

Carmela Jolomna Yat is a 28-year-old indigenous Q'eqchi' woman from Guatemala. After years of domestic violence at the hands of her husband, she acted in self-defense to protect herself and her unborn baby. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, in the last of an extended series of sexual and physical abuses which she reported to state authorities Carmela managed to get a hold of the machete with which her husband was trying to kill her and wielded it against him. A court ruling declared that the murder of her husband was an act of legitimate defense. This is the first time in Guatemala that a woman is not condemned for defending herself against an abusive partner. Despite this historic decision Carmela and her baby and two sons aged 8 and 12 have been permanently expelled by council leaders from all Q'eqchi' communities in the country and need support. Colectivo Artesana, a grassroots organization working with imprisoned women in Guatemala accompanied Carmela in her judicial process. After the trial they took Carmela and her children to a women's shelter where they are recovering from this traumatic experience. This fundraiser will help them have food, clothes, medicine and mental health counseling and interpreting services as they don't speak Spanish. Moreover it will help them acquire and furnish a new house. Please consider joining Colectivo Artesana in caring for Carmela and her children as they start a new life.

Colectivo Artesana: Para que la pena no Trascienda a Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes.

*(Artesana Collective: So that the punishment does not fall on Girls, Boys and Adolescents)*