



TOGETHER WITH FISHERMEN FROM EL SALVADOR TO FIGHT EXPLOITATION OF COYOTES

El Salvador is a small country in Central America which came out of a 12 year civil war in 1992.

The country has, over the past 20 years, regained a democratic dimension, even though the subsequent economic and social development has benefited the population in an asymmetrical way.

An example of the problems that still plague the country can be seen in the respective pages of the "2012 Annual Report on violations of trade union rights" prepared by the ITUC-CSI: "The labor demonstrations and strikes, used as a means of exerting pressure, continue to be repressed.

There have been constant attacks on worker and trade union rights, their physical integrity and freedom of association also demonstrated by the arrest of a representative of the workers' union LIDO and the refusal of private companies to allow exercising their rights to organize and collective bargaining. [...] The murder of union leaders remains unpunished."

The activities thus being developed are in a social context which is characterized by violence and abuse. ISCOS launched in 2011, together with the Agency of local economic development

(ADEL) of Chalatenango and with the Italian NGO CESVI, an action towards the development of fishermen's associations belonging to coastal communities and the economy linked to seafood in the embalse, the Cerron Grande's basin.

The action was co-financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Lecco's Committee for the peace of the people and the National Federation of Retired Workers FNP CISL. It is a project that continues a similar action carried out by ISCOS in recent years and will end in 2014.

With the support of Fishermen's Association of the Embalse of Cerròn Grande (ASPESGRA), the project aims to encourage new members and improve the socio-economic conditions of the fishermen of the area.

Fishermen are also assisted in their fight against exploitation by coyotes and traders that, organize themselves in a "cartel" in order pay very low prices for the fish.

The consolidation of the association of fishermen, creation of a system of storage, industrial processing and autonomous distribution, are the actions of ISCOS, in agreement with fishermen, local and international partners to boost development in the area and fight injustice.