

Press Release

Paxil Kayalá, Lajuj K'at / Guatemala, June 16, 2022

The Ajq'ijab', Indigenous Authorities and organizations of the Mayan, Xinka and Garífuna people, before national and international public opinion, announce the following facts:

In response to the demand of the united organizations of Ajq'ijab', last May 11, in which they requested the total repeal of the law, the total repeal of the initiative of law No. 5923 entitled "Rescue of the Pre-Hispanic Heritage" of Guatemala, which was presented to the Shirley Rivera, president of the Board of Directors of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, pointing out that this initiative of law No. 5923 entitled "Rescue of the Prehispanic Heritage" of Guatemala, pointing out that said law initiative is considered "racist", "discriminatory", "exclusionary", "privatizing", and that it does not recognize the rights of the people of Guatemala, "privatizing" and that it ignores and invalidates the conventions and international treaties of Human Rights that have been accepted and ratified by the State of Guatemala.

Following the mobilization of 11 May, on May 19, several structures of indigenous authorities were present at the congressional Congress to deliver another memorial, in the same terms as the previous petition, which was received by the president was received by the President of the Cultural Commission of the Congress, Mrs. Sandra Lorena de León Teo, in the presence of several members of the Indigenous Peoples Commission.

The Congresswoman president of the Congress, promised to hold an exclusive session on June 2, 2022 on the the initiative and to deepen the topics that it involved, however, two days before, she made a call to cancel the meeting, under the pretext of the meeting, under the pretext that "it is due to Guatemala and that there are important issues to be discussed in the plenary sessions", implying that "it is due to Guatemala and that there are important two days before, however, she called to cancel the meeting, under the pretext that "he owes Guatemala and that there are important issues to discuss in the plenary sessions", implying that the issue of indigenous sacred sites is not important and that it can wait. She said to schedule the meeting and so far has not communicated any date.

We, the Ajq'ijab', Indigenous Authorities and organizations of the Maya, Xinka and Garífuna people, sent him a proposal ratifying the date, and we are not in agreement with the date of the meeting. A proposal ratifying the date, which she mentioned tentatively, for June 16, at 10 in the morning. She did not respond either.

Our reading of the decisions and actions taken by Congresswoman Shirley Rivera is that she wants to wear us down in the wait and while waiting and while they design their strategies on how to approve said bill 5923. In view of her delaying actions. We can tell you that we have more than five hundred years of resistance and struggle, we will continue to defend and demand the exercise of our rights over the millenary cultural heritage of the Maya people and other peoples.

We reaffirm our resounding rejection of bill 5923. We demand that it be discarded, due to the aforementioned characteristics mentioned above, because if it is approved, it puts at risk of extermination the knowledge system of the peoples, of the peoples associated to the sacred places and territories, as such it is part of the history of the dispossession and destruction, that are designed on the lives of indigenous peoples.

We tirelessly manifest our rejection to the initiative of law 5923 "Rescue of the Pre-Hispanic Heritage". Complementary to the previous action, we demand to the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala the awareness and approval of the initiative of law No. 3835 on indigenous sacred sites, proposed since 2010. Initiative that was built in a participatory manner, it also has a favorable opinion and is going for its third reading



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We recognize and value the expressions of international rejection to the 5923 law initiative made by organizations and personalities who have delivered letters to the embassy of Guatemala in different countries, agreeing and personalities, who have delivered letters to the Guatemalan embassy in different countries, agreeing with our position against our position against the initiative of law 5923 that deprives us of cultural and spiritual goods such as the millenary sacred places.

In view of these facts, we make an attentive call to all the organizations of Ajq'ijab' and grandmothers midwives, Ancestral Authorities, Indigenous Authorities, leaders, indigenous leaders, as well as international organizations, to join the organizations, to join this movement and struggle to exercise our collective rights, which have been ratified in the treaties and ratified in international treaties and conventions, as well as internal laws that are favorable to our peoples.

For the respect and recovery of the millenary natural and built Sacred Places.

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