



Third Attack against the Mayangna and the Party Politics

Members of the Mayangna Sauni Arungka Territory denounced on May 10, 2021, the third attack perpetrated against Mayangna indigenous people during 2021 in the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve; this time in the Silamwas Community, located on the road between Rosita and Bonanza. Two of the community members who were attacked were injured in the raid, on January 22, 2021. The first attack had already been perpetrated in the Mayangna Sauni As territory, in the community of Karah Wilú, on Tubuyna Hill, in which the following indigenous rangers were injured: Donald Castillo Felipe, 60, Presino Samuel, 47, and Corino Simeón, 44. On March 4, 2021, a second attack was executed, this time in the community of Kimakwas, in the Mayangna Sauni Arungka Territory, in which 17-year-old Antonio López Rufus received five bullet hits and, given the danger of infection, risked having his leg amputated. During the attack he was missing for two days along with Leve Pedro Devis, both were found by members of their community after the attack, one wounded and the other beaten and strongly psychologically affected.

The 2021-2026 presidential campaign has already begun on the Caribbean coast, so that on March 12, 2021, the president of the Council and the chairwoman of the Regional Government, the mayor of Bonanza, the



departmental political secretary of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) -currently the ruling party-, a pro-government leader from the Mayangna Nation, and an official from the mining company HEMCO, inaugurated a pathway, which they call "the road", located between the villages of Suniwas and Musawas, the latter being the capital of the Mayangna people. However, the work was carried out without Free, Prior, and Informed Consultation with the indigenous people, even though it runs through their territories. On the other hand, the indigenous people say that this road will

not last because it was built without bridges across the rivers that cross it; and that the communities do not need it because they have their ways to communicate among themselves, and that they do not have motorized vehicles to travel along the road. Therefore, the indigenous people consider that the reason for building such a road is to facilitate the transportation of the wood and gold extracted from their territories.

The community members also regret that these authorities, who came to their community, did not pay attention to their real problems: the invasion of their territories through violence; the imposition of community and territorial authorities related to the FSLN, displacing the legitimate leadership of these peoples; and the permanent usurpation of their natural resources, thus destroying their traditional livelihoods. On May 10, at around five o'clock in the morning, when as usual they were going to their plantations, five members of the Muskuswas community were ambushed by eight non-indigenous settlers, leaving two Mayangna indigenous people wounded. Resulting from the shooting, one settler was also killed and another was wounded. However, the official media "Sistema de Noticias del Caribe" misrepresented the facts, mentioning only the affected settlers and blaming the indigenous people for the incident, which generated a strong resonance on social media from Bosawás leaders asking the media to retract, which was not done. Likewise, the National Police are now searching for the injured indigenous people, while community members point to Mr. Ayangni Elvin Urbina Luquez, FSLN regional counselor and member of the National Demarcation and Titling Commission (CONADETI), as the cause of the recent acts of violence in the Mayangna Sauni Arungka Territory, and ask the authorities of the National Police and the Public Ministry to carry out the relevant investigations to clarify the case. The leaders of the Mayangna people lament the frequent loss of more human lives and ask the Government of Nicaragua to implement the process of regulating the indigenous territories titled by the State of Nicaragua since 2006; and through the Ecological Battalion of the Nicaraguan Army (BECO), created for the protection of the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, to disarm the non-indigenous settlers, who since 2015 armed with weapons of war, have constantly and systematically threatened and attacked the Mískitu and Mayangna indigenous communities of Bosawás to usurp their collective and traditional lands.