

Right Livelihood

54th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on truth, justice and reparation

Mr President,

Right Livelihood thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report, which highlights the fundamental pillars of transitional justice.

27 years ago, Guatemala began its transition to democracy. A transition which should have seen a progressive strengthening of the rule of law and newly created institutions. Instead, justice remains a distant word for Guatemalans, as Giammatei's administration has focused on dismantling institutions and criminalizing those investigating key cases for transitional justice and fighting grand corruption.

As independent justice operators, human rights defenders, journalists and indigenous peoples are put behind bars or flee the country to avoid arrest, corruption continues to reign, and impunity remains the rule. Just last month, despite all the evidence presented, the high court of Guatemala sentenced only one individual, acquitting the eight others, who had killed 25 indigenous persons in the Rancho Bejuco massacre.

Mr. President,

The victory of the presidential elections by Bernardo Arévalo gives us hope, hope to leave corruption behind, hope to finally make justice a reality in Guatemala. Yet, there remain obstacles to a smooth transfer of power. International pressure is thus key in this sensitive time. We call on the Council to ensure continued attention to Guatemala throughout the transition period and urge the outgoing administration to respect the result of the elections and the will of the Guatemalan people. Democracy is a prerequisite for justice.

Thank you.