



Know the Constitution, with Organization

There have been many nights trying to beat the cold of the Andes Mountains where thousands of people have been religiously occupying space in parks, churches and street corners, mainly in the city of Quito and then spreading to other cities throughout the country in a form of protest to express the discontent before the misruling government. This process brings back memories of the events leading up to the overthrow of government when Guitérrez was in power. The popular class outlaws that assembled in innumerable amounts remain convinced that the exiting of a trader and a corrupt leader is not the definitive solution. We need to find a means to bring about complete change.

This week in Ecuador the official results from the referendum that brought about a new constitution have been announced, which in a few days will also begin to govern the people. Seventy four out of a hundred voters accepted the proposal which was written in Montecristi, while at the same time twenty eight out of a hundred voters were against the proposal. The campaigns against the constitution were mounted by an improvised group of ecclesiastic leaders who were coming from the disjointed right, who in the end, failed.

The results of the referendum released a current of unavoidable change. There is currently a deep fatigue emanating from the population with the old form of administrating public issues. A vote in favor of the constitution is a turning point in the nation's march forward, due to the fact that it originates from afar. From all the processes that bring about a construction of social change, from organizations in the field and from the cities, from women, indigenous communities and the youth comes motivation for change.

The actual government and their political movements will not be the owners of the new constitution. The acceptance of the new constitution is fruit from the labors that removed the governments of Mahuad, Bucaram and Gutiérrez. This movement has been conceived and brought forth in the last decade and is a continuation of the 516 years of resistance. The constitution and the Correa administration should be absolutely coherent and faithful to the historic aspirations of the people.

A question that has continually gone around in various organizations and in the minds of the population is; what will change under the new constitution?

Communities, women, farmers, neighborhoods, the youth, human rights organization and all sectors of society have a challenge ahead of them: attain what the new constitution proclaims so as to keep the constitution from dying. This will bring about new forms of experiences with social, economic, cultural and political rights.

But the demanded fulfillment of the new Carta Magna must not be the result of what the press and official propaganda say, but must result from a higher level of understanding of the articles and significant aspects of the constitution. It is indispensable that the number of people who understand and defend their rights grow without limits. Every organization and every group needs to be, at this very moment, in a place to read, discuss and comprehend every single one of the constitutional proposals.

Understanding the constitution in every aspect is urgent so that the rights it proclaims may be a

motive to fight as well as a banner of hope. Not a single person can position themselves into a single minded state, we need to stand for knowing and disseminating the rights that we all deserve.

Under the new constitution, organizations will have the capacity to demand their rights and will not be subject to just what the government offers to stand behind. This is the moment to become familiar with the approved constitution which will fortify and strengthen the organization of those in rural and urban areas alike.