

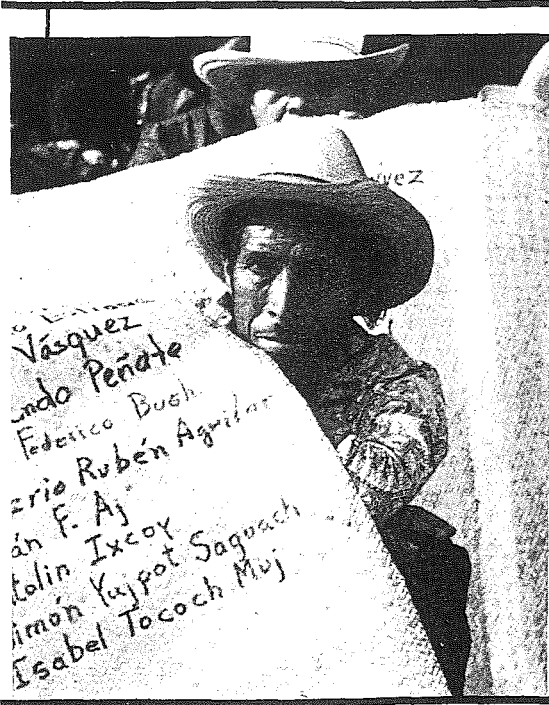
"FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE MARGINAL AND OPPRESSED"

A new Council of Ethnic Communities "Runujel Junam" (CERJ) has been formed in Guatemala "to defend the human and cultural rights of Indigenous communities in Guatemala, so that they may keep their Identity as the original and legitimate Representatives of the Guatemalan people."

In August, CERJ presented a protest to the Human Rights Commission of the National Congress, saying that those who wished to leave the "Voluntary Defense Committees" established by the military were being accused of being "Communists" and threatened.

The organization also plans to work for land rights, literacy, housing, and cultural values.

SOURCE : Consejo De Comunidades Etnicas, 5a. Avenida 3-13, Zona 5, Santa Cruz Quiche, Guatemala.



Families of the "desaparecidos," Guatemala.

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PLANTATION WORKERS STRIKE

On January 23, 1989, 40,000 farmworkers launched a strike against the coffee, cotton, and sugar cane plantations of the southern coast of Guatemala. The strikers, coordinated by the Committee of Farmworker Unity (CUC), are calling for the daily wage to be raised to 10 *quetzales* (U.S. \$3.70) per day.

According to CUC, hundreds of workers have been fired for participating in the strike, and workers are being threatened and denounced as subversives by armed men in plainclothes, working for the plantation owners.

