

San Francisco Gotera, Morazán— The **Citizen Network of Morazán Women**, together with youth organizations and the grassroots ecclesiastical community of Segundo Montes, will host a **Plantón and Vigil for a Stop to Violence Against Women and Girls in Morazán and El Salvador**, in **Plaza San Francisco de Asís, San Francisco Gotera, Morazán** this **November 25, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.**, to pay tribute to the victims of violence and also denounce a system that structurally prevents women from living a full, healthy and safe life.

In El Salvador, women and experience all kinds of gender violence and discrimination on a regular basis, which generates long-term biopsychosocial and economic impacts and which have been described by the leader of the Women's Network as a “social pandemic” that it's also plaguing the female world right now.

This statement is not simply hyperbole, it is based on facts. According to data from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, 88 femicides were registered in the first quarter of this year, and 67% of these occurred during the home quarantine due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Although in most of these cases the reason was not clear, what was evident was the unfortunate reality that during the quarantine in El Salvador, there was a greater coexistence of women with their attackers.

One of the most frequent manifestations of violence against women and girls here is sexual violence. Figures from the Ministry of Health in the first quarter of 2020 report 712 cases of sexual violence against women, and even more alarming is that 8 out of 10 of those victims were under 18 years of age.

Although it appears that compared to last year, there has been a decrease in incidences of violence compared to 2019, it may be the case that victims simply did not seek medical help and filed complaints due to restrictions and fear of contracting COVID-19.

Although the department of Morazán, according to the PNC has remained free of femicides so far this year, it still holds onto the first places in domestic violence, rape, and adolescent pregnancy, which is why the work carried out by the Women's Network it is of utmost importance in preventing acts against women.

There is a special law and special institutions such as ISDEMU, PDDH, and Ciudad Mujer to support victims and ensure that those who seek justice obtain justice. However, only a relatively small number of cases have been properly tried and convictions have been reached.

Women are standing up for a world free from male violence and for a society where women and men are truly equal. The time has come to listen to the voices of victims and survivors and to end indiscriminate violence against women.

Together, we call on these institutions to:

- Keeping women and girls safe by taking them seriously and calling for justice for offenders sooner rather than later.
- Promote the application of the LEIV urgently;
- Fund support programs for those affected by violence (These should be gender sensitive and include services in the areas of health, education, financial support, housing, for those in need;)
- Hold inept and sexist judges accountable for the role they play in creating a system that favors the perpetrator and does not protect the victims.
- Promote an ongoing national education campaign that includes effective educational programs.

#IfWeAreSilentWeAreAccomplices #25N