenas
79. Alianza ecuménica de América Latina
80. Amarú
81. Amigos religiosos (cuáqueros) de San José
82. Asociación Casa de Todos
83. Asociación Ciudadana ACCEDER
84. Asociación de Estudiantes de Ciencias Biológicas UNA
85. Asociación de Estudiantes de Derecho UCR
86. Asociación de Estudiantes de Sociología (UCR)
87. Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas de Talamanca (ACOMUITA)
88. Asociación de Productores de la Culebra
89. Asociación La Sala
90. Asociación SERES
91. ATAEC. Asociación de Transmisión artística, étnica-cultural
92. Brigadas Emiliano Zapata de México (BEZMÉX)
93. Brujas Feministas CR
94. Caroqui Ú
95. Casa Palabra
96. Centro de Derechos Sociales de la Persona Migrante (Cenderos)
97. Centro de estudios humanistas- Costa Rica
98. Centro Feminista de Información y Acción, CEFEMINA
99. Coalición Ambiental
100. Coalición Costa Rica
101. CODETAC
102. Colectiva Caminando
103. Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local
104. Colectiva por el derecho a decidir
105. Colectiva Respiral
106. Colectiva Viajo Sola
107. Colectivo A de Libertad
108. Colectivo Agua es Vida No Mercancía
109. Colectivo CEAAL Costa Rica
110. Colectivo de Comunicación Popular Radio Machete
111. Colectivo Voces Ecológicas COVEC/Radio Temblor Internacional
112. Comisión Defensora de los Ríos Convento y Sonador
113. Comité Costarricense Solidaridad con Nicaragua Soberana
114. Comité de lucha por los derechos de las mujeres y las niñas de Liberia
115. Comuna Carmen Lyra
116. Concertación Interamericana de DHs de las Mujeres
117. CONCEVERDE
118. Costa Rica Afro
119. Costa Rica Solidaria
120. Cuerpas Sin Reglas
121. Cultura, árboles y semillas de la zona norte de Costa Rica
122. DESMIAC
123. Díwö Ambiental
124. Endemia
125. Equilibrio Sostenible CR
126. FEDEAGUA
127. Federación de Estudiantes de la Universidad Nacional
128. Frente Amplio Desamparados
129. FRENTE DE LUCHA ESPARZANO
130. Frente Ecologista del TEC
131. Frente Ecologista Universitario (FECOU)
132. Fundación del Río
133. Fundación Kemé
134. Green Wolf CR
135. Grupo Cultural Kigaribu Ngäbe Costa Rica
136. GuanaRED
137. Hijas de la Ruda
138. ImPaYasas
139. Indígenas Térrabas alrededor del mundo creando puentes
140. Instituto de Estudios sobre Religión y Espiritualidad/Universidad De La Salle
141. Juventud Vanguardista Costarricense
142. La Cuadrilla Escénica
143. Las Rojas
144. Lunayena Títeres
145. Metamorfosis interdisciplinario
146. Molinos verdes de Moringa
147. Movimiento del Este contra las tarifas
148. Movimiento Ríos Vivos de Costa Rica
149. Mujeres Emprendedoras León 13
150. Mujeres en Acción
151. Mujeres Unidas en Salud y Desarrollo

152. Ni Una Menos Costa Rica
153. Observatorio de la Escuela de las Américas, SOAW-CR
154. Observatorio Ético Internacional-OBETI
155. Pacto Mundial Consciente
156. Partido Animalista
157. Partido Frente Amplio
158. Partido Obrero Socialista POS
159. Proyecto Alfabetización Crítica, UNA
160. Red de Economía Social Solidaria (RedESS)
161. Red de Interculturalidad, Costa Rica
162. Red Mesoamericana de educación popular-ALFORJA
163. Remisord
164. Revista U-suré
165. The Handmaids Costa Rica
166. Tierra para el campesino de Finca Puntarenas. TIPAEELCA
167. UNEDPRO/Asoc de profesionales de la Universidad Estatal a Distancia
168. Unovida
169. Ya Basta! UCR
170. YARCA red ambiental
171. SERBASUR. Finca Puntarenas
172. Comité de lucha por la tierra de Finca Venecia
173. Pixegirl
174. Vidas paralelas
175. SOJUPANO de Palmar Sur de Osa.
176. Comité de Lucha por la tierra de Kilómetro 37 de Golfito y Corredores
177. ADUSP (Asociación para la defensa de los Usuarios de los servicios Públicos).
178. Servicios para una Educación Alternativa A.C. EDUCA. Oaxaca México
179. Fuera del clóset-Costa Rica
180. Asociación amigos de la Isla Uvita
181. Agr Envar Kadri pergamino
182. Solidaridad y misión-Claretianos de América
183. Corporación Claretiana Norman Pérez Bello

The signing organizations are from Costa Rica, México, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Brasil, Nicaragua, Colombia, Guatemala, Uruguay, Paraguay, El Salvador, España, Panamá, Honduras and others.