



ORGANIZACION NACIONAL INDIGENA DE COLOMBIA
ONIC
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PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

Greetings from the Indigenous Peoples and Organisations of Colombia.

As is already public knowledge, since May 30, 2016, indigenous organisations who are members of the ONIC decided to participate in the “Minga” – *the National Agrarian, Peasant, Ethnic and Grassroots Mobilisation - for Good Living, A Structural Agrarian Reform and Dignified Cities – Sowing Hope, Harvesting our Country!*

Specifically, Indigenous Peoples have mobilised in the Minga to demand governmental compliance with more than 1,200 agreements written in records, laws, plans, programs and projects, which have not been implemented at all to date. For example, only 2.94% of the agreements made on public policy have been fulfilled.

We denounce that from May 30, 2016, when the Minga began in different parts of the country, the following human rights violations have occurred:

- One (1) Embera Chami indigenous man, aged 26, father of four children, was killed by the actions of riot police in the department of Valle del Cauca.
- Sixty-five (65) people were injured including children, women and elderly people: Zenú (13), Embera Chami (2), Nasa in the town of Caldono - Cauca (10), Nasa, Yanaconas and Misak in the municipality of Hobo - Huila (35), Embera, municipality of Tado, Via Quibdo-Pereira (4). One person suffered the loss of a finger.
- It was also reported that an Embera child was hit by an ESMAD riot police vehicle which was attempting to evict the protesters.
- Two (2) indigenous Embera Chami were prosecuted in the department of Caldas, including a woman who was physically assaulted by the police while they were illegally detaining her.
- At the time of this communication one (1) person from the Embera people is reported missing (at 1:00 pm on June 1, 2016).
- There have been constant flights over the areas where our indigenous brothers and sisters that are located. These are accompanied by the mass distribution of leaflets inviting our indigenous brothers and sisters to demobilise, which obviously stigmatises and victimises the Indigenous Minga, putting us in a situation of risk and threat.
- These violations are further worsened by indiscriminate attacks by government forces in the 38 points where the Indigenous Peoples are protesting, especially attacking women, children and the elderly.
- This morning the ESMAD riot police violently broke into the houses surrounding the area where the Zenú People are concentrated, on the road known as the Troncal del Caribe; attacking the inhabitants with asphyxiating gases, following



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which a pregnant woman and two children suffered health problems because of the gases.

The indigenous peoples and organisations of the ONIC believe that a government that is currently in a peace process with the FARC and approaching one with the ELN should not and cannot use strategies of war against indigenous peoples involved in the Minga, who are collective subjects of special protection and actors for peace.

Indigenous Peoples and their organisations are tired of so many breaches. The government itself recognises that within the framework of the Agricultural Summit (*Cumbre Agraria*) “*we have held dialogues for more than 1000 hours.*” However, these agreements are not met; they are only words on paper with no commitment.

Moreover, our territorial, collective and individual rights are being violated, bringing our peoples to physical and cultural extermination.

In this context, the Colombian government cannot continue exterminating one of the most vulnerable sectors of population. The country and the world cannot forget that Colombia’s indigenous population is made up of approximately one million five hundred thousand people, and that some peoples are made up of fewer than 50 inhabitants; who resist on the roadsides and refuse to live by begging outside of their territories.

We warn that this could become a collective suicide!

We therefore require:

1. Guarantees for the mobilisation, urging the Colombian government to cease attacks and indiscriminate repression against indigenous communities in the Minga.
2. The release of indigenous brothers and sisters being held under arrest in the department of Caldas
3. An urgent end to the campaign of stigmatisation by the National Government, headed by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, who said that the mobilisation is infiltrated by the ELN.
4. Compliance with the agreements made with indigenous peoples
5. We request that you urge the Colombian government, headed by the President of the Republic, to show its political will to establish dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and the Agricultural Summit (*Cumbre Agraria*), in order to comply with the agreements and demands of Indigenous Peoples and so guarantee our rights.

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