



PRESS RELEASE

ATTACK OF SETTLERS BURNS WILÚ AND LEAVES AT LEAST 7 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DEAD

CALPI received information that the community of Wilú has been attacked by settlers today, March 11, 2023, and that three Mayangna community members and two children, members of the Miskitu indigenous people, were kidnapped yesterday, March 10; Those now kidnapped, were heading from the Musawás community to the Betlehem community in the Mayangna Sauni As territory, in the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, in the Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua.

We were informed that today at around 6 in the morning the community of Wilú was attacked by approximately 60 heavily armed non-indigenous settlers. The attack occurred taking advantage of the fact that the men from the community had withdrawn to hunt, being mostly in the community women and children. A person who fled the place reported the death of 7 community members, including 2 women, one in serious condition; the names of the fatalities are: Lenin Vilchez Patrón Flores, Jorge Enor Palacios Samuel (23 years old), Duts Castillo Frenly, Alberto Castillo Palacios (20 years old), Orzan Díaz Palacios, Nadilia Palacios (65 years old) and Lidina Flores Castillo. Jesmin Jacobo Lázaro who is in serious condition. And there are still missing women and children. The houses of the community were set on fire, leaving only the church, the pastoral house and the school standing.

They also report that yesterday Mr. Canisio Taylor, evangelical pastor and teacher from the Musawás community, who was traveling with Antonio Gadea and Lindolfo Charly, all members of the Musawás community, and two Miskito children whose names are unknown, were kidnapped by settlers. They were kidnapped while traveling on the Waspúk River to their work areas near the community of Betlehem.

Family members and community members are alarmed because they consider that these attacks and kidnappings are carried out by settlers, who are invading this indigenous territory; to put pressure on the community members and sow terror, and thus, more easily seize the indigenous lands.

And this is the second time that the community of Wilú has been attacked by settlers without the authorities having protected them. On the previous occasion many of its members forcibly displaced to other communities in the Mayangna Sauni As territory to safeguard their lives. On February 13, 2022, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) granted precautionary measures to the Community of Wilú, however the State of Nicaragua has not complied with them.

Despite the fact that the attacks, perpetrated by settlers armed with weapons of war in the Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua began in 2015, and since then, they have been carried out systematically against the Miskito and Mayangna indigenous communities; These communities continue to ask the State of Nicaragua for its protection, investigation, prosecution, and reparation for these serious violations of their human rights.

However, in most cases the State does not show up to the communities, and when it does, it denies that the attacks are carried out by settlers and instead blames the indigenous people themselves; as occurred [in the case of the massacre of Kiwakumbaih](#), in which he contradicted more than twenty victims and witnesses to the events.

