



## ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN NEBAJ, GUATEMALA.

December 2013.

**\*Unofficial translation done only for the purpose of being understood.**

The Permanent Secretariat of Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD) supports the decision of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) of Guatemala , to repeat the election of the mayor and the municipal corporation in Santa María de Nebaj, a town in El Quiché in the northwest of the country near the border with Mexico .

Through Decree 1-2013, TSE requested repetition of the elections because in September 2011, was not included former Mayor Virgilio Guzman Bernal, on the ballot. During the election, the winner was Pedro Cobo Raymundo, who currently holds that position.

Decree, including the holding of elections on 15 December and argues that only participate in candidates until June 11, 2011, ie , those who legitimately was nominated as candidates . However, following the announcement, the climate of violence has been unleashed on the site and a few days ago Odilio Jesús López González, president of the Departmental Electoral Board of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) of Quiche, was murdered violently.

The president of the TSE , Maria Eugenia Villagran, had asked for more than three weeks ago protection for Odilio López. Now , the Court urges the state to provide security protections for members of the Electoral Board and also ensure the development of peaceful elections and control any cluster of violence and intimidation.

The Permanent Secretariat of REDLAD, a platform of more than 520 organizations advocating for Democracy and Human Rights, Official Member of the Civil Society



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Forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Regional Chapter of World Movement for Democracy (WMD):

- Urges the Guatemalan government to ensure the development of an election in which the participant citizenry can exercise their right to vote safely and peacefully.
- It calls on the Guatemalan civil society to condemn the violence and respect the popular mandate and procure the peace before, during and after election day.
- Supports the work of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala and the measures requested.

**Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD).**



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