

We continue to sing! North Zone Women's Forum for Life

Close to 70 women from Honduras' Northern Zone celebrated March 8th, International Women's Day, by taking a bus tour through five different municipalities in order to commemorate our struggle and resistance and to keep alive the memory of our sisters who have been assassinated.

The bus, which left San Pedro Sula at 8:00 a.m., was covered with banners, purple balloons, photos of the murdered women, and messages such as: *"to honour your memory, we will not allow your death to be dismissed with impunity," "for you we will continue the struggle"* and *"we mourn the loss of these women."*

The bus made a stop in San Pedro's Liberty Plaza, where the first "torch of life" was passed to a group of women who were remaining in the city to participate in various other Women's Day activities. From San Pedro, the bus travelled on to the municipalities of Choloma, El Progreso, Pimienta and Potrerillos.

At each stop, groups of women had prepared a beautiful welcome. In return, they received *a torch of life*, which represents our commitment to never forget the murdered women and to continue the struggle in their name, in our name, and in the name of the women who are yet to come.

Inside the bus, we sang, we laughed, we dreamed. But most importantly, we remembered those women who are no longer with us, but who will always accompany us in our hearts.



**Women's caravan
visiting the cities of
San Pedro Sula,
Choloma, El
Progreso, Pimienta,
and Potrerillos**



Stop the femicide

In the first months of 2010, close to 60 women have already lost their lives, including Claudia Brizuela, daughter of one of the leaders of the Resistance Front, who was killed a few weeks ago in the Northern Zone. Due to the gravity of the situation, Women's Day events in the Northern Zone were coordinated with those of organizations that are participating in a campaign against femicide at the national level. In order to maintain a strong and united voice, the organizations involved in campaigns at the national level and in the Northern Zone have decided to join forces.

The torch of life being received in the municipalities.





The groups planned beautiful acts in the parks to receive the torch.



For these women, we will not stop.

Communiqué from the Forum on International Women's Day

Today, March 8th, International Women's Day, the women and organizations that have come together in mutual respect and friendship to form the Northern Zone Women's Forum for Life celebrate our international struggle, our individual strength, as well as our collective power. We celebrate our dreams, our songs and our hopes. We celebrate our resistance.

However, on such an important day, we also mourn what we have lost. We mourn the loss of the women who have been killed. We mourn the loss of their voices, their smiles and their dreams. We mourn the loss of Claudia, Vanessa, Wendy, Osiris, Wanda, Martha, Tania. We mourn the loss of each one of our sisters, the loss of their names, the loss of their lives. To honour these women, we must go forward. Because of them, we can not stop.

Today, we also mourn the loss of democracy, equality and justice. We miss living in a country without poverty, repression and exclusion. We miss our friends who have been murdered. We miss the institutions that we worked hard to build for so many years. We mourn the loss of the National Women's Institute, the Municipal Offices for Women, and the Office of the Prosecutor for Women.

We miss having a government elected by all.

On this day, women took to the streets, but not to make requests or even demands. Today we are in the streets in order to unite and raise our voices forcefully, freely, rebelliously and tirelessly.

On this March 8th, we, the women of the Northern Zone, declare our commitment to the sisters that are no longer with us, to ourselves, to the women who are yet to come, and to our people. We commit ourselves to an ongoing struggle to recover each and every one of our institutions and achievements. We declare that we are no longer satisfied with small changes, or minimal concessions. We are here to transform this country and the violent and patriarchal system that has dominated our Honduras. We, the women of the Northern Zone, commit ourselves to constructing a new country.

Today, we are filled with strength to resist. We are filled with desire to struggle. Today, we are filled with hope and utopias that inspire us to struggle on.