



## CALPI | Centro de Asistencia Legal a Pueblos Indígenas

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Press Release

### Settlers Attack in the Mayangna Community of Wina

Members of the Mayangna community of Wina denounced before CALPI that on July 5, 2021 at 7:20 pm, indigenous people, members of the Wina community, identified as Abelardo Landero López, 42 years old, and his sister-in-law Mrs. Aura Lila Pérez 32 years old, were injured. The attackers were six armed non-indigenous settlers who covered their faces with ski masks. The men were looking in the Community for a settler to “settle accounts” because he had supposedly stolen livestock from them; and without a word they began to shoot at a house where the two victims were, resulting in injuries without having anything to do with the matter.

Mr. Abelardo was shot in the ribs under the left shoulder, for which he was transferred to the Municipality of Jinotega where he is in a delicate condition in intensive care and Mrs. Aura Lila Pérez, wounded in the left leg, was transferred to the town of Ayapal.

Wina is a community in the Mayangna Sauni Bu indigenous territory, upriver from the Amak community -which was also attacked by settlers in July last year, leaving one dead and one injured- both communities are located on the Rivera de Rio Bocay, in the Municipality of San José de Bocay, Jinotega, in the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve.

The historical community inhabitants of Bosawás and their traditional authorities, community leaders, intellectuals, counselors, rangers, the elderly, youth and women are alarmed by the insecurity in which they live. This is the fifth attack suffered by the Mískitu and Mayangna communities in 2021 and the thirteenth since 2020, attacks that have left 18 injured, some of them with damage, sequel and mutilations to their bodies that permanently limit their health; 15 indigenous people have been killed since 2019, several of the fatal victims have been 17-year-old indigenous youth and two Mískitu girls aged 15 and 16, injured and kidnapped respectively. And the first indigenous forest ranger killed by settlers was [Elias Charly Taylor](#), 48, on February 13, 2013 in the Musawas Community.



The invasion of settlers in the traditional and ancestral territories of the indigenous people, due to their number and the impunity with which they act, has surrounded the main settlements of the communities, so that indigenous people fear leaving their homes to cultivate or collect harvesting, fishing or hunting for food -causing some degrees of malnutrition and poverty-; while the forests have been deforested to sow pasture for the extensive cattle ranching carried out by the settlers and by some companies such as [Alba Forestal](#); But more recently, and now with this attack, the indigenous people no longer feel safe even in their own homes.

*The President of the Mayangna Nation and the President of the Council Regional RACCN visit to Mukuswas, May 17, 202. Photography provided by the members of the territory.*

The indigenous leaders regret that all this happens despite the fact that the Ecological Battalion of the Nicaraguan Army is in Bosawás with the mission of protecting the Reserve, while the settlers with total impunity take over their ancestral, historical and cultural heritage; They pollute the rivers - essential for human consumption of water - with their activities causing the loss of biodiversity, flora and fauna, thus degrading the livelihoods of the indigenous people and the Bosawás Reserve. As far as indigenous leaders report feeling threatened by the territorial, municipal, regional and national authorities, by failing to provide them with the necessary security in the face of attacks by settlers.

Worse still, indigenous leaders recently detained a group of settlers who were within their territory, the settlers accused the President and other members of the Indigenous Territorial Government (GTI) of the Mayangna Sauni As Territory of having given them permission to enter the indigenous lands in exchange for money; as well as they also have in their possession documentation where the [President of GTI grants land to a relative of the same](#) in violation of Laws No. 28 and 445; so they are currently citing for an extraordinary assembly (Asanglawana) and elect new authorities. [However, on previous occasions the RACCN Regional Council only certifies authorities related to the political party currently in government.](#)