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Pronouncement

The Lutheran World Federation Condemns Tragedy in shelter in Guatemala

The Lutheran World Federation, World Service, Central America Program (FLM/SM CA) condemns the tragedy in shelter in Hogar Seguro Virgen de la Asunción, San José Pinula, Guatemala.

At the moment, the tragedy has claimed the lives of more than 30 girls and adolescents, and several with burns, who are in serious condition. The fact, according to the testimonies of some of the victims, was the result of the recurrent human rights violations of the sheltered population: sexual rape, physical, verbal and psychological violence, among others. The center houses children, children, adolescents, victims of violence, abandonment; or those who have lost their parents.

As faith based organization **we request:**

- The State of Guatemala, which has signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties for the protection of children and adolescents, a prompt investigation to determine those responsible for this deplorable act.
- Measures of protection and psychosocial care for victims and their families.
- That the Guatemalan State comply with its obligation to protect children and adolescents by providing the care and attention they are entitled to.

We regret that although there were previous denunciations of the victims and institutions that watch over the rights of children and adolescents, no action has been taken in this regard, which would have prevented this tragedy.

We express our sorrow to the victims and their families and our solidarity with them.

LWF/SM CA from its "Child Protection Policy", has the principle of promoting children's rights and ensuring that their well-being and physical safety are recognized, safeguarded and protected in accordance with international standards, and, as part of ACT Alianza, we adhere to its "Child Protection Policy", which considers that "any form of violence, abuse and exploitation is an affront to the dignity of children as human beings".

Regional office, march 10, 2017
Lutheran World Federation
World Service
Central America Program