



**XVI Asturian Verification Inspection of Human Right's  
State in Colombia  
2020**

Inspection made between March 3 and 13

Photos: XVI Asturian Delegation

Edit: XVI Asturian Verification Delegation of Human Right's State in Colombia, with the support of...

Traduction: Gloria Anuxa García Ramos

*“The Asturian Inspection encourages our work at the ACIN for the defense of life, territories and human rights”. Interview with the Defense of Life Fabric of the Association of Indigenous Councils of Northern Cauca, ACIN. Santander de Quilichao / Cauca, March 4/20.*



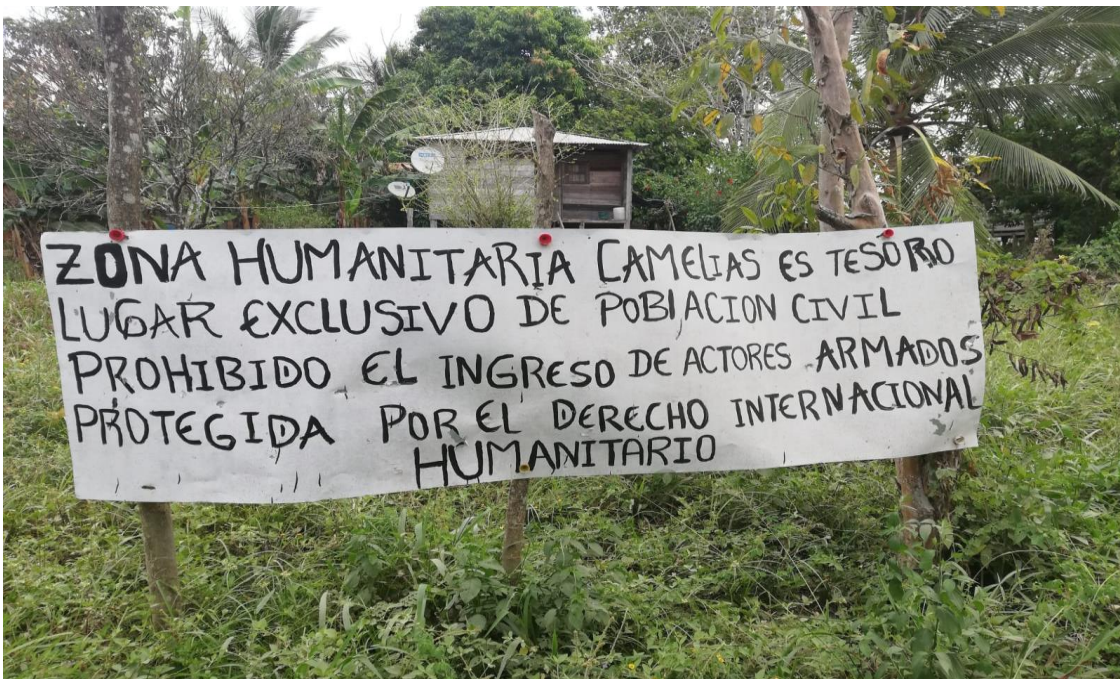
**The XVI Asturian Delegation for Verification of Human Right’s State in Colombia was made up of:**

1. **NOEMÍ RODRÍGUEZ FERNÁNDEZ**, representative of the NGO Coordinator of the Principality of Asturias, CODOPA.



2. **VALENTIN BRUGOS SALAS**, Representative of the Unitary and Autonomous Union of Education Workers of Asturias, SUATEA and the Inter-union Confederation.
3. **JOSÉ MANUEL ZAPICO GARCÍA**, Secretary General of Workers Commissions, CCCOO Asturias.
4. **JAVIER ARJONA MUÑOZ**, Representative of Soldepaz Pachakuti.
5. **JORGE FERNANDEZ IGLESIAS**, Representative of the Assembly Moza Astur, AMA
6. **CARLOS MARIA MEANA SUAREZ**, Labor lawyer.
7. **ZAIRA ORIANA BRIZ ROJAS**, from Engineering Without Borders Asturias..
8. **FRANCISCO MANUEL FERNANDEZ YEBRA**, Representative of the Asturian Movement for Peace, MASPAZ.
9. **JAVIER ALFONSO OROZCO PEÑARANDA**, Coordinator of the Asturian Programme for the Care of Victims of Violence in Colombia. Technical Director of the Asturian Delegation.

The Asturian Deputy and former Director of the Asturian Cooperation Agency, RAFAEL PALACIOS GARCIA, was unable to travel with the Delegation as planned for family circumstances. We express our appreciation for his political work in defence of human rights in Asturias and our gratitude for his readiness on the issues of international solidarity.



### **Territories traveled.**

The XVI Asturian Delegation toured territories of the indigenous peoples nasa and embera, Afro communities and peasant settlers in the departments of Cauca (Santander de Quilichao, Caldono, Morales, Popayán), Arauca (Arauca, Arauquita, Saravena), Casanare (Pore, Yopal), Antioquia (Apartadó, Carepa), Cho (Riocosucio, Carmen del Darién).



### **Presentation**

State of the Habana Agreements and the Peace Progress with the FARC

Special Justice for Peace, SPJ

Missing Persons Search Unit

Truth Commission

Amnesty Act Implementation

Situation with the ELN

Human Rights in 2019 and first quarter of 2020

- 1-. Attacks on social leadership, persistence of paramilitarism
- 2-. Extrajudicial executions and massacres



- 3-. Population in displacement situation. Anti-personnel mines
  - 4-. People deprived of liberty. Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
  - 5-. Women, childhood, youth, victims, LGBTI population
  - 6-. Impunity
  - 7-. Indigenous peoples.
  - 8-. Business and Human Rights
  - 9-. Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Interviewed organizations and institutions



## The Asturian Delegation is back..!!!

One more year – and with this there are sixteen years – the annual Delegation of Verification for the implementation of HRDs in Colombia left for Colombia. To these years, we should add the operation's pre-phase of the Temporary Welcome Programme which, as the one who does not want the thing, already has twenty years of work and accumulated experience.

On this occasion, the XVI Delegation did its work during the first half of March 2020, leaving almost the entire agenda of planned activities fulfilled. It is undoubtedly the Delegation that would have the easiest step in the small history of the solidarity movement, that of the coronavirus pandemic, which was about to seriously complicate its return from Colombia, hence, in associative and family environments, a sigh of some relief was heard when the components of the Delegation were reaching Asturian land after a hit-and-run return. Finally, the Asturian delegation returned and was about to report and transmit testimony of what has been seen and lived in Colombian lands.

*Todos somos Sara*

#QuinteroResponda  
#ProtejamosASara

La Profesora de la Universidad de Antioquia Sara Fenández , Secretaria de la Asociación de Profesores Asoprudea , fue apuñalada en su casa a las 2 de la madrugada de este miércoles 4 de marzo. La Asociación a la que pertenece, junto con otras organizaciones del Claustro, fueron amenazadas 2 días antes en un panfleto dejado en la Universidad por las Autodefensas Gaitanistas. Este es el resultado de la criminalización, estigmatización y represión de la protesta social promovida por el Alcalde Daniel Quintero. Su política, pone a la Comunidad Universitaria en el ojo del huracán de aquellos que históricamente han utilizado la violencia para eliminar sus opositores. Responsabilizamos a Daniel Quintero de la situación que afronta el Campus y del riesgo que corre la Vida de Sara y demás personas amenazadas. #NosEstánMatando



This year we were ten people who formed the solidarity contingent. In the end nine, due to the lucid family death that prevented one of the components, Rafa Palacios, from participating in it. A delegation in which there were veterans of previous years and people who participated for the first time, men and women, of different generational ranks, with shared values of solidarity commitment, humanism and tenderness, anger and indignation, eager to help build a respectful world in which all people have the right to exist, live freely and be able to have a say. All these values and aspirations, equally, are the commitment that led us to know and try to explain a situation of injustice and violence that tends to perpetuate itself in time, affecting the poorest and most needy people. To true outlaws of the land who have known war and death, expulsions from their ancestral lands, persecutions for seeking the truth of atrocious deeds, threats to dare to spread their utopian dreams for a different and better society. Much better.

Special mention deserves the presence this year of a correspondent of Spain National Radio (SNR). We have the presence of Eduardo Sanz as a built-in journalist who accompanied us throughout the delegation's trip. We do not know whether this circumstance puts our project on the same level as the great military operations of the American Pentagon, but we do think that its presence contributes to strengthening the legitimacy and endorsement of this and the previous verification delegations. This data should not go unnoticed by the Asturian authorities, who are asked to strengthen the Welcome Programme and participate in verification visits year after year. SNR, public radio, was clear that it was facing a good opportunity to learn first-hand the opinion of Colombian civil society at a crucial moment when the tension is spread in the face of maintaining serious levels of violence. Unfortunately, in Colombia you can not talk about post-conflict. At most, post-agreement.

It was precisely on the scenario after the signing of the Havana Agreement that the Delegation moved on. It did so at a time when the widely denounced domestic and international trend of persecuting, silencing and murdering dozens of civil society leaders as reported by United Nations or Amnesty International was consolidated.

The existence of fifteen previous experiences allowed the trip to take place with intensive work and to travel a significant part of the Colombian territory in just over a week, and to meet dozens of organizations and social groups, attend Cabildos with indigenous authorities or sessions in which dozens of individual complaints of violations of fundamental rights were collected.

All this did not prevent the first-person awareness of the difficult conditions in which activism takes place in that country. During our visit, we witnessed threats against the lives of some of our hosts (in Casanare), which we quickly reported through a statement that had some impact on the ground. We were also able to observe the difficult living conditions of peasants expelled from their community lands in the Chocó, who are fighting for the recovery of their ancestral territories in the midst of a permanent fence by paramilitary groups that prevent them from moving freely through the area of Lower Atrato. It coincided with our presence with attacks on

activists and teachers, as in the case of Sara Fernández, of the University of Antioquia. We met at headquarters that had a surveillance and security service, we moved in armored vehicles, called euphemistically safety schemes. We also learned the keys to the official military speech when we met with the highest authority of the XVII Brigade of the Colombian Army and informed us of the absence of paramilitary groups in the area, explaining with cynicism that these groups had already dissolved long ago. We value the initiatives of the indigenous movement, capable of maintaining a Guard or setting up a University from which to ensure the continuity of its ancestral culture and values.

Without a doubt, an exhilarating and exciting experience. So much, that those who were there for the first time, do not hide their desire to repeat the experience. Although those of us who make and present this Report of our visit are realistic people, we will not stop dreaming a little bit about our best wishes. I hope that an Asturian delegation will not be necessary for 2022. This would mean that the long-awaited scenario of peace and respect for human rights would have been reached. In that case, our visit, the last, would be in 2021, it would certainly be a real celebration of solidarity and fellowship. From Asturias, we could tell our civil society, with full satisfaction, duty to fulfill.





## **State of the Havana Agreements and the Peace Process with the FARC**

"This is why the termination of the State's conflict with the FARC has left a more serious picture than before the agreements, mainly because of non-compliance with ex-combatants and commitments on rural reform." Public Hearing in the face of human rights violations. ONIC-ACIN, Toribío/Cauca, 5 August/2019

This report is focused on human rights. The approach to the state of peace agreements addresses the impact that their non-compliance is having on Colombian society.

The achievement of peace as a human right is being hindered by the government of IVAN DUQUE MARQUEZ which is not complying with the Havana Agreements signed on September 26, 2016 - on behalf of the State - by its predecessor Juan Manuel Santos with the FARC-EP.

Non-compliance with the Peace Accords wastes the opportunity to begin solving some of the problems that create violence, such as the inequitable concentration of land ownership and income, lack of support for the peasant economy, the expansion of coca crops, the violent and corrupting power of multinationals and drug trafficking that exacerbate economic, social and political exclusion of millions of people, while destroying the fledgling rule of law.

Havana Agreements' central aspects are being breached, such as political reform, land-titling rural reform, concerted substitution of illegal crops for alternative productive projects, and the granting of guarantees to preserve the lives of ex-combatants and facilitate their return to civilian life.

The government's lack of political will is reflected in the slow pace with which housing and productive projects enragged in bureaucracy and decimated by corruption are marching. The UN notes that only 27% of former guerrillas (about 3,500) have accessed a productive project, and that about 9,400 live outside the territorial areas of Training and Reincorporation.

There are difficulties in the operation of the three components of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repitition: the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, the Missing Persons Search Unit and the Truth Commission.

### **The SPJ**

The Special Justice for Peace, SPJ, as a central part of the Peace Agreement and as a space for the search for truth, is moving forward with difficulties because of the government's lack of political will to support it.

Indigenous peoples and hundreds of thousands of victims continue to wait for the truth of what happened during the internal armed conflict with the FARC to be established.

There are seven cases opened by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace that advance with the version of former FARC-EP members, members of the Public Force, non-combatant state agents and third parties, and with the accreditation of more than 260,000 victims so that the SJP is a hope in its fight for justice, against impunity.



## The Missing Persons Search Unit

In Colombia there is no State policy for the search for persons who are missing despite the high numbers of victims, so the creation of the MPSU is a breakthrough of the Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation agreed between the State and the FARC.

Persons who are missing are wanted in the context of the internal armed conflict before December 1, 2016 for enforced disappearance, kidnapping or unlawful recruitment. The search includes members of the Public Force and fighters members of the insurgencies.

According to data from the Historical Memory Center, Colombia - with at least 80,000 cases reported in the last fifty years - is one of the countries in the world with the most quantity of victims of enforced disappearance, a crime that has a high degree of impunity. At least 20,443 more people were buried unidentified.<sup>1</sup>

In five cemeteries on the eastern plains there are 2,304 bodies of unidentified persons, of which 1,674 were reported as alleged casualties in combat. Of these, many may have been victims of disappearance, and there is information on dozens of suspected "false positive" cases. From

<sup>1</sup> <http://centrodehistoriahistorica.gov.co/tag/desaparecidos/>



the information of these cemeteries, information on 447 cases has already been provided to the MPSU.<sup>2</sup>

In Colombia, people continue to disappear forcibly and in the context of internal armed conflict.

## Truth Commission

Emerging from the Havana Agreements, the Truth Commission has a three-year deadline to carry out its task: to establish what happened during half a century of war.

For FRANCISCO DE RUX, Truth Commission's President, "It is an impossible mission in three years to be able to establish the historical truth of what has happened to us in more than 50 years... Time is short, resources are scarce. The challenges are enormous because the conflict continues and there are many people who are afraid of telling the truth."<sup>3</sup>



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cofb.org.co/noticias-ofb/publicaciones/resumen-ejecutivo-informe-desenterrar-la-verdad>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eluniversal.com.co/colombia/dos-anos-de-la-comision-de-la-verdad-que-se-ha-logrado-CD1775756>

## Amnesty for FARC prisoners

Both the FARC and the Commission for the Monitoring, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of Agreements (CMPVIA) have denounced the breach of Law 1820 which contemplates the amnesty for former FARC guerrillas whose crimes relate to armed conflict.

At the end of March 2020 and three years after the signing of the Peace Agreement, 192 former guerrillas who were not covered by Amnesty Law 1820 remain in prison, nor did they have their legal status resolved even though it is one of the most important commitments of the Agreement according to which political and related crimes would be forgiven, such as rebellion and sedition, and ex-combatants would regain their freedom.

"Some of these detainees have exceeded five (5) years of detention; approximately 13 people are over 60 years of age, others face serious health problems and are generally in prison under overcrowding conditions."<sup>4</sup>

The murder of former guerrillas is serious, even though they left arms and are fully complying with the agreements.

These are attacks in the post-conflict that also affect the relatives of ex-combatants and which by their figure, the diversity of regions in which they occur and the quality of the victims, are serious, so overcoming them is the main recommendation according to the UN, which proposes to the Colombian government the comprehensive implementation of the Final Peace Agreement of 2020 with these priorities : (1) take all necessary measures to end the tragedy of the killings of social leaders, human rights defenders and ex-combatants; (2) strengthen the long-term sustainability of the reinstatement process and ensure that the benefits of reinstatement reach all ex-combatants; and (3) ensure that communities, and especially victims, are at the heart of all peacebuilding efforts.<sup>5</sup>

There are no guarantees for former guerrillas, as expressed by a leader of the FARC party in an interview on March 10 with the Asturian Delegation in the Territorial Training and Reintegration Area (TTRA) of the Brisas sidewalk, municipality of Carmen del Darién, Chocó: "We have been in this place for three years, since February 2017, in a process with many difficulties and non-compliances. We have to go out and move, but we do not feel safe. 76 people are left in this space, there are families with children. The area is controlled by the police, the Navy and the army, but we are concerned about security, we are vulnerable and we do not want to leave."<sup>6</sup>

"In this place we were going to make a citadel, houses in conditions, but we are overcrowded and no houses are made because we have no land and everything collapsed. The government pays \$10 million pesos for the 10-hectare monthly lease to businesswoman CLAUDIA

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.elespectador.com/colombia2020/justicia/jep/los-192-exguerrilleros-de-las-farc-que-buscan-la-libertad-en-medio-del-coronavirus-articulo-912048>

<sup>5</sup> <https://colombia.unmissions.org/nota-de-prensa-informe-del-secretario-general-de-las-naciones-unidas-sobre-la-misi%C3%B3n-de-3>

<sup>6</sup> Asturian Delegation Inspection on March 10 to the FARC ETCR on the Brisas sidewalk, Carmen del Darién municipality, Chocó.



ARGOTE, who says that she sells the property without owning it, allowing the government to decide not to buy it because it is collectively owned. And because we do not own land either, the productive project approved by the Municipal Council of Carmen del Darién does not start, which also generated us food dependence. Here there was a health center with doctors and nurses and they left, the ambulance is unbraked. Children are singled out as "children of guerrillas" and study here from first year to fifth, all in the same room with the Arando Education Program, but sometimes there are no classes. In the Reinstatement Agency, money that was for our return to civilian life has been stolen."<sup>7</sup>

"We are legalized as a party but politically we have not been able to participate effectively. In the presidential election we support at least bad, few people in this space of peace were able to vote," "Sometimes you think this is going nowhere and that those who returned to arms did so to defend freedom. People didn't know the agreements, they haven't defended them, we lacked pedagogy." "It was assumed that the country's problems were caused by the FARC, but now there are no excuses, we do not exist and the problems remain the same or even worse."<sup>8</sup>



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<sup>7</sup> lb.

<sup>8</sup> lb.

## Situation with the ELN

On January 7, 2019, the ELN attacked the General Santander Police Cadet School, killing 23 people, so Ivan Duque's government - which had already frozen the talks - broke the exploratory and confidential peace talks ahead of Havana and demanded Cuba to capture the guerrilla negotiating team, unaware that the protocols agreed on 5 April 2016 for the eventuality of the breakdown of the talks establishing a fortnight for the parties to plan and concrete the return of the ELN to Colombia, in the midst of a cessation of military operations for 72 hours.<sup>9</sup>

The Colombian government rejected the ELN's offer to restart peace talks since early July 2019 and maintained the refusal in 2020 despite the ELN's humanitarian gesture declaring a unilateral ceasefire in April/20 in the face of the virus epidemic. "But neither the Duke's government nor the Armed Forces had the greatness to value our gesture to respond in a similar way; on the contrary, they did not know him and intensified his military operations and made disobligant pronouncements. His guerrilla eagerness and Colombia's low value for peace is clear. More interest has shown Ivan Duque and the military dome in supporting the United States' Plans, to advance a military intervention against Venezuela, violating the National Constitution; for in these cases, the President is obliged to consult the Senate. The same requirement must be met in order to allow the movement of foreign troops through the Colombian territory, a situation that has already been happening in the border departments. If this imperialist military intervention against Venezuela took place, it will be the new Pandemic that will travel the continent."<sup>10</sup>

The Colombian government did not want to heed Pope Francis' calls from Rome, nor those of the UN Secretary-General who spoke publicly for dialogue.

The conflict with the ELN continues in several regions and with greater intensity in Cauca, Nariño, Arauca, Chocó, Antioquia and North of Santander, territories bordering Venezuela, Panama, Ecuador and in central and western areas of the country, regions with civilian populations that are trampled on amid confrontation.

In frequent clashes between the ELN guerrillas, the National Army and former Gulf Clan paramilitaries, the indigenous people of the Embera dobidá are trapped, confined, amid the fire, who are sheltered while turning drainage ditches into trenches.

The ELN has publicly expressed several times its readiness to dialogue to seek a political solution to the internal armed conflict, without getting a positive response from Ivan Duque's government.

In September 2019, the Colombian government delivered a document with false photos at the UN with which it sought to prove the relationship between the government of NICOLAS MADURO, President of Venezuela, and the ELN guerrillas, linking them to the recruitment of minors and alleged fighting by the Colombian guerrillas in Venezuela, which proved false. The

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/uploads/files/2019/01/21/Salida%20ELN-converted.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ELNPaz/posts/660224924547390>

media scandal – El Colombian newspaper, AFP agency<sup>11</sup> – forced the resignation of Brigadier General OSWALDO PEA BERMEJO who had been commander of the Seventh Army Division, the Special Forces Division and the Combat Air Command number 2.

This incident demonstrates that the refusal of IVAN DUQUE's government to dialogue with the ELN is not only the product of internal pressures in Colombia, it also follows the strategy of the United States government to use the conflict and the Colombian government to destabilize and continue to intervene in Venezuela in order to regain control of the Caribbean and the Andean-Amazonian areas. So the search for peace with the ELN has become a matter of international convenience.

The ELN stated at the end of April 2020: "We see no will on the part of the Duke's Government to resume the Peace Dialogues in Havana; therefore, it is time for our Delegation to return to our camps with all the guarantees and security conditions agreed with the Colombian State, with the presence of guarantor countries, as is known to the Secretary-General of the UNITED. ELN structures will resume their military operations from the date and time indicated."<sup>12</sup>



<sup>11</sup> <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/el-jefe-de-inteligencia-sale-de-las-fuerzas-militares-en-medio-de-escandalo-de-fotos-falsas/634020>

<sup>12</sup> <file:///C:/Users/USER/Downloads/CumplimientoCese-27-04-20.pdf>



## Human Rights in 2019 and first quarter of 2020

"2019, was a very violent year for human rights in Colombia. UN news agency. February 26/20.<sup>13</sup>

Human rights' situation in Colombia tends to worsen year after year, despite commitments by the government to protect them signed inside and outside the country.

In the last fifteen months, high levels of endemic violence were maintained due to structural causes and there were serious setbacks in human rights, high levels of impunity, along with territorial and social control of some regions by paramilitary groups and the ELN and PLA guerrilla groups.

In 2019 the massacres returned. There were 33 massacres that cost the lives of 133 people - the highest figure of the last six years; more than 120 people with social leadership were killed between January and December last year and 79 former FARC guerrillas. In addition, the killing of indigenous peoples increased, the abusive use of force against legitimate social protest, the participation of militaries and police in criminal acts, high levels of impunity, sexual violence, forced displacement of people and everlasting absence of the state or its exclusively military presence remained.

The UN characterizes as persistent the attacks on human rights defenders who grew up, while for Colombian social organizations these are systematic attacks, taking into account patterns of conduct, the character of the fatalities who in 2019 were 119 people with social leadership, defenders, social and political opponents, and 30 members of communal action boards, crimes that are mostly going unpunished.

Figures revealed by the press indicate that in the first quarter of 2020 there were 71 people with social leadership killed and 20 former FARC combatants.<sup>14</sup>

The poor results, in view of the systematic murder of the Colombian social leadership, confirm the ineffectiveness of the National Protection Unit, especially in rural areas where most attacks occur.

On 13 April 2018 the indigenous leader, human rights defender, rector of an educational institution and teacher of the people embera dobidá AQUILEO MECHECHE BARAGON was killed by paramilitaries of the Gaitanist Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (Gulf Clan) in the heart of Riosucio-Chocó. He had received death threats, so he sought protection from UNP, a body that in November committed to establish an effective protection route for thirteen leaders including AQUILEO MECHECHE, which was not fulfilled. AQUILEO led the mobilization of the embera people from the forests of Chocó to Bogotá in order to demand from the government guarantees of security and dignified life in the territory.

<sup>13</sup> <https://news.un.org/es/story/2020/02/1470201>

<sup>14</sup> <https://90minutos.co/2020-asesinados-71-lideres-sociales-20-exfarc-colombia-revela-instituto-05-04-2020/>

THE ONIC denounced the threats against him and warned of the danger in a statement calling on the Ministries of Defence and Interior, the Attorney General's Office and the Prosecutor's Office to protect AQUILEO's life and his brother JULIO, who was also threatened. Three weeks before the crime, the indigenous community of Jagual - whose territories have been mined - had been harassed and AQUILEO was threatened again without being protected by the government or public force.



Some of the most violent sources across the country are the paramilitary groups that have expanded in recent decades with the acquiescence of public force and the government. Territorial and social control of paramilitaries has grown ostensibly since the Peace Agreement, especially in territories formerly controlled by the FARC.

The government, rather than dismantling paramilitary groups - as is their commitment - denies their existence and re-baptized them to pretend that this is a different phenomenon, warning that it will not give political recognition to the Emerging Bands or Criminal Gangs (EBCGs) that are the paramilitaries not demobilized in 2006; Organized Armed Groups (OAG) such as the PLA guerrillas; Organized Crime Groups (OCG) operating at the local level linked to drug trafficking, and the Residual Organized Armed Groups (ROAG) or FARC dissents.

Army and national police's image are questioned by corruption, participation in criminal acts, constant abuse of the population and serious human rights violations such as extrajudicial executions or "false positives".

The links between public force and crime have been denounced by social organizations and politicians such as Senator GUSTAVO PETRO URRGEDO, who provided documents that would prove that "there are criminal organizations that would be a facade of Government Armed Forces acting illegally".

In relation with self-styled *Águilas Negras* (black eagles) paramilitaries, he noted that his strong "is action within the state", so his power to frighten throughout the country, due to the fact that the *Águilas Negras* are simply a facade of the armed government forces acting outside the law".<sup>15</sup>



On November 6 last year, Colombian Defense Minister GUILLERMO BOTERO had to resign for concealing the massacre of eight minors in a bombing against FARC dissents.

In April 2020 eleven army officers, including a republic general, linked to intelligence duties, were removed from service for illegal espionage against journalists, trade unionists, defenders and government opponents.<sup>16</sup>

IVAN DUQUE's government policies for the national army emphasize positive results, resulting in a dangerous regression to times that were believed to be surpassed in human rights, such as those experienced during the two governments of ALVARO URIBE VELEZ.

In May 2019, the New York Times published the orders of the Army commander, General NICACIO MARTINEZ, to achieve operational success without distinction between casualties, captures, demobilizations, etc. for which he lowered the level of certainty that a military unit

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.lafm.com.co/colombia/petro-revelo-videos-con-los-que-denuncio-torturas-al-interior-del-ejercito>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.notimerica.com/politica/noticia-colombia-cesados-decena-militares-colombianos-nuevas-pruebas-escuchas-ilegales-20200502135701.html>



must have to execute a mission. "The Colombian army's lethality orders put civilians at risk, according to officers." <sup>17</sup> This general was promoted to army commander "despite credible evidence linking him to false positives" according to HRW. <sup>18</sup>

These orders raise alarm due to the background that troops during URIBE VELEZ governments received similar orders that resulted in widespread killings and the enforced disappearance of civilians.<sup>19</sup>

In this period "Soldiers killed peasants and claimed that they were guerrillas, sometimes even dressing them in uniform and planting weapons near their bodies. Tactics emerged from superiors who demanded more bodies, according to prosecutors."<sup>20</sup>

The Asturian visit toured paramilitary-controlled territories such as the SGC, "Self-defenses Gaitanistas de Colombia" –in Cauca and Chocó-, or the "Gulf Clan " in Chocó and Urabá Antioqueño, regions where the population and especially the victims feel insecure.



<sup>17</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/es/2019/05/18/espanol/america-latina/colombia-ejercito-falsos-positivos.html>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/es/world-report/2020/country-chapters/337323>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/29/world/americas/29iht-colombia.4.17352270.html?module=inline>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/es/2019/05/18/espanol/america-latina/colombia-ejercito-falsos-positivos.html>

Fear is generated by the narco-business-paramilitary contubernium, whose corrupting power has co-opted local governments, sections of the public force and the judiciary..

The territorial and social control exercised by the paramilitaries is intended to ensure legally and materially - for entrepreneurship - the collectively owned land stripped, as well as to ensure for the drug mafia (signs of Mexico and Colombia) the shipment ports of cocaine between banana boxes bound for Europe (Belgium and Spain) and the USA, among other destinations indicated by the media.<sup>21</sup>

"The most serious problem is the violence that accompanies this economy. Because drug traffickers need guns to protect and promote their illegal business, drug trafficking money is the fuel for all armed groups – both legal and illegal – and these groups act as criminal drug traffickers. As if that were not enough, today there are dozens of criminal groups - so-called dissidents - that operate very rarely as a single body and in any case without any known political agenda, the same ones that sometimes appear as ELNs and others as PLALs, as if they were brands that are used and exchanged. These same issue pamphlets in the name of *Águilas Negras*, "Sinaloa's Cartel", "Revive Quintín Lame", clearly showing that everything corresponds to a military intelligence strategy to justify the dirty war in our territories."<sup>22</sup>

The social conflict continues without dialogue's channels and increased as a result of inequalities in land distribution and income, aggravated by the dismantling of the institutionality of peasantry support and privatizations in sectors such as health and education, converted into businesses that exclude majorities without resources to buy them.

Colombia's governments in recent decades have systematically violated agreements with the population mobilized for basic rights throughout the country.

During 2019 the protests were massive in Barranquilla, Bogota, Cali, Medellin, Neiva, Pasto, Popayán and in some rural areas. The mobilized population rejected labour, pension and tax reforms, demand guarantees for the exercise of the right to social protest, human rights including social, political and economic rights, the fight against corruption and the pursuit of peace, compliance with the agreements signed with the FARC, dialogue with the ELN and the compliance of the agreements signed with social movements.

Social protest is usually noted to be "infiltrated by the guerrillas", to excuse government's absence in the negotiating spaces and to justify the subsequent repression: "When there is a mobilization, it is said to be driven by the insurgency; when that does not work to scare people, then it stigmatis the leaders and it is about killing them or putting them in jail," as states the Arauca social leader JOSE MURILLO, victim of a judicial montage that kept him in jail for three years.<sup>23</sup>

According to General JORGE VARGAS, Director of Citizen Security of the National Police "During 2019 there have been 3,463 protest activities in 463 municipalities of the 32 departments of the country, 1,373 concentrations, 1,058 marches, 448 assemblies, 382 blockades and 93 riots. Of these protests, 1,568 were convened by teachers and students

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/mafias-dedicadas-a-esconder-drogas-en-bananos-o-platanos/560540>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.cric-colombia.org/portal/audiencia-publica-por-la-vulneracion-de-los-derechos-humanos-se-realizo-en-toribio/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/05-2019-los-lideres-sociales-se-nos-estigmatiza>



(45%). In the protests we have captured 50 people for riots and violent acts, 60 police officers have been injured and a policeman has died.<sup>24</sup>

The National Police's Riot Mobile Squad, NPRMS, has been accused of abusive and disproportionate use of force in the mobilizations of 2019 and previous years.



On November 23, 2019, when he received a bachelor's degree, the 18-year-old DILAN CRUZ MEDINA was murdered in the center of Bogota. He was killed by a 12-gauge shotgun bullet

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<sup>24</sup> <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/esmad-en-2019-el-magisterio-y-los-estudiantes-han-protestado-1568-veces/634760>



according to reports, with unconventional reloaded ammunition, powered by captain ESMAD MANUEL CUBILLOS RODRIGUEZ during a peaceful demonstration of students, faculty and parents demanding resources for public education. DILAN CRUZ was exercising the right to peaceful protest, was unarmed and with his back to his aggressor.

Over the last year, the arbitrary use of force and the use of prohibited weapons against civilians causing death or serious eye injury was repeated, criminal actions by the public force that are approached by military justice to ensure impunity through "body solidarity" was repeated.



The Defend Freedom Campaign reported at the ONIC headquarters that more than 2,200 cases of arbitrary detentions under the name of "protection transfers" were reported in the 2019 social mobilizations, in which these people were stripped naked, beaten, in several cases they were tortured, broken arms and threats to be burned, and were also reported and subjected to 12 hours in prison and fined. One hundred and sixty of these arrests were made on the day of DILAN CRUZ's crime, whose family has been threatened with death.

Land strippers have succeeded in evading the restitution of usurped lands through straw man arguments, legal, use of violence or corruption, in all cases with the complicity of the public force in areas such as Urabá Antioqueño and the Lower Atrato, in some cases violating court orders.

Figures from the CPI and Forging Futures indicate that at least 6 million hectares were abandoned or stripped violently. "Although more than 1,000 peasants today are applying for restitution, the state has returned only four percent. Who were they or are the strippers? According to the research of these organizations, paramilitaries (56%), guerrillas (14%), the State (1%), undefined armed groups (6%) and the clashes (23%)."<sup>25</sup>



On 22 April 2019, an army NCO murdered DIMAR TORRES, a former FARC member of the peace process. The Minister of Defense justified the attack as an act of defense of the military, but the investigation found that DIMAR TORRES was killed in a state of complete helplessness.

Structural impunity persists. The General Attorney of the Nation, handed over in January 2020, does not recognize as a state policy the Peace Accords signed with the FARC, but states that it has been proposed as priorities: to strengthen investigations into attacks against social leaders, human rights defenders and ex-combatants; combating criminal structures, drug trafficking and corruption; improve the territorial presence of General Attorney's Office and respect the autonomy of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP).

## Cauca's Department <sup>26</sup>

Although the North of Cauca decreased the war action with the FARC's demobilization, serious and massive human rights violations were presented amid the dispute over territorial control in areas linked to illegal coca plantations, mining, coffee monocultures and sugar cane.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.elespectador.com/colombia2020/justicia/jep/lo-que-uraba-le-conto-la-jep-sobre-el-despojo-de-tierras-articulo-874638>

<sup>26</sup> The XVI Asturian Delegation visited the North of Cauca between 4 and 6 March of 2020.



Since 2017 at the start of the post-agreement with the FARC, 82 people have been killed in northern Cauca, 49 indigenous people including 91 death threats, 15 attacks, 5 massacres in which more than three people were killed in each, 7 violent land evictions.<sup>27</sup>

Drug trafficking cartels are killing people who refuse to plant coca or voluntarily pull it up in exchange for productive projects in Cauca, but the government does not protect these farmers and breaches investment plans to help them survive from lawful activities.

"This violence has resulted in the killing of 33 people, the execution of 7 attacks targeting ancestral and common authorities and the circulation of 38 collective and individual threats in different indigenous territories of northern Cauca in the last year. Thus, the termination of the State's conflict with the FARC has left a more serious picture than before the agreements, mainly because of non-compliance with ex-combatants and rural reform commitments."<sup>28</sup>

On 19 July 2019, the first pamphlet of Sinaloa's cartel circulated, threatening to kill the indigenous Cauca leadership and the indigenous guard.



<sup>27</sup> Interview with ACIN-ONIC, Santander de Quilichao, Cauca. 4 March 2020.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.cric-colombia.org/portal/audiencia-publica-por-la-vulneracion-de-los-derechos-humanos-se-realizo-en-toribio/>



The government halted humanitarian demining across the country, which is affecting the indigenous way of life and exposing civilians to these artifacts.

There are plans for the continuation of the war promoted by the 16 armed groups identified in the territory of northern Cauca, made up of public forces, insurgent groups, paramilitary groups and common crime gangs

The government increases military operations, violates FARC agreements, refuses to dialogue with the ELN.

FARC dissents, the ELN, the PLA, paramilitaries and the Sinaloa cartel have called on indigenous peoples to arm themselves even though they have determined not to intervene in the conflict, but are being extorted, threatened, pressured to arm themselves or to provide uniforms and weapons.<sup>29</sup>

Dirty warfare stays even inside classrooms. Teachers are coerced in the indigenous territories of Cauca so that they do not teach aspects of culture, history and organizational life to indigenous children, and are persecuted to death if they prevent the forced recruitment of indigenous minors.

The security provided by public force in Cauca is only for farms, not for the indigenous peoples whose territories are carefully and firmly guarded by the Indigenous Guard who exercises unarmed control.

According to the ONIC "The military approach to protection of defenders is failed and partly because the killers are in power and do not accept the participation of organizations in the definition of the security issue, and because threats and attacks come free of charge to the assailants because they are not investigated and at best only reach the material authors, never the structures behind the crimes."



<sup>29</sup> Interview with ACIN-ONIC, Santander de Quilichao, Cauca. 4 March 2020.

## **Arauca Department.<sup>30</sup>**

In the Arauca Department human rights situation has been getting worse since 2002.

Social organizations defend peasant economy, food sovereignty and the permanence in the territory in the face of expelling phenomena such as fumigations – even though coca crops were eradicated – militarization and security focused on protecting oil companies that have granted 80% of the territory, in disarray from protection for the population that is at risk in the midst of armed conflict and for the social and environmental impacts of oil industry.

Arauca is border with Venezuela, so there is transfer of cheap products and labour between these two countries. The apartment has 270,000 inhabitants, 42,000 Venezuelan migrants, and there are 66,000 victims.

Oil industry occupies more than 80% of the territory of Arauca including territories of indigenous peoples that have not been consulted in prior, free and informed manner as provided for in ILO Convention 169 ratified by Colombia and which indigenous peoples require to apply.

The life and integrity of people who belonged to the FARC is at risk by lack of guarantees and by the attacks that occur mainly in rural areas.

The gender approach of Peace Accords containing 120 affirmative measures for women has been mutilated by the government that reduced them in the regulation to 50 measures that do not implement either.

People with disabilities and thousands of children do not have access to education, are - along with women - one of the social sectors vulnerable to serious human rights violence.

There is systematic persecution by using justice in an abusive way to stop social leadership.

On 10 February, WBEIMAR ALEXANDER CETINA, president of the Federation of Communal Action Boards of the Department of Arauca, and HORACIO RAMREZ, member of the José Antonio Galán Zorro National Peasant Association (JAGZNPA) were arrested in the municipality of Arauquita-Arauca. On the same day JUAN DE JESÚS GÓMEZ's house, president of the Arauquita Community Action Board, was raided, in order to justify another capture. In Saravena-Arauca in September 2019, JOSÉ VICENTE MURILLO TOBO, spokesperson for social organizations, was captured. Jorge ENRIQUE NIÑO TORRES, a social leader who led community protests over the abuses committed by oil companies, was also deprived of freedom.

In Arauca, more than 200 arrest warrants against social leadership would have to be executed as reported by their social organizations.

The use of justice to pursue opponents was answered by the Mass, Social and Popular Political Movement of the Eastern Centre of Colombia –MSPPMECC: "Despite the systematic persecution with which the State seeks to disarm the social fabric, silence our voices, and

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<sup>30</sup> The XVI Asturian Delegation visited Arauca between 7 and 8 March 2020.

prevent us from continuing to materialize our Plan of Life, we reiterate the commitment to the people, the territory, and the permanent construction of other possible world.»<sup>31</sup>



On 22 May 2018, MARIA RUTH SANABRIA, a human rights defender and member of the CPDH's board of directors, was attacked in the village of Fortul. This person has been victim of death threats by the paramilitary groups of the AUC Centaur Bloc and the *Águilas Negras*, in addition to being harassed, it was known that at least three times she was stalked in recent years by men carrying high-power weapons in order to murder her.

The right to public education is demeaned by a lack of resources mainly in rural schools and by death threats against teachers, more than 1,700 teachers were murdered. Moreover, cases of raped children by military personnel have been reported in regions such as the Arauca department.

Attacks on taught persons are reflected in events such as the February/20 murder in Arauca of Professor SANDRA MAYERLY BAQUERO, a crime without investigating during 30 days.

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<https://www.facebook.com/CongresoDeLosPueblosOficial/photos/rpp.126207587546603/1453148254852523/?type=3&theater>,



In Arauca, community broadcasters and journalists are persecuted to disseminate community complaints against oil companies or against public force.

"In Arauca, oil companies' business action is predatory. There are 26 communities affected by the poor neighboring behavior of oil companies."<sup>32</sup>

New armed groups would be emerging in the Arauca department under the protection of civilian and military authorities.<sup>33</sup>



### Casanare Department<sup>34</sup>

The Casanare Department is the scene of social and armed conflict, with serious human rights violations affecting very vulnerable social sectors.

The human settlement *Mi Nuevo Porvenir* (My New Future) is located on the Bocas of the Pore sidewalk, municipality of Pore, Casanare Department. It is composed of families who are in possession of abandoned land that they have occupied for more than 15 years and whose legalization is pending before the Land Restitution Unit (LRU) since November 17, 2017, although the mayor has sought the closure and eviction of the property occupied by 27 families.

<sup>32</sup> Interview with social organizations of Arauca, 7 and 8 March 2020.

<sup>33</sup> Interview with social organizations of Arauca, 4 March 2020.

<sup>34</sup> The XVI Asturian Delegation visited Casanare Department between 9 and 10 March 2020.

Complaints from the community and COSPACC indicate that there are economic interests behind the claim of eviction for which they have used methods of violating human rights and Colombian legality: threats to take children away from families, harassed them, threatened, stigmatized and excluded them from employment opportunities.

On 20 October 2017, a group of 150 policemen on the orders of the mayor of Pore, who refused to dialogue with the families, evicted a peasant with 28 years of possession of the property. He was torn apart with a bulldozer by the crops, the trees and the house. On 9 June 2018, the army's XVI Brigade horses destroyed 2,500 banana buds planted.

"The community has truthful information about the fact that the Municipal Mayor, through the Planning Secretariat, gave the order to excavate the land to dump debris. The use of the territory as a dump by the municipal mayoral office was made known on April 11, 2019 to Corporinoquia. On June 12, 2019, a verification visit was made by Corporinoquia, who stated that the municipal administration is not authorized to carry out excavations and waste disposal since the property is subject to a legal process.<sup>35</sup>

30 years ago, 22 foreign companies extracted oil in the Casanare Department with opposition from social organizations - environmentalists, six of whose leaders have been killed and 42 more have been prosecuted as retaliation for denouncing some of the impacts of that industry, including co-optation, corruption, devastation, violence.<sup>36</sup>

Behind the incarcerations of Casanare's Social Leadership is the power of the oil companies, the organizations denounce: "In the last three years (2017-2019), 16 social leaders and human rights defenders have been arrested in the Casanare Department, eight of them belonging to the municipality of San Luis de Palenque. Of the 16 leaders prosecuted, 11 are for the crime of obstruction of public roads (art. 353a of the Penal Code). The facts put forward by the Public Prosecutor's Office to promote judicialization are part of social mobilizations to claim social and environmental rights against oil companies.

The Ombudsman's Office in Casanare has been alerting for three years about the vulnerability of those who exercise social leadership "In rural areas and in small or remote municipalities, the risk and exposure situation for human rights defenders and social leaders is more serious. There are constant harassments, stigmatization, threats, attacks and killings against (...) environmentalist leaders, who are constantly highlighted, among other struggles, by opposition to mining and oil exploitation (fracking), the construction of hydroelectric plants and or projects of great environmental impact."<sup>37</sup>

MARIA TERESA RINCÓN is in house detention and suffering the harassment of hooded people who arrive at her home in rural area. They threaten, beat, generate terror in her children.

YURIBEL LOYAL. She was arrested on November 27, 2018. She is FERNEY SALCEDO GUTIÉRREZ's wife, and the hearing to define her situation has been delayed by negligence. She is unaware of the prison where her husband is in, he is supposed to have been transferred to Picota, in Bogota, to defuse his action against corruption in Casanare's Prison.

<sup>35</sup> <https://cospacc.org/?p=707>

<sup>36</sup> Meeting with Casanare Regional Ombudsman

<sup>37</sup> <https://trochandosinfronteras.info/caso-san-luis-de-palenque-encarcelamiento-y-resistencia/>



In the Casanare operate the FARC dissents or ROAG (Residual Organized Armed Group) and the ELN. There are no paramilitaries according to Colonel RESTREPO and Casanare Police's Lieutenant NARANJO, who report that there are extortions to the guilds, threats and a homicide in 2019 of a former leader. They indicate that there are agreements with oil industry companies that finance public force in exchange for security.



### **LOWER ATRATO and URABA ANTIOQUEÑO<sup>38</sup>**

The internal armed conflict continues to affect the basins of the Jiguamiandó and Curbaradó rivers, in the area of Lower Atrato in Urabá, in which territorial control of the paramilitaries and the ELN guerrillas expands, putting at high risk the lives of Afro-Colombian, mestiza and indigenous communities and the Inter-Ecclesial Commission of Justice and Peace that accompanies them. Both communities and the Inter-Church Commission are beneficiaries of precautionary measures ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. (IACHR)

<sup>38</sup> The XVI Asturian Delegation visited the Urabá Antioqueño and the region of Lower Atrato, 7, 8 and 9 March 2020.



The unpunished encroachment of violence in this region is due to plans to expand banana agribusiness, oil palm, extensive livestock, coca and the construction of a seaport in the Gulf of Uraba.

Humanitarian and biodiversity zones suffer the risk of the Gaitanist Self-Defense Groups of Colombia GSGC and the NLA National Liberation Army that threaten and confine members of communities who have already suffered threats, murders, massacres, stripping of their territories, forced displacement and impunity for the absence of the state in these regions for decades, as well as for the coexistence between municipal authorities. That is the situation in communities such as Las Camelias and Nueva Esperanza.

The corrupting capacity of agro-entrepreneur and drug-trafficking mafias have permeated civilian and military institutions and succeeded in blocking land restitution processes and putting those who claim their collective territorial rights at greater risk.

In December 2017, two historic land restitution leaders from the region were assassinated: Mario Castaño and Hernán Bedoya, threatened to denounce and confront economic interests and resist forced displacement.

The communities of these regions are under the control of paramilitaries located in places such as road junctions, transport stations and river ports of the region. However, Colonel BASTIDAS, military command of the XVII Brigade, denies their existence or evaded proposing a debate about their names, while they continue to delinquede with impunity and with the complicity of the State.



On 29 September, the paramilitaries AGC intimidated the community of the Humanitarian Zone Las Camelias, Curbaradó Collective Territory. One of the paramilitaries is recognized for being the one who exercises control at the crossroads of the Curbaradó River, located 600 meters from the Humanitarian Zone.

On 19 September, a group of 31-man members of the AGC, traveled in early hours through the Humanitarian Zone of Las Camelias and the crossings of Curbaradó River. They recruited 16 young people

There is recruitment of settlers and underage indigenous people in the basins of Domingodó and Jiguamiandó rivers.



### **1-. Attacks on social leadership, persistence of paramilitarism**

*"I have come to the conclusion that these incidents are not isolated acts, but orchestrated attacks against those who seek to incorporate the ideal of the*

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights into a world free from fear and misery."  
Michel Forst, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.<sup>39</sup>*

Colombia with 107 crimes during 2019 was, followed by the Philippines, the most dangerous country in the world to those who defend human rights and exercise social leadership.<sup>40</sup>

"Leaders and activists are targeted by a campaign of terror that has left 462 dead people since 2016, according to Ombudsman's Office. Their voices are isolated, imprisoned or shot-down silenced."<sup>41</sup>

Michel Forst, UN Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights defenders, said in the Front Line Defenders 2018 report's foreword "No more murders", that violence against human rights defenders is not random: "I have come to the conclusion that these incidents are not isolated acts, but orchestrated attacks against those who seek to incorporate the ideal of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into a world free of fear and misery."<sup>42</sup>

The increase of the attacks and their impunity demonstrate the lack of recognition of the work of human rights defenders in Colombian society. This is a consequence of the stigmatization since the last governments, the high command of the public force, sectors of employers and mass media, which point them out to be "snitches", i.e. illegal activity delators, to be an impediment for the development of the country by opposing investment projects with high social and environmental impact.



<sup>39</sup> <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/statement-report/stop-killings>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.dw.com/es/global-witness-164-defensores-ambientales-fueron-asesinados-en-2018/a-49798625>

<sup>41</sup> <https://elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/05-2019-los-lideres-sociales-se-nos-estigmatiza>

<sup>42</sup> [https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/stop\\_the\\_killings\\_spanish.pdf](https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/stop_the_killings_spanish.pdf)



In Arauca, complaints were received against journalist ALVARO PEREZ GARCIA for making slanderous signs that increase the risk about social leadership of the region

A source of aggression against human rights defenders is the widespread stigma that the defence of human rights is a slogan of subversives and "terrorists", people who are enemies of the homeland and progress. This slogan has been perversely prepared to public opinion in order to justify the daily murder of those who exercise social leadership and defend human rights: "for some reason they kill them", attributing responsibility for their own death to victims, usually unpunished.

This situation was aggravated by mandatory confinement and imposed to control the spread of the virus, which made human rights defenders localized targets whose vulnerability increased as security systems weakened.

According to INDEPAZ "On the one hand they must deal with a pandemic and on the other they must be facing violence that has been permanent in the territories (...), the crisis is currently exacerbated a little more due to mandatory isolation"<sup>43</sup>



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<sup>43</sup> <https://www.wradio.com.co/noticias/actualidad/a-pesar-del-confinamiento-siguen-matando-a-los-lideres-sociales-en-colombia/20200416/nota/4031240.aspx>

In fact, in the first quarter of 2020, 72 people with social leadership were killed in departments such as Cauca, Putumayo and Antioquia. For INDEPAZ "The pandemic and the means adopted have raised the level of risk, they are at the mercy of their luck and of illegal armed groups, they have been sought home-to-home on the sidewalks and is obvious that security schemes are weakened."<sup>44</sup>

The paramilitaries are responsible for the majority of the attacks against social leadership. However, and following the government's script, Colonel JOSE LUIS BASTIDAS, commander of the national army's XVII Brigade in Urabá, denied its existence in his interview with the Asturian Delegation.<sup>45</sup>

The paramilitary presence is evident in the regions visited and in the victims' reports: there are posts or "points" of paramilitary control over the population and territories of the Lower Atrato and the Urabá Antioqueño, in the urban area of Riosucio-Chocó-<sup>46</sup>, on rivers such as the Bajirá at the Brisas<sup>47</sup> site and at the crossroads of the peace communities' territories of Las Camelias and Nueva Esperanza, also in larger territories that coincide with agroindustrial, port and mining projects.

The coordinated action of the paramilitary groups and the public force has been pointed out by the Colombian bishops of the Pacific region: "We ask the relevant authorities to address the alerts for possible situations of collusion of members of the Public Force with illegal groups, expressed by social and human rights organizations and by the Diocese of Quibdó since previous years."<sup>48</sup>



<sup>44</sup> <https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.wradio.com.co/noticias/actualidad/a-pesar-del-confinamiento-siguen-matando-a-los-lideres-sociales-en-colombia/20200416/nota/4031240.aspx&ct=ga&cd=CAEYBioTNTMwMDkwNjk5NzU3OTc5NjYwMzlaZjZhMDExMGRIY2FhZmM1ODpjb206ZXM6VVM&usg=AFQjCNHuhPltPmb0cRdaf2bHd-9n6mZtsg>

<sup>45</sup> Interview in the XVII National Army's Brigade. Carepa, Antioquia, XVII National Army's Brigade. March 9/20.

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.colombiainforma.info/alerta-por-incursion-paramilitar-en-riosucio-choco/>,

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.resumenlatinoamericano.org/2020/01/09/colombia-operaciones-paramilitares-de-las-agc-en-jiguamiando/>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.lafm.com.co/colombia/obispos-piden-al-gobierno-reanudar-dialogos-con-el-eln>



## 2- Extrajudicial executions and massacres

Extrajudicial executions are crimes against humanity and in Colombia they obey military doctrines that regard social and political opposition as an "internal enemy".

The number of executed people in Colombia can reach 8,000 cases, making it a mass crime against civil society and it is also a systematic practice, as it covers the last 20 years. It is also a state crime because state agents and individual members of paramilitary groups are accomplices.



Only 800 military personnel have been convicted of this violation of human rights, the majority of them soldiers, while a group of senior army officers linked to this crime were promoted by President Ivan Duque on December 10, 2018, including "The Commander of the National Army, Nicacio Martínez Espinel, who during the first government of Alvaro Uribe was second commander of the Tenth Armoured Brigade between 2004 and 2006. He currently has open investigations in the Public Prosecutor's Office for at least 23 extrajudicial executions; among them highlights the case of Nohemí Esther Pacheco Zabata, a 13-year-old indigenous girl, as detailed by the Peace & Reconciliation Foundation (*Pares*). The other generals are Jorge Enrique Navarrete Jadeth, staff chief; Raúl Antonio Rodríguez Arévalo, Head of The Staff Chief for Planning and Policy; Adolfo León Hernández Martínez, commander of the transformation command of the Army of the future; Diego Luis Villegas Muñoz, commander of the Vulcan task force."<sup>49</sup>

### 3-. Population in displacement situation. Anti-personnel mines.

Far from ending, forced displacement of people continues. Colombia remains to be the country in the world with the most internally displaced persons.

Since February 2019, the fighting has been generating forced displacement of people from black communities and indigenous peoples of the Atrato river basin: Carillo, Unión Cuití, Unión Baquiza, Mesopotamia and Pogue and in Bojayá, scene of one of the worst massacres committed in the history of the conflict. There are 7,000 confined people.<sup>50</sup>

Clashes between the NLA and the PLA in Catatumbo area forcibly displaced at least 3,500 people between January and July last year.

Fighting between the paramilitary group AGC and a dissident FARC group caused the forced displacement of more than 2,200 of the northern department of Córdoba between March and April 2019.



Armed conflict continues to generate internal and forced displacement of people. "In the first quarter of 2020, more than 10,000 people were displaced and more than 7,300 people are confined. More than 19,500 people have also been affected by events associated with natural disasters, and more than 100 have been affected by anti-personnel mines and other unconventional explosive devices."<sup>51</sup>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/asesinato-de-aquileito-mecheche-en-riosucio-dejo-a-los-emberas-huerfanos/610101>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/op%C3%A9rations/colombia/infographic/afectaci%C3%B3n-humanitaria-de-enero-febrero-de-2020>



There is mass displacement of indigenous communities of the embera village by paramilitary pressure from groups such as the Gulf Clan and the AGC in the territories of the Lower Atrato.

Preventive isolation measures, mandatory by the COVID-19 crisis, is an additional factor that sets up a multiple impact for vulnerable populations already affected, sharpening needs due to the precarious living conditions they present and facing enormous difficulties in accessing basic goods and services for survival.

Armed claimants are using COVID-19 preventive measures as a mechanism for social control in vulnerable populations, affected by emergencies by displacement and confinement, with impact also on refugees and migrants.





In Colombia until the end of March 2020, there were nearly 1.5 million people from Venezuela who have arrived in the last five years and have been accused – without reason - of causing chaos and crime, leading to outbreaks of xenophobia and expulsions, without a proven relationship between the presence of Venezuelans and the increase in crime.

On 22 November, there was a hoax, according to which Venezuelans hordes were looting shops and residences in Bogota. This spread falsehood on social media aggravated the fear and hatred against Venezuelan population and their exclusion.

"In the capital, on that night of misinformation and fear, it was spread the rumor that there were violent lurking houses and residential ensembles. Neighbors armed themselves with what they had on hand to wait for thieves, who in the vast majority of cases never arrived. That atmosphere of anxiety, however, marked a before and after in the relationship with Venezuelans. As a result of these events that have occurred in Colombia, and specifically in Bogota and Cali with greater intensity, we have felt outbreaks of xenophobia" says Txomin Las Heras, member of the Avila/Monserrate Association.

"Those messages have sparked a sense of distrust against migrants. We are very concerned, because this exacerbates discrimination that has already been especially present in vulnerable communities where there is struggle for resources" says LUCIA RAMIREZ, member of the Dejusticia study centre.<sup>52</sup>



<sup>52</sup> [https://elpais.com/internacional/2019/11/28/colombia/1574950508\\_526097.html](https://elpais.com/internacional/2019/11/28/colombia/1574950508_526097.html)

## Anti-personnel mines

Colombia is in arrears to make humanitarian demining as a signatory state of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stocking, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention).

It is an obligation of the government to decontaminate the country of Anti-Personnel Mines (APM) and Unexploded Ordnance Used Ammunition (UOUA), which has been a problem for the population for decades.

The FARC delivered the coordinates of their minefields for deactivation.

The Jagual community of the indigenous people *embara dobidá* denounced the existence of minefields in their territories. A minefield prevented them from accessing food and priority medical care in March last year. There were children who fell in the minefields, a version that the minister of defense of the time, GUILLERMO BOTERO, questioned. Despite the allegations and graphic evidence sent by indigenous organizations, the Ministry of Defense does not undertake humanitarian demining.



"On 28 January 2020, an anti-personnel mines explosion left deadly people on the sidewalk *Los Negritos*, area of the Ispi River, at Roberto Payán's Union of Cuenca Community Council, on the border with the Chagí Community Council in Tumaco. As communities report, at least there were three people killed (Deiner Castle 24 years old; 23-year-old Eder Landazuri and Ronald Prado, 23, and others wounded (3 or older), of whom the health condition is unknown, who would have been transferred in helicopter by the National Army. These events are very serious and demonstrate the reality of community warnings about mine installation, which could be not only in the area where these victims were killed, but also in the area to which hundreds



of displaced families in Tumaco's urban area returned and were driven to return from local and national authorities."<sup>53</sup>

Peasant communities, indigenous peoples and Afros are being killed and mutilated by falling into minefields. The National Army suspended military demining and does not comply with humanitarian demining, which has confined communities that practice the collecting of food in the jungle and the free transit of peasantry in their regions.



#### **4-. People deprived of liberty. Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment**

The Colombian government did not allow the Asturian Delegation to enter the women's prison of *El Buen Pastor* (The Good Shepherd) that had already been authorized by the criminal directorate.

Colombia's 134 prisons have capacity to accommodate 80,763 people, but there are 121,670 detainees.

Overcrowding exceeds 50% and is on the rise. According to the Report, the Ombudsman's Office<sup>54</sup> is one of the elements that contributes to the violation of all the fundamental rights of persons deprived of liberty: "... It results in serious problems of health, violence, indiscipline, lack in the provision of services (work, education, social assistance, sports, education, conjugal

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.cofb.org.co/noticias-ofb/publicaciones/accion-urgente-002-retorno-sin-garantias-y-nuevas-victimas-ahora-por>

<sup>54</sup>

<file:///C:/Users/USER/Downloads/An%C3%A1lisis%20sobre%20el%20actual%20hacinamiento%20carcelario%20y%20penitenciario%20en%20Colombia.pdf>

visit, medical services, etc.), with a clear violation of the physical and mental integrity of prisoners, their self-esteem and human dignity. Likewise, overcrowding, when it exceeds the critical level, becomes a form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.”<sup>55</sup>

The National Prison Movement warned of the danger of coronavirus outbreaks inside overcrowded prisons. In mid-March/20 there were mutiny of prisoners throughout the country that generated 23 dead and almost 90 people injured in the prison *La Modelo of Bogotá* (The Model of Bogotá). In mid-April 2020, thousands of detainees went on hunger strike for life, due to the first deaths caused by the virus, as they have no facilities, no prevention implements and no hygiene to deal with it.

In response to this situation, International Amnesty stated in an announcement of 23 March/20 that: "In order to reduce prison overcrowding, the authorities should consider granting the release of persons in provisional detention and the early or conditional release of prisoners at risk of contagion, including elderly people and those with underlying medical conditions or with a weak immune system.”<sup>56</sup>

The government issued the 546 Decree of April 2020 authorizing the release of persons by replacing the prison term and pre-trial detention for the temporary home detention that would allow the release of 4,000 persons, a provision that is insufficient according to the National Carcelary Movement.



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<file:///C:/Users/USER/Downloads/An%C3%A1lisis%20sobre%20el%20actual%20hacinamiento%20carcelario%20y%20penitenciario%20en%20Colombia.pdf>

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/es/latest/news/2020/03/colombia-debe-proteger-poblacion-carcelaria-ante-epidemia-covid19/>



## 5-. Women, childhood, youth, victims, LGBTI population

Unpunished attacks on women, childhood, youth, victims and LGBTI people happen frequently. Assaults against these vulnerable social groups are under-registered.

Gender pay gap remained with a 19%. Unemployment is highest among women, 13.1% of whom are unemployed, compared to 8.1% of men, according to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The political exclusion of women and LGBTI people became notorious in the elections of October last year. For OHCHR women and LGBTI people face obstacles to participating in the electoral process. Women accounted for 37.2% of nominations and LGBTI people only 0.06%.

At least 12 women were murdered last year in the Arauca department. "Resources by local administrations are very scarce, more state support and a real policy are needed to provide protection for women and to raise awareness among the community that this is a serious issue, which does not distinguish social stratum and affects a significant number of women in Arauca."<sup>57</sup>

In Arauca there are death threats from paramilitaries against two leaders of the LGBTI community as they "dissent" the right to diversity.

There are allegations by the authorities outraged at acts of sexual violence against women in the communities by public force and the paramilitaries who lead them into prostitution.

Children and youth are also one of the worst parts of Colombia's social situation. Due to their vulnerability, these groups suffer even more acutely from violence, poverty and human rights violations described in this report.

In some rural areas, access to education is hampered by school transport constraints. In addition, the education's under-resource leads to a precarious school that is reflected, for example, in a group of students (under 15 years old) making a road cut in Cauca to demand an English teacher. This concrete, but symptomatic mobilization of the general situation, occurs after demanding a substitute from public institutions for 9 months, without reaching a solution.

An important part of young people also suffers from precariousness in the world of work, charging very low wages that make it hard to support themselves. There is also a limited range of sports and leisure activities accessible to young people.

As stated by representatives of youth groups in Colombia there is a widespread sense of "not being taken into account when making decisions", that youth participation is ignored and not encouraged. Moreover, when young people are organized and expressed, it is often annoying to the public authorities and it suffers a disproportionate repression even if they are peaceful mobilizations. The ultimate expression of this can be seen in DILAN CRUZ's murder.

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<sup>57</sup> <https://lavozdelcinaruco.com/24431-12-femicidios-en-lo-que-va-del-a%C3%B1o-en-el-departamento-de-arauca#.Xp3WPMgzayl>

The important absences of the Colombian State in the social protection of the most vulnerable groups, attached to its excessive presence through the suppression of social protest, is forming a serious distrust of public institutions in very important sectors of these groups.



## 6-. Impunity

Colombia still does not overcome structural impunity, and this lack in the rule of law encourages more violence that has the inoperability of a judicial system that only shows haste to pursue those who make social and political opposition.

The Special Jurisdiction for Peace, SJP, has achieved in two years 12,168 people submitted to its jurisdiction, of which 9,713 are members of the former FARC, 2,375 of the Public Force, 68 state agents and 12 by social protest.<sup>58</sup>

It is a progress that the SJP in the search for truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition, has opened seven macro cases that begin to be investigated: case 01, kidnapping by the FARC; case 02, on the territorial situation of Ricaurte, Tumaco and Barbacoas; case 03, on extrajudicial executions or 'false positives'; case 04, on the territorial situation of Urabá; case

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.elpais.com.co/proceso-de-paz/los-casos-abiertos-y-las-daecisiones-tomadas-por-la-jep-en-casi-dos-anos-de-funcionamiento.html>



05, in the north of Cauca and the south of the Cauca Valley; case 06, on patriotic Union victimizations; case 07, on the recruitment and use of children in the context of armed conflict.

One of the factors that serves as an incentive for attacks on social leadership is the ineffectiveness of justice in these cases. For OHCHR there are "... some progress in 55% of cases between 2016 and 2019. However, challenges remained for the judicialization of the intellectual perpetrators of the attacks against human rights defenders."<sup>59</sup>

According to the We Are Defenders in Assaults Program - in addition to impunity - there is under-registration of murders, threats, attacks, theft of sensitive information and disappearances.

We Are Defenders estimates that of 900 assaults in 2019 there was a 60% under-registration. They would be assaults mostly attributable to paramilitaries, by acting patterns, clues and traces. The murders against social leadership would exceed a thousand in the post-Agreement. For every day of Ivan Duque's rule there are two political murders.

Impunity and stigmatization are the basis for "justified" attacks on pamphlets that warn and shape crimes, mounted with a "aesthetic" of paramilitary violence that includes ways to show shattered bodies to increase the impact on organizations and communities. By means of pamphlets they warn and mark the crime mode.



<sup>59</sup> <https://www.hchr.org.co/documentoseinformes/informes/altocomisionado/informe-anual-2019-ES.pdf>

## 7-. Indigenous peoples

Indigenous peoples continue to be attacked across the country. "The deadly pandemic in our territories remains to be the violence caused by armed groups," says the ONIC.

For the ONIC, Colombia is a narco-abducted state whose strategy is to degrade indigenous peoples' protection, despite vulnerability's increase.

There are cases such as governor of Tacueyó's murder, who had a security scheme that was attacked by three vans that passed through 3 municipalities with armed men, dressed in black uniforms and ahead of public force. After the machine-gunning, they burned and threw the van down a precipice.

On 10 March last year there was a collective threat against ONIC-CRIC. On 8 March there were three deaths in the Chocó caused by anti-personnel mines, including two children in Dabeiba/Antioquia.

In some regions, attacks are serious as being systematic, as in the Cauca department on which UN rapporteurs point out that "These are not isolated events. The indigenous communities and peoples of Cauca are suffering relentless and unacceptable violence. The situation is getting worse despite repeated calls to deal with it. We urge the Government to take urgent action, in the framework of compliance with the Peace Accords, to put an end to these deadly attacks... the President and the Government must also take appropriate measures to put an end to the unsustainable situation of fundamental human rights violations suffered by the Nasa people".

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<sup>60</sup> <https://news.un.org/es/story/2019/10/1464691>



Armed conflict seriously affects children: "It must be clear to all that women do not give birth to children for war! That is why today it pains and we strongly reject the fact of armed confrontation presented on April 15, 2020, between FARC dissents and Colombian army troops in the vicinity of The Damián sidewalks, *Rio negro* (Black river), Buenavista and the Laguna shelter of Tacueyo in the Municipality of Toribio Cauca, where YILBER ANDRES YATACUE MENDEZ of only 14 years old who was in the corridor of the house was seriously injured accompanied by his mother. The minor was affected by two impacts of firearm, one in the hand and one that he received on the forehead. He was subsequently taken to the ESE CXAYUCE JXUT where he received attention. However, due to the complexity of his injuries he had to be remitted to another level. Unfortunately he died arriving at the Francisco de Paula hospital in Santander de Quilichao. There, despite the resuscitation procedure performed by the medical team, it was impossible to keep him alive. He died at approximately 4:20 p.m. of that day."<sup>61</sup>

Violence against indigenous peoples aims to destroy autonomous organizational processes through intimidation and systematic extermination, in order to impose another cycle of territorial dispossessing on them for the benefit of political and economic interests outside communities.



<sup>61</sup> <https://www.cric-colombia.org/portal/la-pandemia-mortal-en-nuestros-territorios-sigue-siendo-la-violencia-ocasionada-por-grupos-armados/>

One of the defining interests of the current violence against indigenous peoples is the proliferation of crops for illicit use such as marijuana, poppy and coca for purposes other than traditional ones.

"This drug trafficking problem and illegal crops could have been solved a long time ago if the State was interested in ending it from the root, but they have made a commitment to the agreements made to farming families, creating total skepticism about crop substitution and the transition to sustainable economies. So the government promises, but then fails unashamedly and promotes forced eradication and glyphosate, put some families in jail and in the end the problem remains unresolved from the root."<sup>62</sup>

For the ONIC Observatory on Human Rights, violence against indigenous people and social movement has grown in Duque's government: while in the governments of Juan Manuel Santos there were 22 thousand affectations in 8 years, with Duque there have been 26,716 affectations in two years, 14 thousand confined people, threats went from 194 with Santos to 555 with Duque, the murder of 162 indigenous people, 82 attacks and 43 collective threats.



## 8-. Enterprises and Human Rights.

In Arauca there are complaints and mobilizations against ECOPETROL, CENIT-ISMOCOL and OXY, oil industry companies, for violating labor and environmental norms. Workers of these

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.cric-colombia.org/portal/audiencia-publica-por-la-vulneracion-de-los-derechos-humanos-se-realizo-en-toribio/>



companies and inhabitants of their operation areas in the communities of Banadía, Arauquita and the municipality of Saravena, demand better wages for workers, compliance with the collective labour convention and social investment in the region.

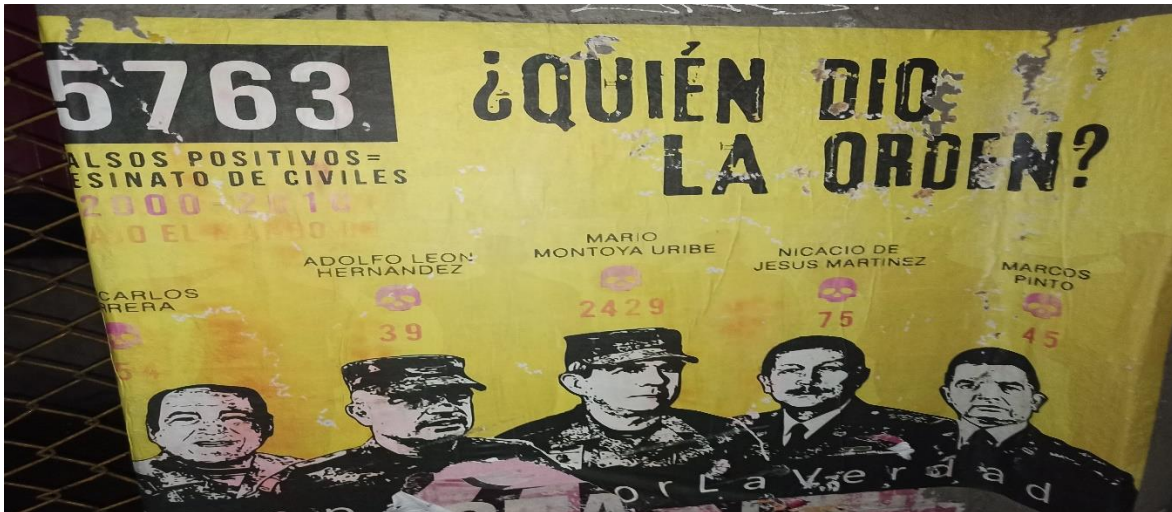
A group of eight Casanare social leaders were arrested on November 27, 2108 indicted by the oil company Frontera Energy –Pacific Rubiales– of being "the riders with a mask", so the prosecution imputed them to commit violence against public servants, obstruction of public roads and attempted murder following the mobilizations of the last two years in which they reported the failure of the oil company's labor obligations to its workers, the non-payment of debts for services provided by individuals and the repair of environmental damage caused by their activity affecting the communities of the municipalities of San Luis of Palenque and Trinidad.

The arrest of leaders such as FERNEY SALCEDO, YULIVEL LEAL and MARIA TERESA RINCON, is one more indication of the consequences of the relationship with money between oil companies such as Frontera Energy, ECOPETROL, the XVI Brigade of the Army and the Support Structure of the Public Prosecutor's Office (SSPP) to criminalize social protest. See about it in: <http://rutasdelconflicto.com/convenios-fuerza-justicia/node/370>

"On November 16, 2018, eleven days before the arrest of the eight persons, Frontera Energy signed Convention No. 18-014 with the Ministry of National Defense, in which the National Army commits to provide special protection to the areas of interest of the company in exchange for contributions that Frontera Energy makes in the amount of \$2,152,974,695 over a period of 13 months. Just three days later, he signed a new agreement, No. 18-017 with the Ministry of National Defense, for the same purposes, this time for an amount of \$2.340 million pesos within one month and twelve days, that is, until December 31, 2018." ... "In this way and by the interference of the private company, the lack of bias and autonomy of the Colombian state, the right to protest has been criminalized and today it keeps private from freedom: Ferney Salcedo Gutiérrez, Yulivel Leal Oros, Jesús Leal Salcedo, Miguel Angel Rincón Santiesteban, Carmen Iraida Salcedo Gutiérrez, Josué Eliecer Rincón Duarte, María Teresa Rincón Duarte and Jerónimo Salcedo Betancourt , leaders of a community that has been demanding their rights to participation, work, meeting and mobilization. A legitimate exercise of the communities of San Luis of Palenque – Casanare, which began in 2012 and which in the face of non-compliances by the State and the oil company Frontera Energy and in the last three years the communities have had to opt for peaceful protest for breaches of the agreed agreements and the impacts that oil exploitation generates in the territories."<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> <https://kaosenlared.net/colombia-caso-san-luis-de-palenque-fiscalia-fuerza-publica-y-empresas-una-alianza-criminal/>



## 9- Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights

Inequity and inequality, aggravated by the neoliberal economic model focused on extractivism and agribusiness, imposed with violence and without consultation, together with the confinement by the virus in a country where most of the work is informal and develops on the streets, are leaving large segments of the population without economic and social rights and are the reason of various types of violence.

Poverty in Colombia - according to official figures - declined between 2002 and 2015 from 49.7% to 27.8%, a positive trend that is being counteracted by the growth of absolute poverty (thirteen million people), the urban/rural gap, the difference between cities, the slowing rate of falling incidence and the persistence of inequality.<sup>64</sup>

Poverty has ethnic and gender components, being women, indigenous peoples and black communities the most affected groups.



<sup>64</sup> file:///C:/Users/USER/Desktop/informe\_alterno\_completo\_colombia\_desca.pdf



Large-scale mining impoverishes. Mining departments recorded deaths of children and the elderly from physical hunger, lack of drinking water or water contaminated with heavy metals, and lack of medical care.

Chocó Department, the country's second-largest gold producer, supports the country's highest rate of poverty and extreme poverty, with rates of 62.8% and 37.1% respectively.<sup>65</sup>

The second poorest department in the country is La Guajira, which extracts 48% of Colombian coal and has a poverty of 53.3%. Some of that coal arrives imported into Asturias through the port of El Musel in Gijón.

The population in mining departments has 76% of their basic needs unsatisfied, well above the national average of 54%.



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<sup>65</sup> [file:///C:/Users/USER/Desktop/informe alterno completo colombia desca.pdf](file:///C:/Users/USER/Desktop/informe%20alterno%20completo%20colombia%20desca.pdf)

## **Conclusions and recommendations**

Colombia remains in internal armed conflict and is suffering serious human rights setbacks with high responsibility for action or omission of the public force.

Much of the most serious human rights violations are responsibility of paramilitary groups in cohabitation with the public force and occur in territories formerly controlled by the FARC and on which there are international capital investment projects and drug trafficking routes.

Mining, agribusiness and drug trafficking, with their violent and corrupting power, control institutions and regions of the territory which are governed for those interests and where security for the population is denied.

Ivan DUQUE's government violates the Peace Agreements signed with the FARC and refuses to dialogue with the NLA.

Social demand for dialogue peace is being blocked by the internal political interests of the Colombian elites and by the geostrategic interest of the U.S. government, who is interested in using the Colombian war to intervene militarily in Venezuela.

Social leadership's murder, by the number of victims and impunity, has systematic and unpunished persecution character and shows the failure of the protection policy.

Structural impunity remains to be the victim of serious and massive human rights violations, especially in sectors that are very vulnerable: indigenous peoples, black communities, social leadership, women, childhood, youth, victims, LGBTI populations.

Social mobilizations have no negotiated solution, the government gives them military treatment invariably, along with abusive, disproportionate use of force and abuse of justice to pursue opponents.

Public force image is impaired by its abuses of the civilian population and by the relationship of some of its agents to illegal acts and criminal structures throughout the country.

Drug trafficking policies are focused on the persecution of producing farmers, many of whom manually eradicated coca crops without being protected by the government from mafia retaliation and without being met by social investment projects to replace them.

Historical poverty and exclusion are aggravated by the neoliberal economic model, extractivism and the confinement of the population who lives from street search and precarious work.

Multinational companies, especially those engaged in the extraction of oil, gold, emeralds, coal, platinum, timber, and large-scale agribusiness companies are beneficiaries of terror and in some cases they are paramilitary structures' financiers.

Colombian social organizations expect a more active role on the part of Spain in seeking peace with the NLA in Colombia and of the European Union in complying with the agreements signed with the FARC.

The Asturian Programme for the Care of Victims of Violence in Colombia is now more necessary than before, taking into account the worsening and setbacks of the human rights situation.





## Recommendations

### To the Colombian government

- Comply with the state agreements they signed with the FARC, dialogue peace with the NLA.
- Effectively combat poverty, exclusion, impunity.
- Effectively protect social leadership at risk.
- Dismantle paramilitary groups and prosecute their sponsors and beneficiaries.

### To the Spanish government:

- Include Colombia within the priority countries for international cooperation.
- Investigate and sanction Spanish companies benefiting from paramilitary terror in Colombia.
- Influence the implementation of the Peace Agreements with the FARC, the opening of dialogues on possible peace with the ELN, and the fight against paramilitarism.
- **To the Asturian government:**
- Reactivate immediately and strengthen the Asturian Programme for the Care of Victims of Violence in Colombia; participation of the Asturian Delegations of Human Rights in Colombia.

### To the European Union:

- Audit the resources that it allocates to the implementation of the Peace Agreement with the FARC.
- Influence to dialogue with the ELN for the sake of peace.
- Suspend bananas and coal imports from Colombia, as they are being used for drug trafficking and due to their social and environmental consequences.



### Interviewed organizations and institutions

ACADER

ACAAMI Asociación Campesina Agroambiental y Minera

AEMPA Agro-Environmental and Mining Peasant Association

ACIN, Tejido en Defensa de la Vida y de los Derechos Humanos

ACIN, Fabric in Defense of Life and Human Rights



Afrorenacer

ASCAD

Asociación campesina José Antonio Galán ASONALCA

José Antonio Galán Peasant Association PANALCA

Asociación Tierra y Paz - Earth and Peace Association

Asociación de Víctimas de Arauca – Arauca’s Victims Association

ASOJER-asociación estudiantil juvenil regional Arauca –

Regional student association Arauca RSAA

Asojuntas

Fundación Comité Regional de Derechos Humanos *Joel Sierra*

Joel Sierra Regional Human Rights Committee Foundation

Autoridades indígenas de Caldono, Morales, Toribío,

Barrio Doña Isabela

Indigenous authorities of Caldono, Morales, Toribío, Barrio Doña Isabela



CAJAR

CAMIZBA

Campaña Defender la Libertad – Defend Freedom Campaign

CDPH

Central Unitaria de Trabajadores CUT – Unitary Worker’s Central UWC

CIMA

CocoCauca

Comunidad de Blanquicet, Turbo – Blanquicet’s Community

Comunidad Tulupa, Turbo – Tulupa, Turbo’s Community

Congreso de los Pueblos – People’s Congress

Consejera Departamental de Paz-Alcaldía Arauca - Departmental Councillor of Peace-Alcaldía Arauca

Coronel JC Restrepo, jefe policía Casanare – Colonel JC Restrepo, Casanare’s police chief

Coronel Bastidas jefe militar Brigada XVII – Colonel Bastidas, Brigade XVII militar chief

Coordinación Colombia Europa EEUU – Colombia, Europe, EEUU’s Coordination

Corregimiento La Florida, Riosucio – La Florida, Riosucio’s Village



COSPACC



CPDH Arauca

CRIC

CUT

Defensoría del Pueblo Casanare – Casanare’s Peoples Defensory

Embajada de España en Colombia – Spanish Embassy in Colombia

Emisora Comunitaria – Community Broadcaster

Equipo Abogadas/os caso San Luis Palenque – Team Lawyers of San Luis Palenque’s case

Equipo Semanario Voz - Vocal Weekly Team Voice

ETCR La Floresta, Urabá

FCSP

FECODE, Federación Colombiana de Educadores – CFE, Colombian Federation of Educators

Federación de Juntas de Acción Comunal, JAC – Communal Action Boards Federation, CABF



Fundación Juventudes Arauca – Arauca Youth Federation

Guardia Indígena del Cauca – Cauca Indigenous Guard

Instancia especial de género-Acuerdos de Paz – Special Gender-Peace Accords

Instituto Popular de Cultura, IPC – Popular Institute of Culture, PIC

Madres de Familia Sta Teresita – Sta Teresita Family Mothers

Magisterio Arauca – Arauca Magisterium

Mesa Cívica – Civic Table

Mi Futuro con Vivienda – My Future with Housing

Movimiento Sociopolítico, Social y Popular Centro-Oriente – Sociopolitical, Social and People's Movement Central-Eastern

Mujeres Unidas por Casanare – United Women by Casanare

ONIC

ONU

ORDEURCA Organización para el Desarrollo Urbano y Campesino – OUPD

Organization for Urban and Peasant Development

Proceso social Casanare – Social Process Casanare

Red de Comunicaciones del Norte del Cauca – Communication Network of North of the Cauca





Red Emisoras Comunitarias – Community Broadcasting Network

Red por la *Vida* y los Derechos Humanos del *Cauca* – Network for Life and Human Rights of Cauca

Representante de la Alcaldía y Gobernación de Arauca – Representative of Arauca’s Mayor and Governorate

Representante población discapacitada – Disabled Population’s Representative

Resguardo Honduras – Honduras Protection

Resguardo indígena de Jambaló – Jambaló Indigenous Protection

Resguardo La Aguada, San Antonio- La Aguada, San Antonio Protection

Resguardo la Legua, Siberia – La Legua, Siberia Protection

Resguardo Pueblo Nuevo – Pueblo Nuevo Protection

Resguardo San Lorenzo, Caldono – San Lorenzo, Caldono Protection

Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres – Women’s Pacific Route

Saravena Diversa (LGTBI) – Diverse Saravena (LGTBI)

Sindeagro

Sindicato de la Construcción – Construction’s Union

Somos Defensores – We Are Defenders

Tejido en Defensa de la Vida y del Territorio ACIN – Fabric in Defense of Life and Territory FDLT

Trochando Fronteras – Breaking Borders



USO

USO Arauca

USO Casanare

Zona Joven – Young Area

Zonas Humanitarias de Caracolí, Nueva Esperanza, Las Camelias – Caracolí, Nueva Esperanza, Las Camelias Humanitarian Zones



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