

## **Message from Comandanta Ramona, to the students of University City**

*Message from Comandante Ramona, to the students of UNAM in Mexico City on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1997.*

### **Student Compañeras and Compañeros:**

The 8th of March the International Woman's day was celebrated. For the EZLN the women's struggle is very important. Not only through weapons, but through the political organization in the communities. Our hope is that one day our situation will change, that women are treated with respect, justice and dignity.

On January the 1st, 1994, the Zapatista women said that we have the right to decide the number of children that we want and can take care of; that we have the right to participate in our community matters and to take positions of power; that we have the right to choose our partner, not being obligated to get married; that none of us can be beaten or badly treated physically, by our family or by others, and that rape or intention of it will be punished.

You know the farmers situation, the injustice and the poverty in which the indigenous women live in our country. Every day that the supreme government continues with politics in favor of the rich, and this situation is becoming more difficult. We the women, are victims because of the lack of education, of not having jobs, of daily violence, of worsening health conditions.

That is why we struggle for the autonomy of the indigenous pueblos. To take control of our lives and not suffer so much.

Millions of Mexican indigenous, men, women and children have been sacrificed for 500 years ago. Millions of our ancestors were murdered with physical violence or as a result of the conditions of misery.

How many indigenous of Chiapas, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Puebla, Sonora, Chihuahua, Veracruz, have been sacrificed to the power of money?

On January the 1st of 1994, we shouted YA BASTA! to all this. And since then we Mexican indigenous will not duck our heads, we confront power face first and make it lower its head.

Because we have dignity and power doesn't. Because we want a Mexico for everybody and they want a Mexico for only a few. Because we want to live in peace, while for them, the only good Indian is the dead Indian.

We Mexican Indians know how to resist, we are not going to allow the power to continue with it's human sacrifices.

We have justice, reason and history on our side.

We will win and are going to construct a Mexico with all of you.

THANK YOU,

COMANDANTA RAMONA