



Development and Peace

The official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada

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El Servicio Paz y Justicia-Paraguay (SERPAJ-PY)
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Dear SERPAJ-PY coordinators,

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is concerned about growing threats to human rights defenders and pressure being exerted on peasant leaders in Paraguay. In the midst of this challenging environment, we reaffirm our support of the organization El Servicio Paz y Justicia-Paraguay (SERPAJ-PY), who we have worked with for more than 16 years and who, despite this difficult situation, continues to defend human rights and fight for human dignity, social justice, solidarity and equality.

*DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports a new awareness campaign launched by SERPAJ-PY – entitled **When we speak of human rights in Paraguay, what are we talking about?** – in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International, and Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos del Paraguay (Coordinator of Human Rights in Paraguay). The intention of the campaign is to demand, in this increasingly restrictive context, the protection and defence of human rights in the country, and to show that respecting human rights helps advance the cause of democracy. Indeed, democratization is an indispensable means of combating exclusion and poverty, and requires public participation in decision-making processes.*

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is asking the political authorities of Paraguay to put an end to the violence and stigmatization faced by organizations defending human rights and to promote the inclusion of all in the building of a more just world.

In solidarity,

*Michael Casey,
Executive Director – DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE*