

## My Solidarity with the Women of Honduras and my condemnation for the violation of their rights

Guatemala, my country was the stage, in the past, of grave violations of human rights. Genocide and crimes against humanity were committed. There is no doubt that after the Report of Historical Explanation of the Project of Recuperation of Historical Memory, it was women and children who carried the weight of violations of human rights. The context of these violations were successive to the coup d'état committed by the Army and groups of power determined to subordinate the power of the State and its interests.

Being aware of the constitutional and institutional rupture in Honduras, following the military coup which took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June of this year, and with lamentable certainty, by its form and intentions, it was evident that it would bring as a consequence violations of human rights. Thus, I went to our fellow nation in the context of the first Guatemalan Delegation for the Human Rights in Honduras, with the intention to show my solidarity with the people and verify the human rights situation.

As it was expected, since this coup d'état took place, a systematic violation of human rights by the ones that seized power has been observed. And as it usually happens and did happen in my country, women's human rights have been violated and have been left to a situation of utter vulnerability.

According to my observations and similar situations that I experienced myself, I support our Honduran Sisters who demand the restoration of the democracy, respect and the validity of their rights. At the same time, I salute and support unconditionally the International Delegation of Congress and Representatives of human rights and feminist organizations of the United States, Mexico, and Central America during the Week for the Human Rights of Honduran Women that will take place starting the 17<sup>th</sup> of August.

I call on the women of the continent and of the world to express our solidarity and condemnation for the violations of Human Rights of the women and the Honduran people that today cry out for democracy, and for the return to institutional order and constitutional rights.

Rigoberta Menchú Tum  
Nobel Peace Laureate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rigoberta Menchú Tum', written in a cursive style.

Guatemala, 13 August 2009