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HURRICANE ETA, NOW A TROPICAL STORM, CAUSES DESTRUCTION AND DEATH AS IT PASSES THROUGH NICARAGUA, HONDURAS, AND GUATEMALA.

The Case of Honduras

Tropical Storm ETA entered national territory on Tuesday, November 3 of this year, along the eastern border with Nicaragua with persistent and copious rain throughout the national territory, but with greater intensity in the northern region, Atlantic and central coast of the country, the departments of Colón, Atlántida Yoro and Cortés, the floods have caused severe damage to road infrastructure, the lives of people, housing and agricultural production.

Many human lives have been lost, some have disappeared, especially children, and countless homes have been destroyed. The agricultural sector has suffered its greatest destruction in the last 20 years, the losses are millions and incalculable. Until now the production of basic grains such as corn, rice, beans, vegetables that are basic products for food sovereignty have disappeared up to 80%, likewise thousands of hectares of coffee in the hands of small producers have been affected in the different regions of the country as a result of landslides and floods. They are of such magnitude that domestic animals {birds} and small cattle herds have been drowned. So far, neither the public nor the private sector, nor the social sector have a projection of the human, material, and financial losses, because the atmospheric conditions still do not allow it.

This natural phenomenon that is a product of climate change and Honduras being the most vulnerable country in Central America, strikes us in the midst of another tragedy such as COVID-19, with more than 100 thousand affected and more than 3,000 deaths so far. The consequences of COVID-19 are catastrophic due to the bad management of the regime, which places us with a decrease in the GDP of up to 11%, with very high levels of unemployment, violence, and extreme poverty. Added to this are the scandalous and never-before-seen LEVELS OF CORRUPTION where the plundering of institutions in the health, education and agricultural sectors stand out.

The immediate consequences of the passage of Tropical Storm ETA through our territory are very serious, thousands of hectares destroyed by floods, irreparable losses in small and medium peasant and indigenous production will cause more poverty, beyond that announced by the FAO, ECLAC, UN and other international organizations, will impact the morale and desire of the peasants to continue betting on agricultural production, because there is no change in public policy in the short term, migration and dispossession of the plots will be the order of the day.

It is in the interest of the dictatorial and illegal regime that the country and Hondurans are subjected to these variations in the first place so that we are permanently under the fear of contagion, because of the concern of how to survive the day to day and how to reconstruct the production plot, and logically how to face the stress that takes over a large number of Hondurans while we forget the true origin of these problems.

The government is ready to extend the hand of charity to hypocritical and immoral international financial organizations such as the World Bank, the IMF and the CABI, among others, which, knowing that a large part of these resources are subject to corruption, and that they do not reach the neediest

sectors, continue to get us into debt up to our necks, debts that we could never pay except for the fourth or fifth generation.

We alert International Cooperation and Governments that wish to cooperate with our country for physical and moral reconstruction, to identify humanitarian and non-governmental institutions and social movements that guarantee ethical and responsible management and with due transparency of the good use of these resources.

The most vulnerable sectors are always those who suffer most from the consequences of these tragedies, such as indigenous peoples, peasants, women, and youth in rural and marginal urban areas. We launch an URGENT CALL for SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION without conditions of any other nature that prevails the desire to support and contribute to save lives, alleviate hunger, and return the hope of building a better HONDURAS.

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C. HONDURAS Central America.
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LA VIA CAMPESINA HONDURAS.

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