



Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**José Miguel Vivanco**  
**Director**  
**Human Rights Watch**  
**Americas Division**

Dear Mr. Vivanco:

We are very glad that Human Rights Watch (HRW) is interested in getting involved in finding out more about many of the incidents and allegations around the Bajo Aguan conflict. We are especially pleased HRW is willing to listen to all parties involved to better understand such a complex problem.

As explained in my earlier e-mail, Mr. Facusse has delegated to me the responsibility for answering your request for information as stated in your letter dated October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. We hope that the answers hereby provided, are sufficient for your purposes, but if you need additional information, feel free to ask.

**General questions on the functioning of security guards:**

**We understand that Dinant may have as many as 300 armed security guards for its various operations. Could you describe how security is provided to Dinant's operations, including the number of guards currently used by the company? Are these personnel employed directly by the company, or through a third party contractor, and for what purposes?**

As closing of September 2013, Dinant (including its affiliated company Exportadora Del Atlantico) has 470 security guards for its various operations throughout the country, which includes manufacturing facilities, distribution centers, agricultural operations and corporate offices in Honduras.

Out of those 470 security personnel, 231 are Dinant's direct employees (49%) and 239 are third party contracted (51%). The following is the purpose of those 470 contracted:

Supervision & Staff Security	19
Field & Plantations	215
Manufacturing Facilities (8 Factories)	77
Supplies Warehouses	11
Environmental Projects (Lean)	5
Green Houses	3
Distribution Routes (Cars)	92
Distribution Centers (10) & Corporate Offices	48
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	470

Of the guards assigned to the field (plantations), specifically in the Aguan region, the number is 134 security guards for a total extension of 8,593.73 hectares, for an average of 64.13 hectares for every man, which means that every security guard covers an area equivalent to 641,300 square meters. For the Lean Valley, there is one man for every 128.01 hectares and for the Comayagua Valley is one man for every 95.39 hectares.



**What measures, if any, does Corporación Dinant carry out to ensure that guards it employs or those employed by firms it hires have training to respect company policies, human rights standards and Honduran law in their security role?**

As for Corporacion Dinant employees, like any other potential employee in any area of the company (sales, administration, human resources, production line worker) a selection process is followed in which the potential candidate prior to be hired has to submitted to several tests (psychological, aptitude, etc.), a background process ran by the Human Resources Department, which includes a formal review of the individual's police record to determine if they have criminal or any other type of problem (credit, bad references, etc.). Also, the person is requested to submit along with the application, a criminal record card issued by the police who certify that this person has no public record of a criminal conviction.

The third party contractors are expected to follow the same procedures that Dinant follow with selection of its candidates.

As for training to respect company policies and standards in human rights and Honduran laws in their security role, Dinant is constantly providing its employees with proper training in that regards. Also, Dinant has asked that third parties such as International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide special training in Human Rights. As well, a specialist in Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights has been hired in order to develop an implementation program for the principles into all of our operations. This program will include not only our Dinant security personnel but also those of third parties contractors.

**What measures, if any, does Corporación Dinant carry out to vet guards it employs or those employed by contractors on its behalf to ensure that they do not have criminal convictions?**

As previously explained, during personnel selection a background check is performed and also a criminal record card issued by the police is required in order to obtain a job. We are considering additional vetting measures.

**Do security guards employed by Corporación Dinant, or by contractors on its behalf, have powers to arrest or detain individuals, and if so, what is the source of that authority?**

In general, guards do not have powers to arrest individuals. The only situation in which they can detain an individual is when a trespasser has illegally entered the private property of the company. In that case, the guards are responsible for safeguarding the personnel and property under their custody and may temporarily detain a suspect until the arrival of the proper authorities (police). Once police are on the scene the guards immediately turn over custody of the trespasser to them.

**Under what legal authority are security guards employed by Corporación Dinant or by contractors on its behalf entitled to carry arms and what weapons are they permitted to carry?**

The Ministry of Security is the one that authorizes security personnel to operate and the one that establish under which conditions these security personnel may operate. It is also the Ministry of Security that controls the issue of permits to carry weapons for any Honduran, whether that Honduran works for a security company or not.

In accordance with Honduran law and Dinant security policy, Dinant's private security personnel ONLY carry shotguns and pistols and then ONLY when they are in the performance of their duties on Dinant property. The violent, armed threat to the security guards mandates they must be armed to protect themselves and the Dinant employees in the care. Dinant guards have been murdered in the past when unarmed and in transit to their work site.



**Does Corporación Dinant maintain a register of weapons, including the names of the personnel to whom they are issued?**

Yes, we do have a registry of weapons as well as to whom these weapons are assigned. The third parties contractors do so as well.

**Does Corporación Dinant maintain a daily record of security guards working at its facilities?**

Yes, the company keeps daily records of the security guards assigned to its facilities, just as it does with the rest of the employees in any type of assignment. The same applies for the third party contractors.

**What are the most important security issues faced by private security personnel employed by Corporación Dinant?**

In general, the more important issues are the common security conditions that affect the general population in the country, which includes criminal activities such as armed robberies, assaults, murders, etc.

In the Aguan Region in particular, starting in December 2009 a massive invasion of our Plantation sites took place which has taken several lives and caused many injuries. Despite the company's efforts and the employees' family's efforts to get justice, nothing has been accomplished so far. The Honduran Government has not been able to successfully address the situation in accordance with the law.

**What modes of lethal and non-lethal force are security personnel employed by Corporación Dinant or contractors on its behalf authorized to use when involved in confrontations? What legal standards and/or company-mandated rules of engagement govern the use of these weapons?**

The general mandate by Dinant to all guards is to avoid all confrontations at any cost. Dinant Security personnel have been ordered not to confront illegal trespassers and should withdraw from the premises without firing their guns if possible. The use of deadly force is not allowed or suggested at any time, with one exception. The use of deadly force is permitted in self-defense or to protect the lives of Dinant employees which the guards are protecting. This is allowed by law. On rare occasions the guards have been forced to use their weapons in order to protect their lives. A copy of Dinant's rules of engagement is stapled in every security post for the guards to have guidance. A copy of these rules is attached to this mail.

As part of the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, our company along with the consultant, are in the early stages of evaluating less-lethal security equipment and developing appropriate rules for the use of that equipment.

**How does Corporación Dinant monitor the day-to-day conduct of its security guards and those employed by contractors on its behalf to ensure that they comply with human rights standards, legal requirements and company policies?**

Our company, as well as our third party contractors, has supervisors that supervise and monitor the day to day conduct and operation of the security guards. These supervisors are obligated to report to the Corporate Offices the daily events and any incidents, as well as to plan the training and enforce proper behavior of the security personnel.

**Has Corporación Dinant taken any measures to ensure that its security personnel and those employed by contractors on its behalf can report misconduct by others employees with adequate guarantees of confidentiality and without fear of reprisal?**

As part of the company's policies, a complaint box has been installed in all of Dinant's facilities in order to ensure confidentiality in the event that an employee or one from a third party contractor wants to report an event, whether if that person wants to do it anonymously or with his (her) own name.



Those complaints are properly processed and discussed in accordance with the severity of such denounce. However, we are currently evaluating improvements in that process as well as the proper incorporation of the complaint box for processing community complaints. Furthermore, with the help of SNV, a well-known international external consultant company, we are also developing a much more formal structure for community engagement than the one the company had previously to the Aguan Conflict.

**Does Corporación Dinant investigate every incident where security guards are alleged to have used force and/or acted inappropriately in carrying out their duties? How many such investigations were opened from 2009 through the present?**

Whenever a case has been brought upon to our attention the company has always conducted an internal investigation. To date not a single case has been formally brought to our attention from external sources. The internal investigations have always derived from incidents in which our security personnel were assaulted by trespassers. These acts of violence were publicly brought to the attention of the Honduran authorities by our personnel.

**What disciplinary measures are invoked in cases where Corporación Dinant or contracted security personnel are found to have used force without adequate justification or committed other abuses?**

- i. How frequently have such measures been invoked?
- ii. How many investigations were closed due to lack of evidence?
- iii. In how many investigations was the determination reached that no wrongdoing had occurred?

The only case in which we have found abuse from our security guards, they fled the scene and we were not able to invoke any type of measures. In any case, we communicated the event to the police and the Attorney's office and cooperated in full with the investigation process. The case is discussed below.

**Who is responsible for conducting Corporación Dinant's investigations into allegations of criminal misconduct by security personnel? What steps are taken to ensure the independence and impartiality of said investigators?**

The initial investigation is always conducted by the supervisor assigned to the site. If the allegation is credible, the supervisor immediately brings it to the attention of Dinant management for investigation by a person from the Human Resources Department, a person from the Legal department (if applicable) and the Operation Manager on the Site. In accordance with the severity of the facts, people from other departments, including Corporate Staff is included. This process has been explained in detail to all Dinant facility managers and site security supervisors and trained by our consultant using a practical exercise.

**Do procedures exist to refer cases involving allegations of serious abuse by Corporación Dinant security personnel (including those employed by contractors on its behalf) to the police? If so, do those procedures include the handing over of the results of any internal investigation to the police? Have such procedures ever been invoked?**

Our Voluntary Principles consultant has conducted extensive training for the Dinant management team in appropriate methods to do this. We are developing formal, written procedures to guide our employees and supervisors in handling allegations of misconduct or human rights abuse. Our security personnel have fully cooperated with the police or the judicial authorities in resolving past allegations. For example, after the incidents that took place in "El Tumbador" in November 2010, we encouraged our personnel (third party hired) to go to court and face trial.

**Has Corporación Dinant taken any steps to align its policies and procedures with the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights? If so, please describe these.**

Dinant has made the commitment at every level to implement policies that are consistent with the Voluntary Principles. Dinant management has signed and publicly released the company's Human Rights Policy and posted this on the company website. In meetings with Honduran officials at all levels Dinant has shared copies of the Voluntary Principles and their Human Rights Policy and explained the corporation's commitment and expectations. This effort establishes Dinant as the business leader in this effort in Honduras.



To further reinforce our efforts, the company has formed a Dinant Core Team at the corporate level to oversee the Voluntary Principles implementation program. Dinant hired an international subject matter expert to work with this Core Team over a several months, including two intensive training sessions in Honduras totaling four weeks of lectures, seminars and practical exercises. This core team will be the training cadre as Dinant disseminates and incorporates the Voluntary Principles in its core business culture.

During the two training phases, Dinant gathered over thirty of its senior Honduran management team members at off-site locations for intensive training in the program translated into Spanish. In total, the training commitment amounted to almost 200 man-days for Dinant senior and mid-level management. The participants received training in the fundamentals of the Voluntary Principles, effective methods to engage stakeholders and techniques to assess risks and develop mitigation measures that respect human rights.

Dinant is actively engaging with a respected NGO member of the Voluntary Principles Plenum to further expand our knowledge of and find best practices in the implementing the Voluntary Principles for Security and Human Rights. We have met with and explained our Voluntary Principles program to the United Nations Special Representatives for Human Rights and to the National Human Rights Commission.

Dinant's program to implement the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights is a ground-breaking initiative in Honduras and in the agribusiness sector. It is already an example for other peer companies to emulate.

#### **The IFC Review:**

**We understand that sometime in or after 2010, the IFC helped Dinant identify a consultant to review the company's security and human rights policies and procedures, in order to be consistent with IFC's performance standards and industry standards such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. The consultant was also supposed to train security personnel. Can you detail that cooperation and those efforts, including who was hired, what was their scope of work, and when that occurred?**

As a result of the conflicts in the Aguan Valley, IFC recommended that Dinant hire a security and human rights expert to ensure that our policies, procedures and training are in line with the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Our aim is to avoid further conflict and to protect the lives and welfare of local residents and employees.

The security and human rights consultant, Don McFetridge, has more than a dozen years of experience monitoring and assessing security programs in conflict zones, introducing the voluntary principles as a tool for managing security and community relations, and helping companies integrate them into all levels of their operations. He was the primary author of the World Bank (MIGA) working paper, "The Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. An Implementation Toolkit for Major Project Sites". Over the last two years, the consultant has made multiple visits to Honduras, working with Dinant management at all levels to train them in the fundamentals of the Voluntary Principles and help develop policies, procedures and techniques to make Dinant one of the first corporations outside the extractive industries to roll-out an effective program.

These efforts are supported and reinforced by additional, respected international consultants working with Dinant on community engagement and associated issues.



**We understand that the IFC's Compliance Advisor and Ombudsman ordered an audit of the project in April 2012. What is the status of the IFC review and can you describe the company's views on this process?**

The Compliance Advisor and Ombudsman's website includes information on the scope of the audit. [http://www.cao-ombudsman.org/documents/CAOcommuniquedinant\\_February2013.pdf](http://www.cao-ombudsman.org/documents/CAOcommuniquedinant_February2013.pdf)

We recommend contacting IFC for more information on the status of the report.

As for Dinant, the company has fully cooperated with the audit process. We were interviewed by the CAO panel during a teleconference in early 2013 during which we discussed many of the aspects involving the Aguan conflict.

**What efforts did Dinant or IFC make to assess social or human rights impacts of the company's operations prior to obtaining the loan or afterwards?**

IFC carried out an environmental and social appraisal as per its procedures and 2006 Performance Standards, which guide clients' requirements for investment. IFC's Environmental and Social Review Summary was disclosed in Nov. 2008: <http://ifcext.ifc.org/ifcext/spiwebsite1.nsf/78e3b305216fcd8a85257a8b0075079d/0da97ae6a7a3981f852576ba000e2ccf?opendocument>

Since then, IFC has worked with Dinant to monitor progress on the action plan.

**Could you provide the social and environmental assessment as well as any other materials that pertain to human rights policies and procedures?**

Environmental and Social Impact Assessments are not required by IFC unless there is a new development or the expansion of a project. Since the IFC investment did not involve either, it was not required.

Dinant did publicly disclose a Spanish summary of IFC's Environmental and Social Review Summary in the offices of the local city halls in which the company had impact and also published in a newspaper that it was going to do so.

Attached you'll find Dinant's Human Rights policy, which is published on our webpage [www.dinant.com](http://www.dinant.com).

**We understand that then-IFC vice president, Lars Thunell, met with President Porfirio Lobo of Honduras to discuss allegations of abuse relating to Corporación Dinant. Can you provide further details on any discussions you had with Thunell or the office of the president in relation to this meeting?**

Dinant did not participate in the meeting you reference. Our understanding from local media reports is that Mr. Thunell met with President Lobo as part of his visit to Honduras and discussed the country's security situation. We suggest you contact IFC for further details.

**Questions Regarding Specific Cases in Bajo Aguán:**

**Deaths of Five Individuals, El Tumbador Plantation, November 15, 2010.**

On November 15, 2010, a group of peasants from the Movimiento Campesino del Aguán (Peasant Movement of the Aguán, or MCA), a land claims group, approached the El Tumbador plantation, where guards employed by Corporación Dinant were allegedly stationed.

The initial police report into the incident said that "a confrontation with firearms between a group of peasants and security guards" had occurred that took the lives of five campesinos: Teodoro Acosta, Raul Castillo, Ciriaco de Jesús Munoz Aguilar, Ignacio Reyes and José Luis Salcedo Pastrana.



**Can you confirm that Corporación Dinant owned, operated or otherwise controlled the Tumbador plantation in November 2010?**

In fact, our affiliated company Exportadora Del Atlantico owned and operated "Tumbador" Plantation in November 2010, and has been doing since it bought the site from the previous owners back in 1999.

**Were the security guards who were on duty at the time direct employees of Corporación Dinant, or employees of a private security contractor employed by Corporación Dinant?**

The security guards present at the site were employees of the third party contractor; the Company name is "Orion Seguridad".

**Does Corporación Dinant believe the initial police report was accurate in concluding that five campesinos were killed in an exchange of gunfire with security personnel employed by the company?**

We do not believe that the 5 trespassers were killed from fire coming from our security guards, since the bodies struck by bullets from high caliber weapons which are illegal in Honduras. The security guards are only allowed to carry 12" shotguns or revolvers. The people who were carrying high caliber weapons were the trespassers; therefore we agree that deaths resulted from exchange of fire but do not agree that this fire came from our security personnel.

This is not only our belief but the findings of the court of law that handled the case of the security guards and acquitted them of all the charges.

**Please provide a detailed account of Corporación Dinant's understanding of how the incident described above unfolded.**

The events unfolded as follows: In November 2010, a group of about 160 people arrived at the El Tumbador plantation. They were heavily armed with illegal assault weapons such as AK-47's. The local press carried photos of the trespassers that clearly show their assault weapons.

They approached our security guards and announced that the Minister of National Agrarian Institute (INA) has told them that the plantation land belonged to them and that all of the Exportadora's workers in the field had five minutes to leave the premises. After only 3 minutes the trespassers opened fire upon our personnel and security guards, who repelled the attack. We would like to point out that the wounds of those killed were from high caliber weapons and not the light weapons assigned to the security personnel or any Dinant personnel on the premises. A copy of a newspaper article on the subject is attached includes statements from local police authorities in which they state that the newspaper people as well as the police were kidnapped by the trespassers.

**Did Corporación Dinant conduct an internal review of the incident, including an examination of whether any security personnel involved in the incident behaved justifiably? If so, what were the results?**

We did conduct such investigation and the main results are that:

- 1) The security guards did not have a chance to avoid the confrontation.
- 2) The security guards opened fire in order to safeguard their own lives and the lives of unarmed employees who were working in the field (field workers not related to security jobs).
- 3) The security guards immediately called for help from the authorities and from their security supervisor.
- 4) The security guards cooperated with the internal investigation as well as the police investigation.

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**Did Corporación Dinant contact the police or other authorities to provide them with information on the incident? If so, can you describe that process?**

Immediately after the event the police authorities were contacted by phone and notified of the event. Almost at the same time, a legal complaint of the trespassing event was delivered to the local Public's Attorney's Office by our lawyer, which included a brief description of the incident.

The police are obligated to act upon our criminal complaint. The Attorney's office is also obligated to act by default since a violent act occurred which resulted in the death of people. Despite, the fact that Dinant has formally filed a legal complaint there has been no action by the authorities.

**Did police investigators or prosecutors interview Corporación Dinant officials, employees or contracted personnel about the incident, and did Corporación Dinant cooperate fully with their investigation?**

The police, as well as personnel from the Public Attorney's office, came to the scene and interviewed the people on the site, including not only the security guards but also the field workers.

All of our personnel cooperated fully with the investigation, including when they were requested by the court to appear. They showed up at the trial, submitted to the whole process and were acquitted.

**Did Corporación Dinant supply police with lists of weapons provided to guards on and off duty at the time of the incident?**

The weapons at the scene were surrendered to police authorities. No list of weapons from other sites or from off-duty personnel was requested by the police or the Public Attorney's Office.

**Did Corporación Dinant supply police with the names of guards on duty at the time of the incident?**

Yes.

**Disappearance and Killing of Gregorio Chávez, July 2, 2012:**

Chávez disappeared near his home on July 2, 2012. According to police and Chávez's family, his body was found buried inside Paso Aguán plantation on July 6, 2012.

**Did Corporación Dinant own, operate or otherwise control the Paso Aguán plantation in July 2012?**

Our affiliated Company Exportadora del Atlantico owned and operated the Paso Aguan Plantation at the beginning of July 2012 and lost control of it for more than a year.

In the early days of July 2012, a group of people accompanied with police authorities along with Public Attorney's representatives came to the Paso Aguan plantation asking our security guards to allow them to enter the premises because they were looking for a missing person (Gregorio Chavez). Our personnel allowed the authorities to enter the premises; the authorities later asked the guards to leave the area; with the guards gone the property was invaded by a group of people, under the excuse that they were looking for Mr. Chavez' body. During a short period (a couple of days), the trespassers stole the fruit, stole 3 tractors (of which up to this date only 1 appeared) and burned a warehouse-office. After our company made a public complaint about these events, the trespassers voluntary left the plantation site. Subsequently the body was found buried on the premises.





**Does Corporación Dinant believe it to be accurate that Chavez's body was discovered on the plantation?**

Yes, the body was found on the plantation site.

**Does Corporación Dinant have a position on how Gregorio Chavez was killed, and/or on how his body allegedly came to be discovered on the plantation?**

We do not believe the body was there while the plantation was in our control. We believe Mr. Chavez was killed elsewhere and the body was moved from a different location to the plantation and buried while we had no control of the plantation site.

After the trespassers left the premises, the body was found. We cooperated in full with the authorities in the investigation process. The forensic report has not yet been placed at public disposal; therefore, it is not possible to prove our position or assumptions.

**Did the corporation carry out an internal investigation into the case? If so, what were the results?**

Yes, an internal investigation was carried and the major findings were:

- 1) There were no previous indications that may lead to the conclusion that any employee of the company had any dispute with Mr. Gregorio Chavez, who had been a neighbor for more than a decade.
- 2) There were no indications that a body was buried into the plantation site. Neither our security personnel on their rounds at the plantation site, nor the technical personnel and field workers who work on the plantation saw any indication of a burial or grave during the time we were in possession of the plantation.

**If the corporation did carry out an investigation, did it turn over its findings to government officials?**

No, we did not share that internal investigation, but as previously explained we cooperated in full with the authorities, sharing our conclusions, allowing access to the site and to our employees.

**Did Corporación Dinant contact the police or other authorities to provide them with information on the incident? If so, can you describe that process?**

Explained in the previous questions.

**Did police or prosecutors interview employees or guards on the Paso Aguán plantation after Chávez went missing and/or after the body was discovered, and did Corporación Dinant cooperate fully with their investigation?**

Yes, as previously explained.

Attached you'll find public statement released to radios and TV stations in regards to the disappearance of Gregorio Chavez.

**Disappearance and Killing of José Antonio López Lara, April 29, 2012**

López Lara went missing on April 29, 2012, his daughter told Human Rights Watch. In April 2013, a body was found on Paso Aguán plantation that López Lara's wife says is that of her husband. Authorities have not yet confirmed whether the body is López Lara's.

**Did Corporación Dinant own, operate or otherwise control the plantation between April 2012 and April 2013?**

Our affiliated company Exportadora Del Atlantico, lost control of Paso Aguan Plantation on July 2012 and did not recover control of it until February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, for 6 days only until finally recovering control of the site on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013. We only operated and controlled the plantation between April 2012 and early days of July 2012 when the trespassers seized the land. We finally got control again on May 2013.



**Does Corporación Dinant have any understanding as to how the person whose body was allegedly found on Paso Aguán plantation died, and/or how his body came to be on the plantation?**

We do not have any understanding of the situation in relation to that body, nor were we aware of the disappearance of Mr. Lopez Lara in 2012. The only involvement we have after the body was found were public statements in media appearances asking the authorities to come to the scene and conduct a proper investigation.

**Does Corporación Dinant have an opinion as to whether the body allegedly found on Paso Aguán plantation was that of Lopez Lara?**

None, but we wish to emphasize:

- The fact that we had nothing to do with the situation.
- We had no dispute with Mr. Lara.
- We did not have control of the plantation for many months.
- Our public statements asking the authorities to conduct a full investigation on the matter.

**Did Corporación Dinant carry out an internal investigation into the incident described above? If so, what were the results?**

We did not, since we did not have access to the site. Nor we did have any knowledge of the disappearance in 2012.

**Did Corporación Dinant contact the police or other authorities to provide them with information on the incident? If so, can you describe that process?**

We did not contact the police, since we were not in possession of the Plantation Site. However; we publicly stated our willingness to cooperate with authorities in the investigation as well as encourage them to investigate this incident.

**Have police or prosecutors interviewed employees of the corporation or its security guards on the Paso Aguán plantation, either since April 2013 when the body was discovered, or in the time after López Lara went missing in April 2012? If so, did Corporación Dinant cooperate fully with their investigation?**

We were not contacted by authorities nor did we conduct any internal investigation.

**Disappearance of Francisco Pascual López, May 15, 2011**

López went missing on May 15, 2011, while grazing cattle. A member of the peasant organization to which López belonged told Human Rights Watch that on the day López went missing, a trail of blood led from where he was last seen onto the property of the Panamá plantation ten meters away.

**Did Corporación Dinant own, operate or otherwise control the Panamá plantation in May 2011?**

Our affiliated company Exportadora del Atlantico owned and operated the Paso Aguan Plantation in May 2011, also known by some people as the Panama Plantation.

**Was Corporación Dinant aware of allegations that a trail of blood led onto the plantation? Does it believe these allegations to be credible?**

We were not aware of these allegations, nor were we asked to investigate this case.

**Did the corporation carry out an internal investigation into the case? If so, what were the results? Did Corporación Dinant contact the police or other authorities to provide them with information on the incident? If so, can you describe that process?**

No, for the reasons stated above.

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Since López went missing, have police or prosecutors interviewed employees of the corporation, its security guards (or those employed by contractors on its behalf) regarding his disappearance? If so, did Corporación Dinant cooperate fully with their investigation?

No authorities have ever contact us in regards to this case, but we will readily cooperate with any investigation by proper authorities.

**Killing of Four Dinant Security Guards and a Laborer Employed by Dinant, August 14, 2011**

Four Dinant employees—Marco Antonio Guillen, José Darling Guzman, José de Jesus Garcia Flores, and José Alfredo Aguilar—and farmworker Ramón Lobo, were killed in an armed confrontation at Paso Aguán.

**Does Corporación Dinant have any information regarding the nature of the confrontation that resulted in the five men's deaths, or the identity of their assailants?**

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at approximately 6:00 AM during the security guards shift change, a violent forceful attempt to take possession of the Paso Aguan Plantation took place. This was carried out by a large group of people, presumably arriving from the Panama Community, who entered the premises opening fire at the guards with illegal heavy weapons that included AK-47s.

The event resulted in the death of 1 of the trespassers, 4 security guards of which at least one showed signs of being executed while facing the floor unarmed. Also, a Field Technician who was working at the field, was captured, tortured and executed. His ears were cut off and according to witness accounts they heard the executioners shout they were going to send the ears to Mr. Facusse.

Also 11 security guards were wounded from the fire coming from the trespassers' weapons.

Always when an event like this takes place, as soon as possible, a phone call to police authorities is made asking for support. Whenever there are victims (whether dead or wounded), the police are obligated to respond to the scene accompanied by the Attorney General's office representative. At the same time our lawyer went to the Attorney General's office to present a formal, legal complaint of the event as well as denounce the violent events that took place. If any of the trespassers is identify by witnesses, the name of that trespasser is placed on the complaint. Therefore, the authorities should at least be able to identify someone at the scene who participated in the violent events, question them, and be able to determine if the accused participated in the violent acts or just participated in the trespassing felony.

We followed the above mentioned procedure.

**Did Corporación Dinant carry out its own internal investigation into this incident? If so, what were the results? Did the company turn over its findings to police or other authorities to provide them with information on the incident?**

Yes we did. The main findings concluded:

1. That some of the leaders of the violent event were part of the MUCA peasant movement.
2. This was a calculated act that was carried out during the guard shift change.
3. Even though the timing of the attack meant that more guards would be present (two shifts, the one leaving the shift and the one entering the shift), the limited number of guns at the disposal of the guards would be the same. This meant that the assailants could cause more victims.
4. The movement that wanted to take possession of the Plantation not only included people from the Panama Community, but also other outsiders from the Muca peasant movement and from a well-known criminal gang from the area.



**As far as Corporación Dinant is aware, did police or prosecutors interview any suspects in these killings?**

We are not aware that Police or any authorities have interrogated anyone (from the Trespassers' side) associated with the events.

**Did Corporación Dinant contact the police or other authorities to provide them with information about the incident? If so, can you describe that process?**

Yes, as previously explained.

**Since the time of the incident, have police or prosecutors interviewed employees of the corporation or its security guards? If so, did Corporación Dinant cooperate fully with their investigation?**

There has not been any follow up interviews by any authorities after the day of the events that we are aware of.

**To the corporation's knowledge, what is the current status of the criminal investigation into the killings?**

This remains an open case.

#### **Additional Investigations**

**Is Corporación Dinant aware of any other cases or official investigations in which its security guards or guards employed by contractors on its behalf were involved or alleged to have been involved in perpetrating serious crimes such as killings, disappearances, or other violence in Bajo Aguán?**

No, we are not aware of any other investigation or case in relation to our security in Bajo Aguan.

However, we did have one serious incident outside the Bajo Aguan Region. At a location known as Plan de Flores (about 2 hours drive from Tocoa), some trespassers ran into some Dinant security guards. In this incident there was an exchange of gunfire that resulted in one of our security guards being injured. The incident took place after midnight and the guards called the supervisor who was not in the area. As soon as the sun came up, the supervisor notified the police and Attorney's office authorities and took them to the scene. For reasons yet unknown to us, the guards had executed the trespassers and fled the scene. Immediately, the security supervisor was placed into the authorities' custody as well as the scene of the crime. The authorities received full cooperation from the company for the investigation. The security supervisor went into court and was acquitted. The guards are still alive.

While Dinant was not responsible for this criminal act, the company approached the victims' families and made a settlement on humanitarian grounds.

This criminal action was against Dinant's policy and was not planned, ordered or suggested by anyone in Dinant.

**Is Corporación Dinant aware of other cases or official investigations into incidents in which Dinant employees or security personnel working for Dinant contractors are alleged to have been victims of serious crimes such as killings, disappearances, or other violence in Bajo Aguán?**

We have publically denounced other cases in which our security personnel have been violently assaulted in circumstances in which one can only conclude are related to the conflict and the perpetrators are associated with the peasant movement or in association with common criminals.

#### **Examples:**

- On May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013; while driving to the Paso Aguan Plantation a car with unarmed security guards heading to the guard shift was ambushed, with the result of 1 security guard killed and 4 wounded; our conclusion is that the guards were targeted because the attackers knew they could not carry their weapons off Dinant's property. The weapons used were high velocity assault weapons like those used by the trespassers in earlier attacks.



- Also this year, one of our lawyers in the Bajo Aguan region was assassinated while another was wounded during an armed attack in Tocoa. This happened only a few days after a press conference in which members from the MARCA & MUCA peasant movements, as well as members from Via Campesina, publicly stated that if their people at San Isidro Plantation (that MARCA had possession) were evicted, there would be a blood bath. Our company got the court eviction order and repossessed our property; as they threatened, a bloody event then happened.

**Please provide as much specific detail as possible about any such cases as well as answers to the following questions, where applicable:**

**Has Corporación Dinant contacted the police, prosecutors, or other authorities to provide them with information on any of the alleged incidents? If so, can you describe that process?**

Yes, we contacted them repeatedly in order to find out about any progress in the investigations of the violent incidents that took place every time the trespassers invaded our plantation. Eventually, seeing no progress was made by the authorities, we gave up our efforts.

**Has Corporación Dinant cooperated fully with all such criminal investigations, if any are open?**

Whenever we have been asked to cooperate with authorities we have done so. Our public statements to Honduran Government authorities have always been directed in terms of respect to the laws by all parties. We desire to cooperate with all investigations and hope the proper authorities will continue those investigations.

**How many of those investigations have led to suspects being charged, and how many of those cases have resulted in criminal convictions?**

The only investigations that lead suspects to court were the ones against our security guards in "El Tumbador" case and the one against our security supervisor in "Plan de Flores" case. Those trials resulted in acquittal of those brought to court.

On the other hand, in spite the fact that the authorities had the names of people who were part of the trespassing felonies cases against our properties, including those cases that resulted in our employees getting killed or wounded, not a single case has been brought to court.

**In the view of Corporación Dinant, in those cases have police and public prosecutors fulfilled their responsibilities to thoroughly and promptly investigate violent crimes? If not, in what ways have they failed to fulfill these responsibilities?**

We believe that the actions by peasant associations were and are illegal, but even when there was ample evidence no criminal prosecution has occurred so far. Where our employees have been victims there has been no justice and the prosecutors have not fulfilled their duties.

Furthermore, some months ago ex-members from the Peasant Movement (MUCA) deserted from the movement and appeared publicly, as protected witnesses from the Public's Attorney office (since they have testified before its office). In those public appearances on TV, radio and in the newspapers they publicly stated that many of the deaths that have been wrongly attributed to our company's employees and owners were actually carried out by leaders of the MUCA movement. These witnesses have even given the names of the people responsible for giving the orders to assassinate their partners in the peasant movement. So far, we are not aware that any investigation has been carried out to get to the bottom of such terrible crimes in which the witnesses publicly stated they were willing to go to court to prove their accusations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that appears to be the name "J. A. N." or similar, enclosed within a circular flourish.



Dinant is a company that has been in business for more than 50 years. We have agricultural operations in several sites such as: Aguan Valley, Lean Valley and Comayagua Valley in Honduras; Nandaime in Nicaragua and Cartago in Costa Rica. We also operate several factories in different locations in Honduras such as: Comayagua (2 factories), San Pedro Sula (1 factory), Choloma (1 Factory), Lean Valley (1 factory) and Aguan Valley (2 factories). In the long company's history we never have a similar situation such as the one we are confronting in Aguan, nor are we confronting a similar situation in any other site but Aguan, specifically in relation to the Plantation sites.

Although we have no connection to the origin on the conflict, we have been dragged into it. Therefore, our company has from the very start of the conflict been willing to be part of the solution of it. Accordingly, Mr. Facusse agreed to sell 3,000 hectares to the Peasant Movement (MUCA) as a response to a personal request from the Honduran President (Mr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa). The land sale agreement, which eventually included almost 4,000 hectares, was sold at less than half the real price according to appraisals performed by qualified national and international experts. The decision to sell the land at the very beginning of the problem (February 2010) shows the company's willingness to work for a quick and peaceful resolution. Sadly this has not happened.

Our company, its owner, employees, etc. have always publicly made a strong stand for a peaceful and final resolution of the conflict, with respect for the lives of all individuals and respecting the law. We have also publicly stated our readiness to collaborate with any authority in any investigation process that may derive from any of the actions that occurred in the Aguan region or any part of the country.

Dinant has had a long and public history of trying to work with the government and civic organizations in order to find a solution to the problems of land invasions, deaths and insecurity in the Bajo Aguan region. Among these efforts, Dinant, as previously referred, agreed to sell lands at below market prices as a goodwill gesture to the government and to peasant organizations, with the understanding that this could contribute to restoring peace to families and communities in the region, as well as throughout the country. Unfortunately, the desired result was not achieved since armed groups have since continued to terrorize those same communities and have encouraged the illegal seizure of private lands that provide jobs and wages for members of those same communities. Dinant, its executives and employees remain committed to contributing in any way possible to finding a long-term solution to this conflict.

In Dinant, we are committed to participate in actions that promote progress and harmony in the areas where we operate. Therefore, we develop projects that generate economic, social and environmental development through community engagement and inclusion, respecting human rights and ensuring safety and occupational health for our collaborators.

To ensure that our actions are consistent with international practices, we have adhered to the development and implementation of an Environmental and Social Action Plan, which was suggested by one of our international creditors, and which is currently being implemented. During 2013 we made significant progress and we expect to fully complete it by the end of 2014.

One of the major actions that the company has started as part of this plan is the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, which were discussed above in this letter. Some of the other relevant aspects are summarized as follow:

#### **Community engagement**

- The inclusion of ethnic communities on Dinant's production chain through sustainable harvesting of Corozo palm nut has increased the income for minority ethnic communities such as Pech, Garífuna and Ladino, up to 70% and consequently contributed to the creation of a source of income for families in rural areas who are unemployed.



- Dinant offers training and technical assistance to independent producers, increasing production and profitability of African palm plantations in more than 22,000 hectares. These producers are organized by family groups, whose land tenure qualifies mostly as small farmers. This contributes to the improvement in their quality of life.
- Dinant has developed community projects in consensus with leaders of communities by providing technical and financial support for rural electrification, maintenance of roads, access to water, among other things.
- Dinant will be expanding its work in communities through a socio-economic survey so we will have a better understanding of the issues affecting them. We will report our strategy for corporate social responsibility.
- Dinant has donated over 1,000 hectares of land, providing free title deeds to people living in communities where the company has operations.

#### Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- Since 1997, Dinant has supported the hiring of 11 teachers to provide elementary and high school education in the communities of Leán and Aguán valleys, providing direct education benefits for 300 children.
- We have provided our employees and people from some of the local communities where our company operates with approximately 8,000 free medical consultations per year in northern Honduras (San Pedro Sula, Leán and Aguán Valley). Since 1998, Dinant has supported three health clinics, recruited of doctors and nurses, and provided essential medicines.
- Dinant is committed to wildlife conservation. We are working on the breeding, rearing and release of endangered species such as the red macaw, tapir, white tailed deer, iguana and jaguar. In the same way, we protect over 7,200 hectares of forest in 4 protected areas in Honduras.

As you may be able to evaluate, Dinant is a complex business, with a long history of over 50 years of operations. It is a company that is currently generating almost 8,000 direct jobs in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Dominican Republic.

Some information is attached to this letter, but there is a lot of additional information which we referred to, such as the formal legal complaints presented to the General Attorney's office, eviction orders, etc. that are large documents. We will be glad to share these documents with you in our offices if you wish to look at these documents. Also, we would be delighted to receive a visit from your representatives and take you on a visit to our different sites in order for you to see first-hand what Dinant is really about and the positive impact that our company and its people contribute to the Honduran economy and growth. We look forward for your comments,

Cordially,

  
Roger Pineda Pinel  
*Corporate and Banking Relations Director*

Cc: Miguel Facusse (Executive President), Miguel Mauricio Facusse (Executive Vice-president), File.



## EXPORTADORA DEL ATLÁNTICO, S.A. De C. V.

**De:** Gerencia del departamento de seguridad del Aguan.

**Para:** Personal de guardias corporativos y guardias privados.

Por disposición de la gerencia del Departamento de Seguridad perteneciente a la Corporación Dinant para un mejor desempeño en sus labores cotidianas se han girado las siguientes instrucciones, que cada uno de los guardias que están bajo la ordenanza TENDRAN que cumplir y hacer cumplir tales disposiciones. El no acatamiento de alguna de las instrucciones, el departamento de seguridad se vera obligado a imponer una sanción disciplinaria o en su caso a su despido inmediato.

### NORMAS DE CONDUCTA EN SU PUESTO DE TRABAJO.

- 1.- Usar el uniforme correctamente, con su carnet y su corte reglamentario de cabello.
- 2.- No abandonar su puesto sin ser relevado en debida forma.
- 3.- revisar su arma de asignación, reportar inmediatamente cualquier novedad en su arma de reglamento, no mantener cargada su arma, y no jugar y no apuntar en forma amenazante a ningún compañero ni mucho menos con cualquier persona ajena al departamento de seguridad.
- 4.- Guardar siempre su postura como guardia de seguridad y no faltarle el respeto a trabajadores o no trabajadores, principalmente al personal femenino.
- 5.- Terminante prohibido hacer disparos, bajo ninguna circunstancia, si no ha reportado a los niveles superiores.
- 6.- No dormirse en servicio, reportar si padece de alguna enfermedad en su momento.
- 7.- Terminantemente prohibido ingerir bebidas alcohólicas o consumir algún estupefaciente (drogas).
- 8.- Terminante prohibido llevar mujeres a su puesto de trabajo.
- 9.- No usar los bienes de la Empresa para su bienestar. (Carros, motos, etc.).
- 10.- No extraer absolutamente nada que no sea propio, mucho menos producto decomisado O material y equipo propiedad de la Empresa a la cual trabaja.

### DISPOSICIONES DE TRABAJO.

- 1.- Llevar el libro de novedades, por cada finca.
- 2.- Cumplir en la mejor forma, la ordenanza de no permitir la vagancia de animales, mucho menos el pastoreo ilegal dentro de las fincas. Hablar con sus respectivos dueños y hacerles llegar tal información con la mayor educación posible, en caso contrario reportar al técnico de finca o en su defecto al jefe de la seguridad.
- 3.- Reportar cualquier anomalía con la cerca, que gira alrededor de la finca.
- 4.- No permitir el robo de fruta a ningún nivel, si este es el caso inmediatamente reportar al jefe de la seguridad o en su defecto y según la circunstancia a la Policía o DNIC. Por ningún motivo se autoriza responder al robo con fuego ni para intimidación. La orden es reportar.



- 5.-No permitir el ingreso de vehículos que sea su intención de; pesca, leña o simplemente a nada. Esto se da por las circunstancias vividas.
- 6.-No esta permitido que el guardia de algún tipo de autorización, si no esta autorizado.
- 7.-Acatar las disposiciones de los técnicos de fincas, dadas a los guardias siempre y cuando sea relacionado con la seguridad.
- 8.- Darle el uso apropiado al teléfono asignado y no utilizarlo para otras cosas.
- 9.-Reportarse con su jefe inmediato su ausencia de trabajo si es por enfermedad o asuntos personales.
- 10-Reportar siempre cualquier anomalía que se observe ya sea dentro y fuera de su lugar de trabajo.

**REGLAMENTO A SEGUIR EN CASO DE AGRESION DE PARTE DE PERSONAS AJENAS A LOS INTERESE DE LA EMPRESA.**

- 1.-Si el caso fuera con personas dueñas ganado y que quieren imponer el dicho que la costumbre hace ley, entonces tendrán que dialogar primero y hacer entrar en razón a la persona y si no es posible reportar vía teléfono al técnico, al jefe de la seguridad o en ultima instancia al apoderado legal de la Empresa.
  - 2.-Si fuera el caso de INVASION ILISITA DE CAMPESINOS. En ningún momento será de responderles con fuego , si no que se tendrá que replegar y si se pudiera escuchar sus solicitudes en caso contrario salir del área y reportar al jefe de la seguridad, Policía Nacional , que serán estos últimos los tomaran el asunto en sus manos.
- Si hubiera fuego indiscriminado hacia los guardias, tendrían que replegarse y buscar encubrimiento para esperar la Policía. Nunca será responder agresión por agresión, solo en última instancia y solo por defender su propia vida.

**TELEFONOS DE REFERENCIA.**

Teléfonos: Jefe de la Seguridad (3191-0319 /9780-0070); Bomberos (3399-4767); Policía (9981-4400); Dgic (9885-4658) Abogado (3390-2225) Cruz Roja (3399-4714)

**PASOS A SEGUIR EN MOMENTO QUE SE IDENTIFIQUE UNA AMANEZA DE INVASION A UNA FINCA DE LA EMPRESA**

1. INFORMAR DE LA SITUACION .( cantidad de campesinos, armas que portan, y que solicitan)
2. REPORTAR AL JEFE DE SEGURIDAD DE LA AMENAZA(inmediatamente)
3. ALERTAR Y SOLICITAR APOYO A LAS AUTORIDADES POLICIALES DE LA ZONA(haciendo uso de los teléfonos descritos)
4. REPLEGAR (inmediatamente al hacer contacto visual y buscar cobertura y encubrimiento)
5. SOLO RESPONDER AL FUEGO, SI HAY UNA AMENAZA CONTRA LA VIDA DEL PERSONAL DE SEGURIDAD Y SIEMPRE REPLEGARSE

**CUMPLACE**

# EXPORTADORA DEL ATLÁNTICO, S.A. DE C.V.

**From: Security Department Management, Aguán.**

**To: Personnel from corporate and private guards.**

By order of Dinant's management' Security Department, the following instructions have been given for a better performance in the daily work: every guard under the ordinance WILL HAVE to comply and enforce such dispositions. Non-compliance of any instruction, will force the security department to impose a penalty or according to the case, an immediate dismissal.

## **RULES OF CONDUCT IN WORKPLACE**

1. Use the uniform properly, with your identification and regulatory haircut.
2. Do not leave post without being relieved in due formality.
3. Check your weapon assignment, immediately report any new developments on your regulatory weapon. Do not keep your gun loaded and do not play or aim in a threatening manner to any coworker or individual outside the Security department.
4. Always keep your position as a security guard and do not disrespect your coworkers or individuals, especially the female staff.
5. It is strictly forbidden to fire your weapons under any circumstances if higher levels have not been reported.
6. Do not sleep while in service, report if you have any illness at the time.
7. It is strictly forbidden to consume alcoholic beverages or any intoxicant substances (drugs).
8. It is strictly forbidden to invite women to your work's post.
9. Do not use the Company's assets for your welfare (cars, bikes, etc.)
10. Do not remove from the Company's premises anything that is not yours, seized products or materials, and equipment owned by the Company.

## **DISPOSITIONS FOR WORK**

1. Keep a logbook for every farm.
2. Comply in the best manner, the ordinance of not allowing illegal grazing and animals to idle within the farms. Talk to their respective owners and inform them with the highest respect possible. Or else, report to the technical personnel from the farm or the chief of Security.
3. Report any irregularity with the fence that surrounds the farm.
4. Do not allow fruit theft at any level. If this is the case, report immediately to the chief of Security or according to circumstances to the Police or the National Authority for Criminal Investigation (DNIC for its acronyms in Spanish). Under no circumstances a theft shall be answered with fire, not even for intimidation. The order is to report.
5. Do not allow the entry of vehicles when their intentions are for fishing, firewood or have no particular intention. This is given by previous experiences.
6. It is not allowed that guards give any kind of authorization, if not authorized by higher levels.
7. Comply with dispositions that the technical personnel give to guards, as long as it is related to security.
8. Give a proper use to the assigned phone and do not use it for other purposes.

9. Report to your immediate superior if your absence is health related or to attend personal matters.
10. Always report any irregularity observed within and outside the workplace.

#### **REGULATION TO BE TAKEN IN CASE OF ASSAULT FROM PERSONS UNRELATED TO THE COMPANY'S INTERESTS**

1. If the case were with people who own livestock and want to impose the saying that "custom becomes law", then a dialogue will take place first to reason with the person and if not possible, report by telephone to the technical personnel, the chief of Security or ultimately to the Company's legal representative.
2. If it were the case of UNLAWFUL INVASIONS OF PEASANTS. By no circumstance a response with fire will be permitted, but will have to retract, and if possible listen to their requests. Otherwise, leave the area and report to the chief of Security, National Police, which the latter will be the ones who take the matter in hands.

If indiscriminate firing at guards would take place, they would have to retract and seek cover to wait for Police. Aggression shall never be answered with aggression, unless, as a last resort, to defend their own life.

#### **REFERENCE PHONEBOOK**

Chief of Security: 3191-0319 / 9780-0070; Fire station: 3399—4767; Police: 9981-4400; DGIC: 9885-4658; Lawyer: 3390-2225; Red Cross: 3399-4717

#### **STEPS TO FOLLOW AT THE TIME THAT A THREAT OF INVASION OF A COMPANY'S FARM IS IDENTIFIED**

1. INFORM ABOUT THE SITUATION (Number of peasants, weapons that they carry, and their requests).
2. REPORT THE THREAT TO CHIEF OF SECURITY (immediately)
3. ALERT AND REQUEST SUPPORT TO POLICE AUTHORITIES OF THE AREA (using the phonebook previously described)
4. RETRACT (immediately on eye contact, and seek cover and concealment)
5. ONLY ANSWER TO FIRE IF THERE IS A THREAT AGAINST THE LIFE OF SECURITY PERSONNEL AND ALWAYS RETRACT

#### **TO BE COMPLIED**

**THIS IS A FREE TRANSLATION**

## HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

This policy establishes the commitment of Dinant Corporation with the respect and promotion of human rights applied throughout the Region, in harmony with its employees, providers and communities in the areas of influence. The policy must be met following the guidelines established by the Presidency, in accordance with international standards and best practices for security and protection of human rights as stated in the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

#### I. Objective:

Establecer los lineamientos y controles para operar de manera consistente con los estándares internacionales y mejores prácticas para la seguridad y protección de los Derechos Humanos.

#### II. Scope:

All employees of Dinant must know and contribute with the fulfillment of Human Rights Policy.

The observance of its implementation and diffusion is the responsibility of the area of Corporate Affairs and its enforcement is the responsibility of all employees.

#### III. Definitions:

**Human Rights:** Rights inherent to all human beings, without distinction of nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or other status.

**Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR):** Guide recommendations for risk analysis of the political, socioeconomic and security of operating in conflict zones, as well as the impacts of these operations on the dynamics of conflict and human rights situation.

**Public Security Forces:** Units of the State, such as military and the police force, who offer their services to ensure the safety of their citizens and their property.

#### IV. Commitment:

Dinant Corporation is committed to operating in a manner consistent with international standards and best practices for security and protection of human rights as stated in the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Dinant respects the responsibility of the host nations where it operates to provide security and maintain law and order in the society. We work with the host nation public security forces in these countries to defend and promote human rights. In meeting these obligations, Dinant uses the Voluntary Principles for Security and Human Rights as the guidelines it will follow. In our efforts to implement the VPSHR, we begin at each site with a risk assessment that considers the following issues:

- Respect the national laws of the country where we are operating
- Examine the potential for violence in each location where we operate
- Explore and understand the root causes of conflict
- Consider the historical, political, environmental, social, cultural and law enforcement situations
- Bring in information from across the spectrum including government, local communities, civil society, other companies, local media and non-governmental organizations
- Assess the human rights records of public security forces (police and military), private security guard service companies and any other groups that might influence the security environment in order to properly analyze the security risks in the area of our operations
- Carefully analyze our own operations to understand any security issues that may arise from our own operations and their effects on the local communities

As part of our commitment to the VPSHR, we accept and embrace our obligation to consult with the stakeholders, especially the local communities around our operations. These consultations will be the forum for making Dinant Corporation policies clear, for soliciting information and concerns by stakeholders and for mutual dialogue. Security issues will be an important element in these consultations. The results of these consultations will be made public for those who did not attend.

As a part of our commitment to good corporate management, we will carefully screen our security employees to insure none are credibly accused of human rights violations or other serious crimes. This screening will also be required of our contract security providers. Consistent with host nation laws, we will ask public security forces to refrain from assigning individuals or units to our area of operations who have been accused of human rights abuses until these allegations have been investigated and any appropriate disciplinary action taken, if required.

Dinant will develop strict rules of the use of force, especially lethal force, for all security personnel operating at Dinant facilities and sites. We will consult with local public security forces to insure they also have rules for the use of force that emphasize using minimum, proportional force in accordance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

Dinant will also consult with public security forces concerning the deployment and behavior of host nation public security forces. In any case where physical force is used, a weapon is discharged or an injury occurs, Dinant will conduct an internal investigation to determine the circumstances and the appropriate follow up action required. If disciplinary action or criminal charges are appropriate, Dinant will support the legal process to see justice done. Dinant will follow the same procedure if there is an allegation of human rights abuse by Dinant employees, contractors or public security forces connected to Dinant operations.

Dinant will be especially vigilant in monitoring any equipment or support material provided to public security forces or contract security guards to insure it is not misused, diverted or associated with a human rights abuse. We will track and periodically inventory all items of equipment as part of the monitoring procedure.

In the event an individual makes an allegation against our own security employees, or public security forces operating on our property or in support of our operations, Dinant will take special precautions to protect the identities of victims, witnesses and alleged perpetrators (until the case has been adjudicated). For witnesses and victims this policy is to protect them from possible retaliation. For the alleged perpetrator, it is to accord them due process of law.

#### V. Diffusion

Dinant must publish the Human Rights Policy for its content to be known by stakeholders of the Corporation. Specific activities will be developed in the area of Corporate Affairs to ensure that employees are aware of and comply with the commitments defined in this Policy. Similarly, Dinant will promote providers, public security forces, security personnel and the communities in its area of influence to obtain training in the field of Human Rights.

#### VI. Noncompliance and communication

Dinant's stakeholders and employees are obliged to report any breach of Human Rights Policy, confidentially and without retribution. To do so, stakeholders and employees may contact the Ethics Committee through:

1. Hotlines throughout the Region for stakeholders:

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| a. Guatemala          | (502) 2502-7050 |
| b. Honduras           | (504) 2239-8800 |
| c. Nicaragua          | (505) 2251-4069 |
| d. El Salvador        | (503) 2295-7275 |
| e. Costa Rica         | (506) 2272-7587 |
| f. Dominican Republic | (809) 473-1212  |

Dinant will establish a Community Grievance Mechanism on every site.

2. Extension #38422 for employees.
3. Email: [etica@dinant.com](mailto:etica@dinant.com)
4. Suggestion Box located at strategic points on the premises of Dinant.

Policy Failure as any aspect related to human rights will be analyzed according to the internal and legal normative, and may result in disciplinary action if necessary.

#### VII. Revision and updating

The President and/or Vice President must be responsible for approving the Human Rights Policy. Its content shall be reviewed regularly in accordance to the needs presented by the Corporate Affairs.

#### VIII. Exceptions

Any exceptions to this policy must be authorized by the Director of Corporate Affairs and the President and/or Executive Vice President.

*Roger E. Pineda*  
 Roger Enrique Pineda Pineda  
 Corporate Relations Director

*Miguel M. Facusse*  
 Miguel Mauricio Facusse  
 Executive Vicepresident

El subcomisario Alex Madrid asegura que los sujetos armados querían matar al fotógrafo de LA PRENSA

# "HABÍA QUE RENDIRSE PARA EVITAR UNA TRAGEDIA"



Subcomisario Alex Madrid.

**E**l subcomisario Alex Madrid, con 18 años de carrera policial, dice el hombre que va fuertemente herido, sosteniendo al grupo de sujetos armados que durante 25 minutos lo mantuvieron de rehen en la casa 44 Francisco a cambio de datos de la casa del fotógrafo de LA PRENSA.

Aunque vino 10 minutos de distancia cuando fue llamado al teléfono móvil, el fotógrafo había conseguido salir después de que los sujetos armados lo tomaran por rehén y que él se fuera a la casa del fotógrafo.

Madrid afirma que fue el único momento en el que los sujetos armados se separaron y que él se fue a la casa del fotógrafo.

## Su experiencia vale

Madrid, vecino de Santa Bárbara, ingresó a la Academia Policial en 1979. Ha trabajado dentro de la Policía Provincial en todo el país.

Ha fungido como oficial de policía de la Juntísima Departamental de Santa Bárbara, también ha trabajado en la Juntísima Departamental de Santa Bárbara, también ha trabajado en la Juntísima Departamental de Santa Bárbara.

Como oficial de policía, Madrid ha trabajado en todo el país y que se centre al frente de



El subcomisario Alex Madrid y los sujetos armados en la casa 44 Francisco a cambio de datos de la casa del fotógrafo de LA PRENSA.

esta persona que, con parte del pueblo, se encontraba en la casa 44 Francisco a cambio de datos de la casa del fotógrafo de LA PRENSA.

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## El fotógrafo: objetivo

Madrid afirma que fue el único momento en el que los sujetos armados se separaron y que él se fue a la casa del fotógrafo.

## 15

Madrid afirma que fue el único momento en el que los sujetos armados se separaron y que él se fue a la casa del fotógrafo.

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Madrid afirma que fue el único momento en el que los sujetos armados se separaron y que él se fue a la casa del fotógrafo.

## ADemás

Subcomisario Alex Madrid, con 18 años de carrera policial, dice el hombre que va fuertemente herido, sosteniendo al grupo de sujetos armados que durante 25 minutos lo mantuvieron de rehen en la casa 44 Francisco a cambio de datos de la casa del fotógrafo de LA PRENSA.

Los campesinos quisieron resistencia, pero al final decidieron dejar el lugar por la paz

## DESALOJAN A INVASORES DE FINCA EN SABÁ

Sabá, Unión. Los campesinos de Sabá, Unión, quisieron resistencia, pero al final decidieron dejar el lugar por la paz.

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## Bajo Aguan, HONDURAS

The deputy Alex Madrid, with an 18 -year police career, was the man who bravely managed to control the group of armed subjects that for 30 minutes kept him hostage in El Tumbador farm for exchange to let go unharmed a photographer from La Prensa.

Although he lived 30 minutes of tension when he was held while the photographer ran dodging gunfire, he says that he never showed fear as he was confident that God was with him and that he would allow him to take control.

Madrid says it was difficult to convince the subjects that had a threatening posture and that carried illegal weapons such as AK -47s, shotguns and rifles.

### **His experience helped him**

Madrid native of Santa Barbara entered the Police Academy in 1992. His work within the Preventive Police has been diverse.

He has served as the official of Santa Barbara Departmental Headquarters; he was also in public relations at Tegucigalpa and was assigned to the No. 1 Metropolitan Police in the areas of intelligence and information.

"As police officers, we are at constant risk and yesterday, I was in front of these people who are part of the town, and I felt fear, fear not for myself but for the life of the photographer. I rationalized so that they could be free. I just wanted the rest of the news crew to leave the area. The most important thing was their lives, I trusted in God," he said.

"I just wanted to help the team that since coming to Aguán has asked me to accompany them on their tour. My superiors authorized and I joined the journalist, photographer and the newspaper's biker to penetrate the area.

We did not expect the attack; we did not imagine this, because we were came in good faith. Pretended not to enter their territory, we only sought for the photographer to have a good angle to capture images of the area" explained the police deputy.

### **Photographer: Target**

Madrid says he will never forget everything that crossed his mind when he heard the shots and the screams of the subjects, some looked like peasants, and they said they would kill the photographer.

"When shooting happened, my first thought was that we had to surrender to avoid a tragedy. I stood firm and when two of the men suggested that they had to kill the photographer, I mediated with authority told the reporter to leave, to run and that I was going to stay to ensure that his life was not in danger," said Madrid.

"I listened, I shared ideas with them and identified myself as an officer, and I did not deny it. I explained the reasons that led us to the area and they asked me why I did not wear my complete uniform. For security reasons, I've left my uniform in the vehicle. They asked if I was armed and I said yes. There were no violent reactions, "I was a frank", said the officer.

The experienced police stated that the situation in the area was not easy. That makes it clear that dialogue instead of acting is strongly recommended.

"At all costs you should avoid spilling the blood of more innocents. You cannot poison the heart of the common people. They cannot be manipulated, but should maintain respect for the rights and legal security of society because if not there will be no investment and sources of employment and that's worrying" he concluded.

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Viceministro de Seguridad dijo que fotógrafo de LA PRENSA y policía fueron emboscados

# ATAQUE FUE CLARA AGRESIÓN A LA LIBERTAD DE PRENSA

**O**currió el ataque a miembros de la unidad de investigación de LA PRENSA, que el viernes fueron atacados a tiros por sujetos armados en la finca La Aguada, dijo el viceministro de Seguridad, Armando Caldeón.

“Lo que pasó el viernes en una finca ubicada cerca a LA PRENSA, cuando se estaban produciendo estas cosas, solo unos periodistas y algunos periodistas extranjeros”, comentó el viceministro de Seguridad, Armando Caldeón.

“El ataque fue un atentado por parte de un grupo de personas que persiguen a periodistas”, comentó el viceministro de Seguridad, Armando Caldeón.

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## Atentado a libre expresión

El viceministro de Seguridad, Armando Caldeón, dijo que el ataque a los periodistas en la finca La Aguada fue un atentado a la libertad de expresión.

“Cuando a un periodista se le ataca, eso es un atentado a la libertad de expresión”, comentó el viceministro de Seguridad, Armando Caldeón.

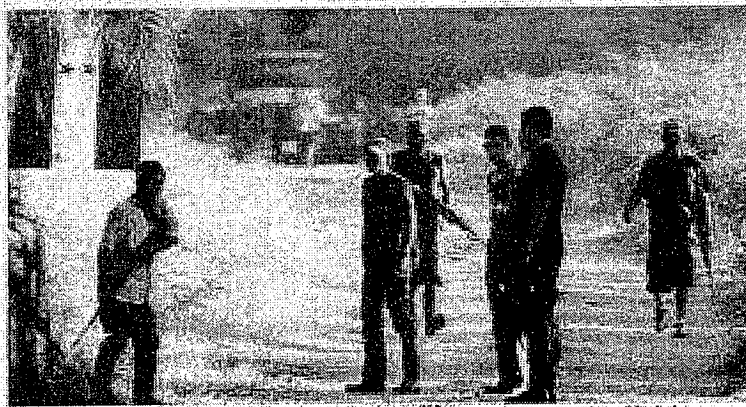
Después de la agresión, los periodistas fueron trasladados a un hospital y se les brindó atención médica.

El viceministro de Seguridad, Armando Caldeón, dijo que el ataque a los periodistas en la finca La Aguada fue un atentado a la libertad de expresión.

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Se presume que los atacantes fueron los mismos que atacaron al fotógrafo de LA PRENSA y a la policía en la finca La Aguada.

## Todo el que ande armado será requerido

El viceministro de Seguridad, Armando Caldeón, dijo que el ataque a los periodistas en la finca La Aguada fue un atentado a la libertad de expresión.

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“Desde este momento, todo el que ande armado será requerido”, comentó el viceministro de Seguridad, Armando Caldeón.

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## El aspecto del “complot”

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## Fuertes ataques de medios

Los medios de comunicación han criticado el ataque a los periodistas en la finca La Aguada, diciendo que es un atentado a la libertad de expresión.

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En este momento, estamos enfocados en el aspecto del ataque a los periodistas en la finca La Aguada, pero no debemos olvidar que el ataque fue un atentado a la libertad de expresión.

Armando Caldeón  
Viceministro de Seguridad



## **Attack was a clear assault on press freedom**

Security Vice Minister said photographer from LA PRENSA and police officer were ambushed

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

The Government of the Republic through the Safety Department officially condemned and deplored the attack on members of the unit of investigation of LA PRENSA that were attacked Thursday by gunmen firing in El Tumbador farm, in Bajo Aguán.

"What happened on Thursday is a direct violation to LA PRENSA, we will continue to protect them, they have been very prudent and consistent in their investigations", said Deputy Security Minister Armando Calidonio.

### **Terror in the Bajo Aguán**

"Its time to bring order, to apply the law to all persons. At no time will we allow armed people to continue to cause turmoil in our country. The protection granted to members of LA PRENSA yesterday (Thursday) is to ensure they always do their job.

"They have full support of the National Police and we will talk with the Armed Forces because press freedom is respected here", said overwhelmingly the Deputy Minister Calidonio.

### **Attack on freedom of speech**

The Deputy Minister gave a press conference in which he said that the attack on this media is "a clear assault on press freedom".

"We will be allies in this sense with every media in our country. We deeply regret the fright and difficult situation that happened yesterday to journalists and also the member of our Police; it is important to protect them as well" said Calidonio.

After the interview that the highest police authorities held with the commissioner who accompanied reporters of LA PRENSA near the conflict, Calidonio recounted the experience and the events occurring in the Aguán the previous Thursday.

"The photojournalist was approaching the commissioner Madrid, they were intimidated and the commissioner, on a technical maneuver of tranquility, from training, was able to negotiate peacefully with them (armed groups) to ensure the life of the photographer".

We want to tell those people with those positions that we are already analyzing how to take away their guns, we have discussed the possible training here, but also people leaving here to be trained", explained Calidonio.

### **The aspect of "peasant"**

The story of the commissioner Madrid, issued by the Deputy Minister, provided details of the attack to the capital's media.

"The commissioner was calming walking with the photographer when, without realizing, were practically ambushed by armed groups within these farms", said Calidonio.

The deputy continued detailing that after they were ambushed, the photographer from LA PRENSA and the commissioner, the latter asked the young man to return.

"These armed people in the area of Bajo Aguán fired their arms near them in order for them to stand, that's a completely clear and unacceptable aggression.

In that moment, the commissioner started to speak with them to assure the life of the journalists, this way they could abandon the area but they practically detained the commissioner for 30 minutes", added the public official.

### **They ask for media support**

An important point Calidonio made clear is that National Police has, at no time tried to attack armed groups.

"The Government of the Republic has been extremely prudent, patient and has had an extreme tolerance for the sole purpose of returning peace and tranquility to the area", he said.

What happened yesterday (Thursday) is a clear violation of the law, we care a lot about their lives, the photographer ran and they shot at him to make him stop. This is completely unacceptable.

We need the support of all media so that society can see what is happening in that zone and the training that Police receive to face such situations. They (members of LA PRENSA) got out surprised and worried from the place because the commissioner was virtually kidnapped by 30 minutes, its unacceptable.

Not only is a clear attack against LA PRENSA but against the journalistic profession and to the authority itself. It did not escalated because the Official could handle the situation, stay calm; but we are very concerned about what happened", said Calidonio.

### **Everyone who is armed will be required**

The Deputy Minister Armando Calidonio said that given the confirmation of the existence of groups with war weapons in Bajo Aguán, Tumbador Operation would be intensified.

"There is an agreement signed by the president, Porfirio Lobo Sosa, that there are 6 African palm plantations that are going to be delivered to peasant groups; the rest are going to be evicted in the coming days", he said.

From this moment (yesterday), all people will be detained, no matter whether peasant, worker, entrepreneur, security guard, if they possess irregular weapons. If it is found that the weapon is illegal, a detention will be made, the arm seized and the Judiciary will apply full weight of the law that in these sense are nine years in prison", said Calidonio.

The official also announced that they would enter the seized farms to make a revision alongside the peasants to ensure that there are no arms signaled as banned. Calidonio insisted that every person, no matter whom, will be arrested if using or having in possession a forbidden weapon and will be processed immediately. "In no other part of the country will we allow invasions in case you are thinking that when evicted from here you could go somewhere else".

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# **DINANT**

## **COMUNICADO DE PRENSA**

### **EN RELACION A LA MUERTE DEL SEÑOR GREGORIO CHAVEZ**

Por este medio Corporación Dinant/Exportadora del Atlantico, lamenta profundamente la muerte del Sr. Gregorio Chavez y negamos cualquier participación o relación a su desaparición y posterior muerte. No es, ni ha sido política de la empresa la eliminación de campesinos a pesar de las diferencias que en este momento pueda considerarse que mantenemos con algunos movimientos organizados.

Somos respetuosos del derecho a la vida de todos los individuos y de la misma forma hemos solicitado se le respete la vida a todos nuestros colaboradores.

Consideramos que existen las instancias legales para resolver las diferencias que pudieran darse con grupos organizados o particulares; de forma que no permitimos que las diferencias se solucionen violentamente.

En su momento, permitimos el acceso de las autoridades policiales y de la fiscalía a nuestros predios de forma que pudieran comprobar que no teníamos ninguna relación o nada que esconder con relación a la desaparición del Sr. Gregorio Chavez.

Lamentamos que existan individuos u organizaciones que quieren seguir provocando el caos en la zona y en el país, acusando a la empresa y sus empleados de acciones fuera de la ley y queriendo fomentar que Honduras no es un país de leyes.

Reiteramos a todas las autoridades nuestra mejor disposición para que puedan investigar todo lo relacionado a este caso.

Dado en la ciudad de Tegucigalpa, a los 06 días del mes de julio del 2012.

**DIRECCION DE RELACIONES CORPORATIVAS  
CORPORACION DINANT S.A DE C.V**



***DINANT***

**PRESS RELEASE**

REGARDING THE DEATH OF MR.GREGORIO CHAVEZ

Hereby, Corporacion Dinant/Exportadora del Atlantico deeply regrets the death of Mr. Gregorio Chavez and denies any involvement or connection with his disappearance and subsequent death. It is not, nor has been company policy to eliminate peasants despite the differences that can be considered that we have at this time with some organized peasant movements.

We respect the right to life of all individuals and we have requested that same respect of life for all our employees.

We believe that there are legal authorities to resolve disputes that may arise with organized or private groups; we do not allow disputes to be settled violently.

At the time, we allowed access to the police and prosecutors to our land so that they could see that we had no relationship and nothing to hide in relation to the disappearance of Mr. Gregorio Chavez.

We regret that there are individuals or organizations who want to continue causing chaos in the area and in the country, accusing the company and its employees of unlawful behavior and wanting to encourage Honduras as a country with no laws.

We reiterate our availability to all authorities to continue with the required investigations related to this case.

Tegucigalpa, July 6<sup>th</sup> 2012

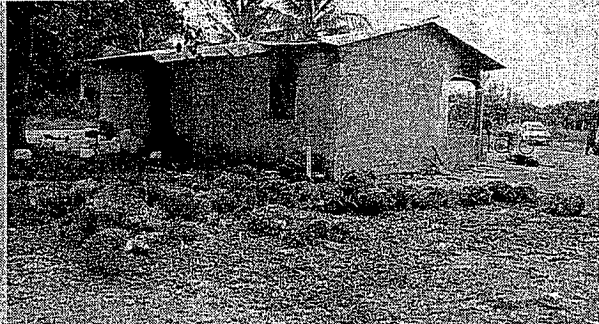
Corporate Affairs Department

Corporacion Dinant S.A. de C. V.

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La Policía decomisó camiones llenos de la fruta, antes de que fuese comercializada en el mercado negro.



La fruta que no se pudieron llevar, la dejaron arruinar en el suelo.

## Arrecia conflicto en el Bajo Aguán

■ Saquean fincas y queman bodega a la Corporación Dinant

**TOCOA, Colón.** El conflicto en el Bajo Aguán no parece terminar, pues por cada problema que se presente se arma un conflicto entre los campesinos de la zona contra los guardias, que resguardan las fincas.

Según el informe que tiene la Policía de la zona, el campesino Gregorio Chávez (61 años de edad), desapareció desde el lunes en horas de la noche, por lo que sus compañeros acusaron a los guardias de seguridad de ser los responsables, tomándose a la brava la finca Paso Aguán, propiedad de la Corporación Dinant.

Otros campesinos tomaron el ejemplo y sitiaron la finca y la aldea de Panamá en la jurisdicción de Trujillo, lugar donde no permitían el ingreso de ninguna unidad ni personal que tuviera que ver con la Corporación Dinant.

Fue así que las fuerzas del orden, tanto de Xatruch, Operación Relámpago y la Policía departamental, montaron operativos hasta restaurar el orden en la zona, permitiendo el ingreso nuevamente de los guardias de seguridad, los cuales habían

salido de las fincas para evitar enfrentamientos y derramamiento de sangre.

La Policía reportó que cuando los campesinos tuvieron las fincas en su poder, las saquearon. Llevándose la fruta y hasta quemaron una bodega de la corporación Dinant.

En sendos operativos, la Policía decomisó la fruta de palma africana en los patrullajes nocturnos, interceptando dos vehículos que transportaban unas ocho toneladas de fruta, según informaron los miembros del mando del subcomisionado José Amílcar Mejía Rosales, jefe departamental de Colón.

Además se constató la quema de una bodega, que fue calificada como un hecho de vandalismo por el jefe de la Policía.

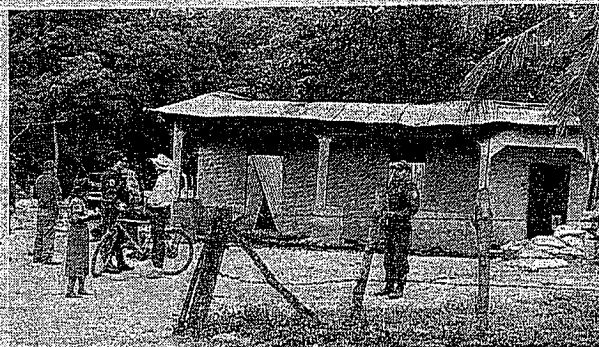
Quemaron una bodega propiedad de la Corporación Dinant, en la cual se encontraban fertilizantes y herramientas de trabajo. En el lugar se encontraba fruta regada por todas partes.

Con esta acción, ya es la segunda bodega que le quemaron a la Corporación Dinant, la anterior había sido en el sector de Quebrada de Arena, hace unos tres años. Los operativos se han redoblado en todo el sector, tanto por la Policía, como por el Ejército, para evitar el desorden, dijo el jefe de la Policía, ya que se volvió a la tranquilidad a la zona, detalló Mejía Rosales.

Texto y fotos Mario Ramírez



Los operativos se intensificaron para calmar los ánimos de los campesinos, que amenazaban con tomarse otras fincas.



Una de las bodegas de la Corporación Dinant que fue quemada por los facinerosos.



Los bomberos inspeccionaron en los tragantes de aguas negras en la zona y aún no hallan el lugar de donde emanan los gases.

En el Instituto de la Propiedad

## Bomberos no hallan de donde salen gases tóxicos

Varios expertos del Cuerpo de Bomberos inspeccionan el edificio del Instituto de la Propiedad (IP), y hasta el momento no han encontrado incidencia de gas metano. Informó Manuel Artica, coordinador de la unidad.

Lo que encontramos es una pequeña sombra en la pared superior del 4º en la vía del acceso

al mismo, pero no representa ningún problema para la salud.

Indicó que los empleados deben tener medidas preventivas, como limpiar los filtros de aires acondicionados, ventanas y sellar los sifones de los baños, que no están en uso, ya que están conectadas a las aguas negras.

Estos al no estar en uso se van almacenando una capa que al secarse nos puede dar síntomas de intoxicación al inhalar los gases, agregó.

Estamos realizando investigaciones también a los alrededores del edificio para descartar cualquier peligro, concluyó. (T.M.)

## **Conflict Rages in Bajo Aguan**

Tocoa, Colon. - The conflict in Bajo Aguán doesn't seem to end, because for every problem that arises, it turns into a conflict between the farmers in the area against the guards who guard the farms.

According to the police report from the area, the farmer Gregorio Chavez ( 61 years old ), disappeared on Monday night, so his fellowmen accused the security guards of being responsible and took " the hard way " the Paso Aguán Plantation, owned by Corporación Dinant.

Other farmers took the example and surrounded the Plantation and the village of Panama, in the jurisdiction of Trujillo, where they did not allow the entrance of any unit or personnel that had to do with Dinant Corporation.

It was so, that the law enforcement both Xatruch , Operacion Relampago and the police department, mounted an operation to restore order in the area, which allowed again the entry of the security guards, who had left the Plantation avoid confrontations and bloodshed.

Police reported that when the farmers had the Plantation in their power, they sacked the fruit and even burned a warehouse of the Dinant Corporation.

In big operations, police seized the palm fruit during the night patrols intercepting two vehicles carrying about eight tons of fruit, as reported by members under the command of Commissioner Jose Amilcar Mejia Rosales, of Colón.

In addition the burning of a warehouse was verified, which was described as an act of vandalism by the police chief. "They burned a warehouse owned by the Corporación Dinant, where fertilizers and tools were stored. The place was full of palm fruit everywhere".

With this action, this is the second warehouse that they have burned to Corporacion Dinant, the other one was in the area of Quebrada de Arena three years ago. The operations have been intensified across the sector, both by the police and by the army, to avoid clutter, said police chief since peace returned to the area, Mejia Rosales explained.

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El representante del Grupo DINANT dijo necesitan el apoyo de las autoridades para salvaguardar los bienes en la zona del Aguán. Ahí hay una operación militar de resguardo.

TRAS UNA TOMA DE CARRETERAS:

## Dinnat denuncia robo de fruta por displicencia de autoridades

Hacemos un llamado a las autoridades para que nos presten la debida colaboración y nos permitan seguir operando, afirma Róger Pineda, ejecutivo del grupo empresarial

TEGUCIGALPA

El tesoro del Grupo Dinant, Róger Pineda denunció ayer el robo de fruta y tractores en una de las fincas del Aguán tras una toma de carretera y aseguró que pidieron ayuda a la Policía y militares para que les ayudaran a proteger sus bienes sin que los hayan atendido.

"Hubo una toma de una carretera que nos permite acceso a una de las fincas, esta toma fue realizada por población de una aldea de Panamá, en la medida que fue transcurriendo el día y dado que no podíamos acceder la finca, salvaguardar los bienes y las vidas de las personas, pedimos colaboración a las autoridades policiales y militares de la zona tanto allá como acá en

“

Eran tres tractores los robados y un pequeño grupo de policías, alrededor de 4 policías se presentaron ayer en la noche y pudieron recuperar uno de ellos, los otros dos no sabemos dónde están.

RÓGER PINEDA

Tegucigalpa. Sin embargo nunca se llegó a hacer el desalojo", manifestó el ejecutivo.

"Al final del día los ánimos estaban sumamente calientes, fuimos obligados a bajar la fruta de los camiones que teníamos cargados, que estábamos cosechando, esa fruta fue robada en el transcurso de la noche, aproximadamente unos 200 mil lempiras,

nos robaron 3 tractores de los cuales entendemos uno fue recuperado ya, le prendieron fuego a una de las bodegas, una bodega-oficina dentro de las plantaciones", detalló.

Pineda se quejó porque "realmente no estamos recibiendo el apoyo y es bien difícil, sumamente difícil operar bajo condiciones tal cual lo estamos haciendo nosotros, la semana pasada fuimos despojados de una manera, a través de un juicio fraudulento que realizaron entre las mismas partes, una ex miembros de la cooperativa y están sorprendidas las autoridades y fuimos despojados de la titularidad de una de las fincas".

**DIFÍCIL SEGUIR OPERANDO**

"Ahora estamos con esta situación en la otra fin-

ca, de manera que pedimos colaboración a las autoridades y al Gobierno, para que nos permitan poder seguir trabajando", expuso el representante de la empresa a la que el Estado le adeuda por la compra de varias fincas que serán entregadas a campesinos.

"Es muy difícil poder seguir operando en esas condiciones, la empresa ha apoyado, ha cedido el 25% de sus tierras cultivadas con palma africana y todavía estamos siendo sometidos a abusos por parte de grupos organizados, definitivamente nosotros hacemos un llamado a las autoridades del Gobierno para que nos presten la debida colaboración para poder salvaguardar los bienes de la empresa, la vida de los empleados y nos permitan seguir operando, concluyó.

CON PLANTÓN:

## Buseros de rapiditos exigen sueldo base

Oscar Hernández  
TEGUCIGALPA

Los conductores de los autobuses del servicio ejecutivo o "rapiditos" ejecutaron un plantón ayer para exigir algunos derechos laborales como un sueldo base.

Las unidades paralizadas en forma momentánea cubren la ruta Cerro Grande-Villanueva y el dirigente José Hernández argumentó que trabajan desde las 5:00 de la mañana a 8:00 de la noche, sin descanso alguno.

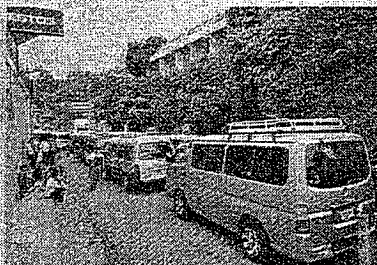
"No tenemos Seguro Social, sueldo base, y el

sindicato de transporte no atiende nuestros reclamos", afirmó.

Por una leve falta los castigan hasta con diez días de suspensión y no tienen derecho a la defensa, se quejó.

El martes anterior esperaron en vano que un dirigente sindicalista se reuniera con ellos para dialogar sobre la problemática, pero jamás llegó, según Hernández.

Por eso se tomaron un tramo de la ruta que recorren, pero en forma pacífica y sin perjudicar a los demás transportistas y transeúntes, aclaró.



Un grupo de motoristas de la ruta Cerro Grande paralizó labores ayer para exigir Seguro Social y menos horas de trabajo.

## Citan al director del Fondo Vial por sospechas en contrataciones

TEGUCIGALPA

El director del Fondo Vial, Hugo Ardón, fue citado ayer a la Casa de Gobierno para que explique a la designada presidencial María Antonieta Guillén, las denuncias de que adjudicaron licitación de reparación de carreteras secundarias a empresas de maletín.

Ardón informó que las denuncias fueron hechas por empresas que participaron en una licitación que fue adjudicada desde 2010 y que no salieron entre las favorecidas.

Explicó que en la licitación participaron unas 100 empresas y al final se

les adjudicó obras a 53 empresas y "obviamente esto genera malestar" en las 47 que no ganaron.

Ardón informó que a raíz de las denuncias mandaron la documentación al Tribunal Superior de Cuentas para que dictamine si es cierto que las empresas que ganaron son de maletín, porque al Fondo Vial se aseguró que fueran parte de la Cámara Hondureña de la Industria de la Construcción (CHICO).

El funcionario aseveró que las empresas están cumpliendo, e incluso la mayoría de ellas comenzó a trabajar sin recibir los anticipos.

**Dinant denounces Palm fruit theft because of indifference of authorities**  
**We call on the authorities for their collaboration and allow us to continue operating,**  
**says Roger Pineda, executive of the business group.**

Dinant Group Treasurer Roger Pineda, denounced yesterday the theft of fruit and tractors on a farm in Aguan Valley after a road was taken by the peasants and they sought help from the police and military to help them protect their assets without being attended.

"A road that provides access to one of the farms was taken, this was carried out by people from the Panama Village, as the day went by since we could not access the property and safeguard our assets and the lives of our people, we asked for the cooperation of the police and military authorities of the area, over there as well as in Tegucigalpa. But the eviction never was carried out" said the executive.

"At the end of the day the situation was very heated, we were forced to lower off the fruit we had loaded on our trucks, which we were harvesting, the fruit was stolen during the night, roughly 200 thousand Lempiras, three tractors were also stolen, of which we understand one of them has been recovered today, they also set fire to one of the warehouses and the office within the plantation". He explained.

Pineda complained "We are not getting the support and it is difficult, extremely difficult to operate under such conditions as we are. Last week we were deprived of a farm, through a fraudulent trial between the same parties held by some former members of a cooperative and we were deprived of the ownership of a farm".

**Very Difficult to Continue Operating**

"Now we are in this situation in another farm, so we ask collaboration of the authorities and the government to allow us to continue working", explained the representative of the company to whom the State owes for the purchase of several farms that will be delivered to the peasants.

It is very difficult to continue operations under these conditions, the company has supported, it has given up 25 % of its cultivated land with palm and still we are being subjected to abuses by organized groups, we definitely call on government authorities to provide the required collaboration to safeguard the assets of the company, the employees' lives and allow us to continue operating.

**THIS IS A FREE TRANSLATION**



Labriegos se tomaron ayer la propiedad Paso Aguán que está en plena de producción de fruta

# REGRESAN LAS INVASIONES A FINCAS DEL BAJO AGUÁN

**A**unque el Gobierno ha repetido que el conflicto en el Bajo Aguán es prácticamente un caso resuelto, los hechos demuestran que nada está más alejado de la realidad que esta afirmación.

A pesar de la expropiación de tierras con que se han beneficiado varios labriegos, el problema en la zona no ha terminado y las invasiones de terrenos privados continúan, así como los hechos violentos y violaciones de la ley.

En los últimos días, dos personas, que eran labriegos, perdieron la vida violentamente; aunque aún la Policía no ha establecido si los hechos están vinculados al conflicto agrario.

Roger Pineda, director de relaciones corporativas y bancarias de Dinant, lamentó los actos violentos y dijo que la situación en la zona sigue siendo extremadamente complicada y que los terrenos en plena producción continúan siendo invadidos por los grupos campesinos.

"En cuanto al tema que tenemos con mediación del Gobierno, que era la venta de cuatro mil hectáreas al Muca (Movimiento Unificado Campesino del Aguán), estamos en los pasos finales del pago. Esperamos que en menos de 15 días ya nos hayan cancelado. Sin embargo, ha existido un recrudecimiento en las invasiones en el Aguán; pues el viernes antepasado nos sorprendió que nos ejecutaron unas órdenes de desalojo contra la empresa, promovidas por el otro grupo campesino llamado Marca, en las fincas San Isidro. Ellos hicieron una acción legal fraudulenta en la que se demandaron entre ellos mismos y sorprendieron a las autoridades judiciales, que emitieron un fallo a favor de ellos ordenando nuestro desalojo y cancelando el título de propiedad, pero en la Corte de Apelaciones revertimos esa acción, aunque todavía no hemos podido sacar a la gente que se tomó la finca", aseguró Pineda.

**Invasiones no han parado**  
El ejecutivo de Dinant explicó que los muertos recientes no tienen nada que ver con su empresa.

## CLAVES

**1** Más de 50 muertes violentas se han dado en el Bajo Aguán por el conflicto agrario en la zona.

**2** El mes pasado, los miembros del Gobierno firmaron un acuerdo con los campesinos del Bajo Aguán.

**3** Las 4,000 hectáreas expropiadas a la empresa Dinant están valoradas en 336 millones de lempiras.

## CIFRA

**4** Mil familias del Bajo Aguán podrían acceder a dos hectáreas de tierra cada una para el cultivo de palma africana, granos básicos y otros productos, según un primer acuerdo suscrito entre el Gobierno de Honduras y los campesinos en abril de 2010.



Nuevamente, los hechos violentos están afectando a la zona. Militares apoyan seguridad en el Aguán.

## "Pérdidas podrían ser de 300 millones": Melara

■ Tegucigalpa. Unos 600 mil quintales de azúcar se dejarán de producir en el presente ciclo debido a la invasión de unas tres mil hectáreas de tierras pertenecientes a un ingenio en San Manuel, Cortés.

"A la fecha los invasores fueron desalojados por la Policía durante tres oportunidades, pero han vuelto a

ocupar las tierras", informó Carlos Melara, director de la Asociación Hondureña de Productores de Azúcar. Manifestó que ya existe un atraso en el proceso de preparación de las tierras para la zafra 2012-2013. "Creemos que las pérdidas económicas podían ascender a 300 millones de lempiras que

afectarían a los productores independientes y a la compañía Cahsa", estimó. Melara dijo: "La situación en San Manuel es grave debido a la ilegalidad que se está cometiendo contra la industria azucarera y contra los cañeros independientes dedicados al agro para obtener el sustento". □

## PARA CONOCER

**BENEFICIO** Un plazo de 15 años tendrán los campesinos para pagar el préstamo con el que el Gobierno compró sus fincas de palma.

**INTERESES** Los campesinos pagarán una tasa de interés de 6% por las fincas de palma que el Gobierno le compró a Dinant.

## VÍCTIMA



**GREGORIO CHÁVEZ** es una de las nuevas víctimas en el Bajo Aguán.

"Esta semana tuvimos una situación en aldea Panamá, que está junto a una finca nuestra llamada Paso Aguán.

Esta gente dijo que había desaparecido un señor y responsabilizaban a nuestros guardias de esa situación. Se tomaron una carretera pública que nos permite el acceso a la finca; pedimos la colaboración de la Policía, pero los campesinos terminaron metiéndose en las fincas, le metieron fuego a una bodega, nos robaron tres tractores y toda la fruta y al día siguiente voluntariamente desalojaron la finca.

Luego se encontró dentro de nuestra finca al señor desaparecido, pero hicimos un comunicado en el que dejamos claro que no tenemos ninguna responsabilidad con esto", agregó Pineda.

A pesar de la aclaración, los campesinos decidieron tomarse la finca por la muerte.

"Nos invadieron la finca Paso Aguán, así que tenemos, adicional a las cuatro mil hectáreas que decidimos vender unas 1,700 hectáreas tomadas, divididas en dos fincas.

Una de las fincas es la San Isidro, en la que hay 784 hectáreas; la otra es la finca Paso Aguán, que tiene mil hectáreas que invadieron hoy (ayer) la gente de aldea Panamá y entendemos que en esto hay algunos participantes de la margen izquierda del Muca".

Los empresarios de la palma en un comunicado consideraron que es un peligroso antecedente la forma en que engañaron a las autoridades los campesinos que consiguieron obtener una orden de desalojo.

"Excooperativistas demandaron a exdirectivos aduciendo que la compraventa que se había realizado era fraudulenta.

Entendemos que los exdirectivos que participaron en el juicio dijeron que así había sido y así consiguieron que se les diera una orden de desalojo y anulando nuestro título de propiedad.

Ni siquiera nos enterábamos de esto. La venta de la que se habló es la que hicieron los miembros de la que era la cooperativa San Isidro a nosotros como empresa Dinant. Estas personas ya han tratado dos veces de anular esa venta, pero ambas veces fuimos ganados", señala Dinant en el escrito.

Pineda hizo finalmente un llamado al Gobierno para que actúe.

"Hay una escalada en las invasiones en el Bajo Aguán. Creemos que hay personas interesadas u organizaciones interesadas en crear el caos en la zona y no tienen interés en resolver la situación y provocan conflicto. Le pedimos al Gobierno que haga las investigaciones y tome las acciones necesarias para poner fin de una vez a este problema".

## Sobre los muertos

Uno de los fallecidos fue Gregorio Chávez (69), quien estuvo desaparecido unos días y fue encontrado enterrado en una finca de palma del lugar.

A Chávez le dieron muerte asfixiándolo con una bolsa plástica, que aún le cubría la cabeza. La otra víctima fue Jacobo López (30), a quien desconocidos atacaron a tiros cuando salía de su casa.

Los victimarios huyeron en un vehículo y la Policía informó que aún no se ha capturado a nadie por estos dos asesinatos.

"Es lamentable. Ya habíamos terminado este problema, pero hemos perdido a otros dos compañeros", dijo Vitalino Álvarez, portavoz del Muca. □

## **Farm invasion returning to Bajo Aguan**

### **Peasants took yesterday the Paso Aguán property that is in full fruit production.**

Although the government has repeatedly said that the conflict in Bajo Aguán is practically a solved case, the facts show that nothing is further from the truth than this statement.

Despite the expropriation of land that have benefited many peasants, the problem in the area is not over and the invasions of private land continue, as well as the violence and violations of the law.

In recent days, two people, who were peasants, were violently killed, although police have not yet established whether the facts are related to the agrarian conflict.

Roger Pineda, Director of Corporate Affairs and Banking for Dinant, lamented the violence and said the situation in the area remains extremely complicated and that the land in full production continues to be invaded by peasant groups.

"In regards to the subject we have with government mediation, which was the sale of four thousand hectares to Muca (Unified Peasant Movement of Aguan), we are in the final steps of payment. We hope that in less than 15 days we will be paid. However; there has been an upsurge in invasions in Aguán because on Friday we were surprised that they executed an eviction order against the company, promoted by other peasant group named MARCA, in the San Isidro Farm.

They have made a fraudulent lawsuit, in which they sued among themselves and surprised the judicial authorities, who issued a ruling in favor of them ordering our eviction and canceling our title deed, but we were able to reverse that action in the Court of Appeals, although so far, we haven't been able to evict the people who took the farm," said Pineda.

### **Invasions have not stopped**

The Dinant executive explained that the recent deaths have nothing do with their company. "This week we had a situation in Panama village, which is adjacent to our Paso Aguán estate. These people said a man was missing and blamed our guards for it. They took a public road that allows access to the property; we asked the police for cooperation, but the peasants ended up trespassing into the farms and set a warehouse on fire, three tractors were stolen and also all the fruit, the next day they voluntarily vacated the property.

Then the next day the person who was missing was found into our property, but we issued a public statement that made it clear that we have no responsibility for this "said Pineda.

Despite the clarification, the farmers decided to take the property because of the death.

"They invaded the Paso Aguán Plantation, so we have; in addition to the four thousand hectares we decided to sell about 1,700 hectares taken away, divided into two farms.

One of the farms is the San Isidro, in which there are 784 hectares and the other one is Paso Aguán, that has 1,000 hectares, which were invaded today (yesterday ) by the Panama village people and we understand that in this group there are some participants from the left margin of the Muca people ".

The palm oil companies in a statement considered it a dangerous precedent the way these groups deceived authorities who managed to obtain an eviction order.

"Ex cooperative members sued ex directors, claiming that the sale had been fraudulent". It is our understanding that ex-directors who participated in the trial said how it had been so and therefore they got an eviction order and canceled our title deed.

We didn't even know about this. The sale that was discussed, it was of the sale of the cooperative San Isidro to us as Dinant. These people have already tried twice to annul the sale, but both times we have won" Dinant said in the letter.

Pineda, at the end, makes a public call on the government to act.

"There is an escalation in the invasions in Bajo Aguán. We believe there are people interested or organizations interested in creating chaos in the region and have no interest in resolving the situation and cause conflict. We ask the Government to carry the investigations and to take the necessary actions to put an end to this problem once for all".

#### **About the dead**

One of the dead was Gregorio Chavez (69), who went missing a few days and was found buried in a palm Plantation nearby.

Chavez was choked to death with a plastic bag, which was still covering his head. The other victim was Jacobo Lopez (30), who was attacked by strangers and shot as he left his house.

The perpetrators fled in a vehicle and the police no one has been captured for these 2 murders.

"It's unfortunate. We had already solved this problem, but we lost another two colleagues", said Vitalino Alvarez, spokesman for Muca.

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ENTRE TOCOA Y TRUJILLO

# Ataque en finca deja 5 muertos y 11 heridos

Cuatro de las víctimas eran guardas de seguridad y, el otro, campesino

COLÓN

Cuatro guardas de seguridad de la empresa Corporación Dinant/Exportadora del Atlántico y un campesino murieron ayer durante un enfrentamiento armado en la finca Paso Aguán, en las plantaciones de palma africana, entre Tocoa y Trujillo.

Además de los muertos, las autoridades policiales reportaron que 11 guardas de seguridad más resultaron con heridas a causa del tiroteo ocurrido en la aldea Panamá de este puerto caribeño.

El enfrentamiento ocurrió a las 6:00 de la mañana en el preciso momento que los guardas que prestaron servicio la noche del sábado y madrugada del domingo les entregaban el turno a los relevos.

Según Osman Díaz Santos, subcomandante policial en Colón, entre 200 y 300 hombres armados sorprendieron a balazos con fusilería de asalto a los guardas, quienes abrieron fuegos para repeler el ataque.

De acuerdo con las explicaciones de Santos, el grupo de civiles ingresó a la finca y, cuando unos 20 guardas se transportaban en dos automóviles por las veredas de la plantación de palma, recibieron la descarga de balas.

Algunos de los guardas, que resultaron menos heridos, reaccionaron en defensa y dispararon contra los hombres que, probablemente, ingresaron a la finca en horas de la noche para cometer el asalto al momento de efectuar el relevo.

Después del enfrentamiento, cuando cesó el fuego, los guardas se auxiliaron entre sí y en varios vehículos se trasladaron al Hospital San Isidro (público) y Hospital del Aguán (privado), ambos de Tocoa, donde los cuatro fallecieron.

Las autoridades policiales de Tocoa solicitaron apoyo de sus colegas de La Ceiba y de miembros de las Fuerzas Armadas para atender la emergencia e ingresar a la finca donde encontraron el cadáver de un hombre de 22 años identificado con el nombre de Wilmer Javier Melgar, quien, según los efectivos, es miembro



Las autoridades policiales encontraron en la finca el cadáver de este civil, a que identificaron como Wilmer Javier Melgar, miembro de una organización de campesinos de la aldea Las Pilas.



A los guardas heridos los trasladaron al Hospital San Isidro (público) y Hospital del Aguán (privado), de la aldea Panamá, hasta Tocoa.



Cuatro guardas murieron en los hospitales de Tocoa.



Los guardas, que resultaron con heridas de gravedad, se encontraban internados anoche en los hospitales.

de un grupo campesino de la aldea Las Pilas, ubicada a 10 kilómetros del enfrentamiento.

Después de las 10:00 de la mañana, en el escenario del crimen las autoridades encontraron casquillos de fusiles AK-47, pistola nueve milímetros, 223 y de otros calibres, pero no hallaron armas en ningún lugar de la finca.

Un corresponsal de DIARIO TIEMPO en Colón les consultó a dirigentes campesinos del sector sobre el he-

cho acaecido pero estos dijeron que desconocían lo ocurrido.

## COMUNICADO

En la tarde de ayer, los empleados de Corporación Dinant/Exportadora del Atlántico, emitieron un comunicado en el cual denunciaban que "grupos armados, bajo el disfraz de grupos campesinos, trataron de tomar a la fuerza la finca Paso Aguán, propiedad de la empresa Exportadora del Atlántico, S.A.

de C.V.". En el comunicado, los empleados de esa compañía dijeron que "un grupo de aproximadamente 200 personas fuertemente armadas atacaron las referidas instalaciones con el saldo de 4 guardas muertos y 11 guardas heridos, enlutando nuevamente a las familias de nuestros compañeros de trabajo".

Los trabajadores no responsabilizaron directamente a los grupos campesinos que en los últimos dos años se han mantenido en conflicto

## LAS VÍCTIMAS

### LOS GUARDAS FALLECIDOS

1. Marco Antonio Guillén
2. José Ángel Guzmán Vázquez
3. José de Jesús García Flores
4. José Alfredo Aguilar Chirinos

### LOS HERIDOS

1. Elías Emir Juárez
2. Alex Pérez Sabillon
3. Manuel de Jesús Fúnez
4. Emir Nephtali Ronel Ríos
5. Manuel de Jesús Ramírez
6. Jalrojaír Mejía
7. Victoriano Méndez
8. Oscar Ariza
9. José Isaias Cruz Castro
10. Oscar Edgardo Cárcamo
11. Santiago Murillo

### CIVIL MUERTO

1. Wilmer Javier Melgar



La Policía capturó a dos jóvenes supuestamente por cobrar impuestos de guerra.

## Caen dos pandilleros por extorsionar

TEGUCIGALPA

Dos muchachos fueron capturados ayer por la Policía porque supuestamente se dedican a asaltar y a cobrar el mal llamado impuesto de guerra en varias colonias.

Los detenidos son Jonathan

Maciel, Trujillo, Mondragón (22) y Angelo Arely Rico Bustillo (22), ambos residentes en el barrio Villa Adela de Comayagüela. Según el reporte policial, los dos presuntos malhechores fueron detenidos en posesión de una chimba y cartuchos de escopeta calibre 12.

"Según los agentes asignados al caso, los detenidos son supuestos integrantes de la pandilla 18 que se dedican al cobro de extorsiones, asalto a mano armada y distribución de drogas, en los sectores de Villa Adela, la Laguna, las Faldas de El Pregonal y Las Brisas, entre

otros", dice el reporte policial.

En los registros de la Dirección Nacional de Investigación Criminal (DNIC) los dos jóvenes tienen fichas delictivas, ya que en varias oportunidades han sido apresados por los mismos delitos, la última vez el 8 de julio del 2011.

Adquiera esta misma página en el Kiosko de Día Tiempo del City Mall de San Pedro Sula y en [www.tiempo.hn](http://www.tiempo.hn)

### **Bajo Aguán: Attack on farms leaves 5 dead and 11 wounded**

Four security guards of Dinant Corporation / Exportadora del Atlántico and a peasant were killed yesterday during a shootout at Paso Aguán farm, in African palm plantations, between Tocoa and Trujillo.

In addition to the deceased, police authorities reported that 11 security guards were injured due to shooting in the village Panamá of this Caribbean port. The clash occurred at 6:00 am at the precise moment that guards who served Saturday night and Sunday morning were delivering the shift on relay.

According to Osman Santos Díaz, deputy police in Colón, between 200 and 300 armed men surprised the guards with firing from assault rifles, who in return opened fire to repel the attack. According to the explanations of Santos, the group of civilians entered the farm and, when about 20 guards were driving in two cars on the sideways of palm plantation, received the volley of bullets.

Some of the guards, who were less injured, reacted in defense and shoot against the men that probably entered the farm at night to commit the assault at the moment of the relay. After the confrontation, when the fire ceased, the guards aided each other and were transferred in several vehicles to San Isidro Hospital (public) and Aguán Hospital (private), both in Tocoa, where the four died.

Tocoa police authorities requested support from their colleagues in La Ceiba and from members of the Armed Forces to meet the emergency and enter the farm, where they found the body of a 22 years old man identified with the name Wilmer Javier Melgar, who, according to the troops, is a member of a peasant group from the village Las Pilas, located 10 kms from the confrontation.

After 10:00 am, authorities found at the crime scene caps from AK-47 rifles, nine-millimeter gun, .223 and other calibers, but did not found weapons anywhere on the farm. A correspondent from DIARIO TIEMPO in Colón consulted peasant leaders from the sector on the fact occurred but said they did not know what happened.

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Yesterday afternoon, employees of Dinant Corporation / Exportadora del Atlántico issued a statement in which they reported that "armed groups under disguise of peasant groups, tried to take by force the Paso Aguán farm, property of business Exportadora del Atlántico, S.A. of C.V."

In the statement, the employees of the Company said that "a group of about 200 heavily armed people attacked those facilities with the balance of 4 guards dead and 11 guards wounded, leaving the families of our coworkers again with mourn".

Workers did not blamed directly the peasant groups, that for the last two years agrarian conflict have remained with the owners of Dinant Group. "We demand an end to violence, we request a halt to abuse of these criminal groups that jeopardize our jobs", exposes the statement sent yesterday to DIARIO TIEMPO.

It is the first time that a bloody deed takes place at Paso Aguán farm, in Panama village. Months ago, corpses of guards and peasants shot dead appeared in other farms in Tocoa.

### **DECEASED GUARDS**

1. Marco Antonio Guillén
2. José Ángel Guzmán Vásquez
3. José de Jesús García Flores
4. José Alfredo Aguilar Chirinos

WOUNDED

Elías Emir Juárez

Alex Pérez Sabillón

Manuel de Jesús Fúnez

Emir Neptalí Ronal Ríos

Manuel de Jesús Ramírez

Jairo Jair Mejía

Victoriano Méndez

Oscar Arita

José Isaías Cruz Castro

Oscar Edgardo Cárcamo

Santiago Murillo

DECEASED CIVIL

Wilmer Javier Melgar

**THIS IS A FREE TRANSLATION**



PARA VENTA DE TIERRAS EN EL BAJO AGUÁN

# Dinant planea suspender la negociación con el Gobierno

TEGUCIGALPA

Los ejecutivos de la Corporación Dinant, propiedad del empresario Miguel Facussé, anunciaron que están planeando suspender el acuerdo alcanzado con el gobierno para la venta de 4,045 hectáreas de tierra en la zona del Aguán, a raíz de los últimos enfrentamientos registrados.

Dicha decisión fue adoptada a raíz de los últimos sucesos protagonizados por grupos campesinos y los miembros de la seguridad de esta empresa: el fin de semana anterior, que terminó con un saldo trágico de 5 personas muertas y 11 más heridas.

Los fallecidos son los guardias de la empresa, Marco Antonio Guillén, José Ángel Guzmán Vázquez, José de Jesús García Flores, José Alfredo Aguilar y Wilmer Javier Melgar (civil).

El tesoro de la compañía, Roger Pineda, en conferencia de prensa dijo que "a raíz de la situación de violencia y el asesinato de más compañeros de trabajo definitivamente que encontramos un ambiente que no le permite a la empresa seguir trabajando en condiciones propicias en las que normalmente debe en-



El tesoro de la empresa Dinant, Roger Pineda dijo que el acuerdo con el gobierno para la venta de las tierras en el Aguán de momento está en punto muerto.

contrar un inversionista, y por tal razón hemos planeado suspender el acuerdo que manteníamos con el Gobierno".

Enfatizó que por tal razón

valorarán la decisión final en el sentido de establecer si continúan con el acuerdo preliminar con el Gobierno de manera que por ahora "todo lo lo-

grado está en un punto muerto en las negociaciones alcanzadas con el Estado para la venta de 4,045 hectáreas de tierras que serían adjudicadas a grupos campesinos de la zona.

El ejecutivo hizo un llamado al gobierno "para que tome acciones y progrese la inversión local y extranjera y que garantice la seguridad de los empleados y de los hondureños, ya que las condiciones de momento no son las mejores porque la vida de nuestros empleados se encuentra amenazada".

Denunció que los ataques podrían venir de los grupos campesinos, quienes buscan ampliar la posesión de tierra que tienen hasta el momento, y "definitivamente bajo esa forma es muy difícil seguir adelante trabajando".

Las fincas negociadas entre el gobierno y Dinant son Marañones, Islal, Islall, Concepción, Lempira, La Aurora y La Confianza, y los dos grupos campesinos señalados de participar las muertes de los celadores son el Movimiento Unificado Campesino del Aguán (MUCA) y el Movimiento Auténtico Revolucionario Campesino del Aguán (MARCA).

JOSE HUMBERTO INTERIANO



El director del INA, César Ham pidió dar con los responsables de la masacre para que no haya dudas sobre los campesinos.

## Ham asegura que campesinos no participaron en la masacre

TEGUCIGALPA

El director del Instituto Nacional Agrario (INA), César Ham, descartó que grupos de campesinos sean los responsables de la masacre de once personas en el Bajo Aguán porque no hubo toma de fincas.

Ham indicó que al revisar el hecho vio que no hubo ninguna toma de finca, por lo que se trata de delinquentes que seguramente querían robar fruta de la finca y esto ya no le corresponde investigarlo al INA sino a la Dirección Nacional de Investigación Criminal.

Ham lamentó que estén vinculando un hecho criminal con el problema agrario porque hay sectores que no quieren que se resuelva esta situación.

"La información que tenemos es que no son campesinos del (Movimiento Unificado Campesino del Aguán) MUCA, ni del (Movimiento Auténtico Revolucionario Campesino del Aguán) MARCA y que no pertenecen a nin-

na organización campesina legalmente reconocida por el Estado", expresó.

"Los empresarios en la zona, saben perfectamente que hay grupos que han venido operando en el último mes tratando de boicotear el acuerdo que se ha suscrito entre el Gobierno, los campesinos y don Miguel Facussé, pues en definitiva, han estado robando fruta y no solamente palma africana sino que también otro tipo de cultivos como cítricos", expuso.

Hizo un llamado a la Policía Nacional para que dé con los responsables de este hecho criminal porque de lo contrario quedará la nebulosa sobre los campesinos y eso pone en peligro los acuerdos.

Aseguró que el conflicto agrario está en vías de solución porque ya están definiendo el precio de las tierras que le comprarán a Facussé y pronto mandarán el decreto al Congreso Nacional para concretizar el acuerdo.

EFREN BONILLA

## Suben a seis las víctimas en Paso Aguán

TOCÓA, COLÓN

Otro empleado de la finca Paso Aguán, donde el domingo murieron cinco personas, fue hallado muerto la mañana de ayer con una oreja cortada.

La víctima fue identificada como Ramón Leodanis Lobo Hernández, de 43 años, quien laboraba como "cortero" de fruta en las plantaciones de palma de la finca Paso Aguán.

Lobo vivía en la comunidad de Rigores, muy cerca de la finca Paso Aguán. Familiares dijeron que el domingo salió de su casa muy temprano en su bicicleta y no volvieron a saber de él.

Tras enterarse de la bala-



El cadáver de Ramón Leodanis Lobo Hernández presentaba una oreja cercenada.

cera que dejó como resultado cuatro guardas y un campesino muertos, lo anduvieron buscando pero fue hasta ayer a las 8 de la mañana que

lo localizaron en una cuneta, muerto de varios disparos.

Familiares dijeron que el fallecido no se metía a problemas y que lo ultimaron por

ser empleado de la Corporación Dinant. Culparon directamente a los campesinos por su muerte.

Con la muerte de Lobo son cinco los empleados de la empresa fallecidos en el ataque del domingo. Los otros son los guardas: Marco Antonio Guillén, José Ángel Guzmán Vázquez, José de Jesús García Flores y José Alfredo Aguilar Chirinos. También murió el campesino Wilmer Javier Melgar.

De acuerdo a versiones de la policía, el domingo 14 de agosto, a las 6 de la mañana, entre 200 y 300 hombres perpetraron un ataque a la finca Paso Aguán, donde dejaron al menos 11 heridos y seis muertos.

## **Dinant plans to suspend negotiations with the Government**

Executives from Dinant, business owned by Miguel Facusse, announced that they are planning to suspend the agreement reached with the Government for the sale of 4,045 hectares of land in Aguán due to recent clashes.

This decision was taken following recent events on the previous weekend, regarding peasant groups and members of security of this company, which ended tragically with a balance of 5 people who perished and 11 more wounded.

The deceased are the guards from the Company, Marco Antonio Guillén, José Ángel Guzmán Vásquez, José de Jesús García Flores, José Alfredo Aguilar y Wilmer Javier Melgar (civil).

The Company's treasurer, Roger Pineda, said in a press conference that "due to the violent situation and murderer of more coworkers, we definitely find a setting that do not allow the Company to continue working in favorable conditions which normally must be found for an investor, and for this reason we have planned to suspend the agreement".

He emphasized that for this reason the final decision will be contemplated to establish if they continue with the preliminary agreement with the Government, so far everything achieved is at a standstill on negotiations reached with the State for the sale of 4,045 hectares of lands that would be ascribed to peasant farms in the area.

The executive called on the Government "to take actions so that local and foreign investment can progress and to ensure the safety of employees and Hondurans, as the conditions of the moment are not the best because the lives of our employees are threatened".

He denounced that the attacks could come from peasant groups, who seek to broaden the ownership of land that they have to date and "in this sense it is definitely very hard to keep working".

The farms negotiated between the Government and Dinant are Marañones, Isla I, Isla II, Concepción, Lempira, La Aurora and La Confianza, and the two peasant groups identified of participating in the death of guards are the Unified Peasant Movement of Aguán (MUCA) and the Authentic Peasant Claiming Movement (MARCA).

### **Victims rise to six in Paso Aguán**

Another farm employee from Paso Aguán, where five persons were killed on Sunday, was found dead yesterday morning with an ear cut off.

The victim was identified as Ramón Hernández Leodanys Lobo, of 43 years old, who worked as a "cutter" of fruit in African palm plantation of Paso Aguán farm.

Lobo lived in the community of Rigores, near Paso Aguán farm. Family members said that he left home early on Sunday on his bicycle and they did not hear from him since.

Upon learning of the shooting which left four guards and a peasant killed, they went looking for him but it was until yesterday at 8 in the morning that he was located in a ditch, dead from multiple gunshots.



Family members said that the deceased were no involved in problems and he was killed for being an employee of Dinant Corporation. They directly blamed the peasants for his death.

With the death of Lobo, five are the employees of the Company killed on Sunday's attack. The others are guards: Marco Antonio Guillén, José Ángel Guzmán Vásquez, José de Jesús García Flores and José Alfredo Aguilar Chirinos. Also the farmer Wilmer Javier Melgar was killed.

According to the police version, on Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the morning, between 200 and 300 men perpetrated an attack on the farm Paso Aguán, which left at least 11 wounded and 6 dead.

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#### **Ham ensures that peasants did not participate in the slaughter**

The director of the National Agrarian Institute (INA), César Ham, denied that peasant groups are responsible for the slaughter of eleven persons in Bajo Aguán because property was not seized.

Ham said that by reviewing the fact, he observed that no property was taken, so this is about criminals who surely wanted to steal fruit from the farm, and this is no longer the responsibility of INA to investigate but rather to the National Criminal Investigation Department.

Ham lamented that a crime is being linked with the agrarian problem because there are sectors that do not want this situation resolved.

"The information that we have is that they are not peasants from the Unified Peasant Movement of Aguán (MUCA) or the Authentic Peasant Claiming Movement (MARCA) and do not belong to any peasant organization legally recognized by the State", he said.

Business from the area are well aware that there are groups that have been operating in this last month trying to boycott the agreement signed between the Government, peasants and Mr. Miguel Facusse, because ultimately, they have been stealing fruit and not only African palm but also other crops such as citrus", he explained.

He appealed to the National Police to find responsables for this crime because otherwise a doubtful nebula will stay on peasants and that threatens the agreement.

He said that the agrarian conflict is being resolved because they are defining the price of land that it will be purchased from Facusse and soon the decree will be sent to the National Congress to concretize the agreement.

**THIS IS A FREE TRANSLATION**