

**IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVE OF THE NATIONAL POLICE (AHPN), THE UNDERSIGNED ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS DO DECLARE TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP), THE AUTHORITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS, AND THE CITIZENS OF GUATEMALA THE FOLLOWING:**

- Our profound recognition of the professional work of the staff of the aforementioned Archive, which over the course of thirteen years rescued and made accessible an important document collection that was found in a state of total neglect and abandonment, transforming it into a national and international benchmark for best practices in archival science and public consultation. We thus express our solidarity with the Archive's staff and its leadership.
- Our concern about the attitude assumed by the UNDP in concert with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, which, in haste and without taking the necessary time to establish basic policies and technical guidelines, intervened in the normal functions of the Archive without guaranteeing the continuity or efficiency of its operations.
- Along those lines, for example, no explanation has been given for why the AHPN Coordinator was not rehired except the simple argument that his contract had come to an end; there was no performance review, no evaluation of results achieved, and no accounting audit. This at the same time that the sectors most implicated in human rights violations in the country have publicly demanded the departure of the Coordinator and that the Archive be prohibited from continuing to fulfill its role in the fight against impunity and the defense of the right to truth and justice.

Given these circumstances, the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the UNDP must provide citizens with answers to the following questions:

- In the case of a document collection of the State of Guatemala, which therefore belongs to the people, is it legal for the Ministry of Culture and Sports to delegate the direction and management of the AHPN to an international entity?
- Faced with the appointment of a new Coordinator of the AHPN, what guarantees that she possesses the experience, capacity and vision needed for the continuity and strengthening of the Archive?
- Given that the UNDP has publicly attested to the existence of funding from the international community guaranteeing the Archive's operations until June of 2019, what is the justification for splitting the contracts of the AHPN consultants into periods of one and two months, an action that violates legally recognized labor rights?
- The UNDP is an entity of the United Nations, which is founded on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Do these actions not constitute a violation of those guarantees?
- In that context, is UNDP headquarters aware of these decisions and does it endorse them?

Due to our concern regarding the instability created within the AHPN by the measures taken by the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the UNDP beginning on August 3, 2018,

## **WE DEMAND:**

1. A guarantee of the inviolability of the information contained in the AHPN and the strict preservation of its document collection, while ensuring the continuation of all work processes in the Archive.
2. The continued openness, efficiency and cooperation with the institutions, organizations and individual users of the AHPN and of the Archive's various investigations, as well as its contribution to the right to truth and search for justice, at a minimum with the same level of commitment demonstrated to date.
3. The reactivation of the Advisory Boards, comprised of prominent personalities in academia, culture, and the defense of human rights, to accompany and professionally advise the work of the AHPN.

Guatemala, 7 August 2018

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