

## Guatemala Election Watch #41

### **Luz Emilia Ularío Zavala: A Voice to Defend Democracy Day 43 of nationwide democracy defense protests**

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/luz-emilia-ulario-zavala-a-voice-to-defend-democracy>

On August 20, 2023, President-elect Bernardo Arevalo & VP-elect Karin Herrera (of the Semilla Party) won the elections. They are slated to assume the Presidency and control of executive branch of government on January 14, 2024. Since well before August 20, the *Pacto de Corruptos* ('Covenant of the Corrupt') government and traditional elites of Guatemala – longtime “democratic allies” of the U.S., Canada, E.U., World Bank and transnational corporations – have been trying to block or overthrow the results.

2 months, 1 day until Jan.14, 2024 transfer of power

Stay tuned ... This is not over

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# Una voz para defender la democracia

Luz Emilia Ulario Zavala, alcaldesa indígena de Santa Lucía Utatlán, habló con Prensa Comunitaria acerca de un mes de manifestaciones y su incidencia en las comunidades.

**Créditos / Fotos:** Mario Godínez  
**Texto:** Isela Espinoza  
**Diseño:** Estuardo de Paz

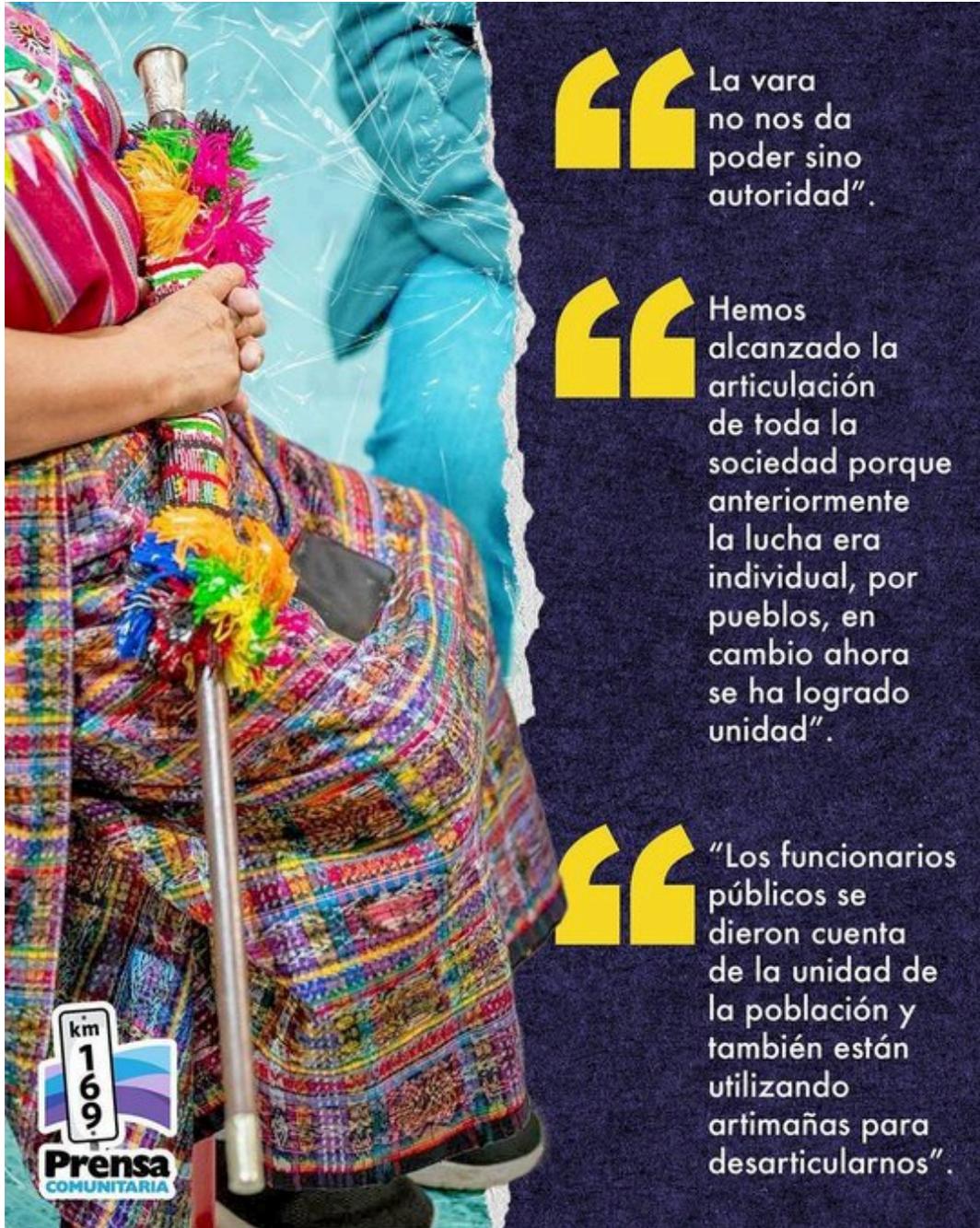
“Las alcaldías indígenas, además, de impartir justicia en nuestras localidades también velamos por nuestro territorio, por los problemas sociales y alzamos la voz de nuestro pueblo”.



## **A voice to defend democracy**

Luz Emilia Ulario Zavala, Indigenous mayor of Santa Lucía Utatlán, spoke to Prensa Comunitaria about a month of demonstrations and their impact on the communities. Credits / Photos: Mario Godínez, Text: Isela Espinoza, Design: Estuardo de Paz

“The Indigenous mayor's offices, in addition to providing justice in our localities, we also watch over our territory, address social problems and raise the voice of our people.”



“ La vara no nos da poder sino autoridad”.

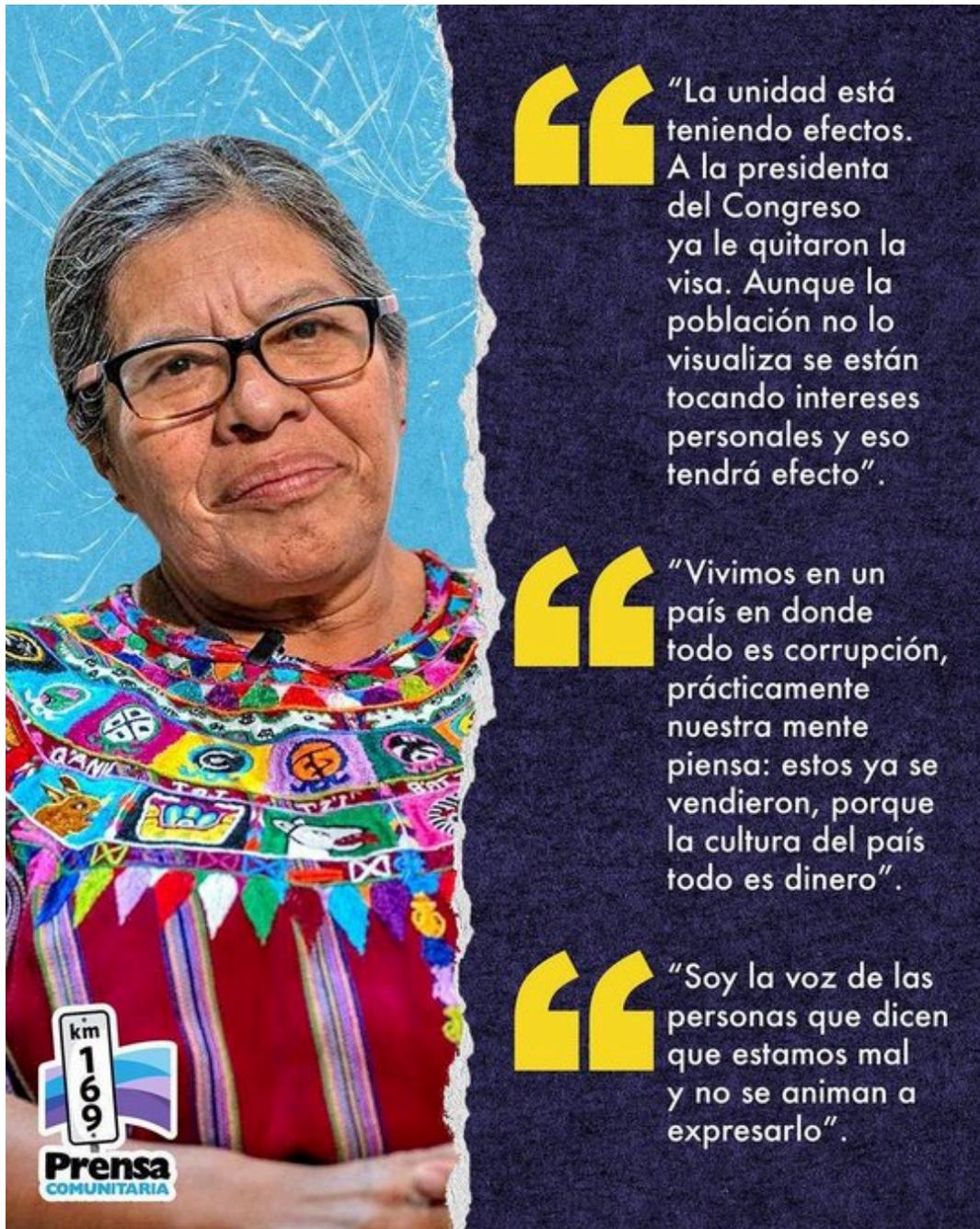
“ Hemos alcanzado la articulación de toda la sociedad porque anteriormente la lucha era individual, por pueblos, en cambio ahora se ha logrado unidad”.

“ Los funcionarios públicos se dieron cuenta de la unidad de la población y también están utilizando artimañas para desarticularnos”.

“The staff does not give us power but authority”.

“This [pro-democracy struggle] has achieved the organization of the society as a whole. Previously the struggle was individual, by villages, but now we have achieved unity”.

"Government officials have realized the unity of the population and are using tricks to dismantle us."



“La unidad está teniendo efectos. A la presidenta del Congreso ya le quitaron la visa. Aunque la población no lo visualiza se están tocando intereses personales y eso tendrá efecto”.

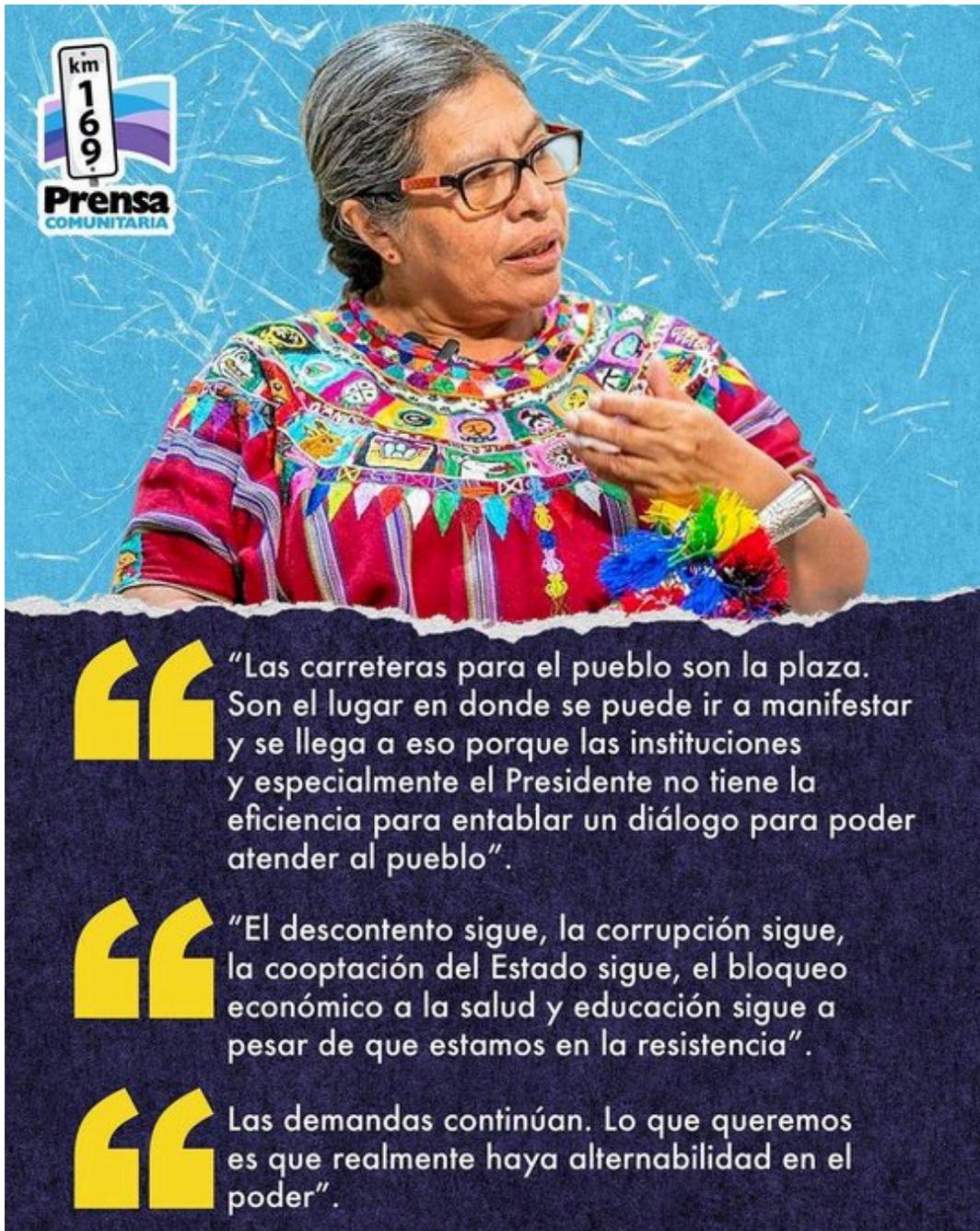
“Vivimos en un país en donde todo es corrupción, prácticamente nuestra mente piensa: estos ya se vendieron, porque la cultura del país todo es dinero”.

“Soy la voz de las personas que dicen que estamos mal y no se animan a expresarlo”.

"Our unity is having an effect. The president of the Congress has already been stripped of her visa. Although the population does not see it, the individual wealth interests [of the powerful] are being affected and this will have an impact".

"We live in a country where everything is corruption. Practically speaking our mindset is: these people are already sold out, because the culture of the country is all about money."

"I am the voice of the people who say we are on the wrong path but don't dare express it."



“Las carreteras para el pueblo son la plaza. Son el lugar en donde se puede ir a manifestar y se llega a eso porque las instituciones y especialmente el Presidente no tiene la eficiencia para entablar un diálogo para poder atender al pueblo”.

“El descontento sigue, la corrupción sigue, la cooptación del Estado sigue, el bloqueo económico a la salud y educación sigue a pesar de que estamos en la resistencia”.

“Las demandas continúan. Lo que queremos es que realmente haya alternabilidad en el poder”.

"The highways and roads are for the people their public square. They are the place where you can go to demonstrate and it has come to that because the institutions and especially the President do not have the capacity to engage in a dialogue to be able to serve the people."

"The discontent continues. Corruption continues. The co-optation of the state continues. The economic blockade on health and education services continues despite the fact that we are in resistance."

"Our demands continue. What we want is for there really to be a real change of power".



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Nosotros nos basamos mucho en los valores, en los principios. Nuestro sistema (de justicia) es reparador, no castigador. En cambio, el sistema occidental solo piensa en castigar y multar. Eso no mejora ni cambia a una persona”.

“

“La indignación que rebalsó el vaso fue el secuestro de las cajas electorales. La población, entonces pensó que de nada sirvió que nos inviten a votar si no respetan nuestro voto”.

“We rely heavily on values, on principles. Our system (of justice) is restorative, not punitive. On the other hand, the Western system only thinks about punishing and fining. That doesn't improve or change a person.”

“The indignation that overflowed the cup was the seizure of the electoral boxes. The population then thought what was the point if they invite us to vote and then do not respect our vote.”

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### **Electoral coup d'état: 'Death by a 1000 cuts'**

It is impossible to keep up with the 'death by a 1000 cuts' attacks being carried out by the 'covenant of the corrupt' government and traditional elites against the victory of President-elect Bernardo Arevalo and VP-elect Karin Herrera of the Semilla Party.

Rights Action calls for Americans and Canadians to keep sharing these informations widely (including media outlets), and to contact your Senators, Members of Congress and Parliamentarian, urge them to publicly support the Semilla Party and President-elect Bernardo Arevalo and VP-elect Karin Herrera, and to support calls for the main coup plotters to resign: Attorney General Consuelo Porras, special prosecutor Rafael Curruchiche, Judge Fredy Orellana.

- U.S. Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact>
- U.S. House: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>
- Canadian Parliament: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>

### **More information**

- Rights Action's "Guatemala Election Watch" alerts ([www.rightsaction.org/emails](http://www.rightsaction.org/emails))
- NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with People of Guatemala): [www.nisgua.org](http://www.nisgua.org); [https://twitter.com/NISGUA\\_Guate](https://twitter.com/NISGUA_Guate)
- GHRC (Guatemalan Human Rights Commission): [www.ghrc-usa.org](http://www.ghrc-usa.org); <https://twitter.com/GHRCUSA>
- Breaking the Silence: [www.breakingthesilenceblog.com](http://www.breakingthesilenceblog.com), [https://twitter.com/BTS\\_MG](https://twitter.com/BTS_MG)
- Festivales Solidarios @festivalesgt;
- Prensa Comunitaria @PrensaComunitaria; <https://prensacomunitaria.org/>

### **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)**

To support land and environmental defenders, and democracy, human rights and justice struggles in Honduras and Guatemala, make check to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: Box 82858, RPO Cabbagetown, Toronto, ON, M5A 3Y2

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Direct deposits, write to: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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Please share and re-post this information

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### **TESTIMONIO**

#### **Canadian Mining in the Aftermath of Genocides in Guatemala**

Edited by Catherine Nolin & Grahame Russell

<https://btlbooks.com/book/testimonio>

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