

PUBLIC COMMUNIQUÉ

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS WARN ABOUT THE NEW WAVE OF KILLINGS AND ATTACKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS POST THE DECLARATION OF A BILATERAL AND DEFINITIVE CEASE FIRE



The International Civil Society Organisations that endorse this statement express with deep concern the persistence and escalation of killings, threats and serious attacks against human rights defenders and community leaders in various parts of the country after the declaration of a bilateral ceasefire in the framework of the Final Agreement, comprehensive and definitive, between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP announced on August 27, 2016.

During the past month, we have been made aware of the following facts:

1. KILLINGS (22)¹

Nariño Department (4 people): Tumaco: Roberto Taicus Bisbicus (26 August), Luciano Pascal García (29 August), Alberto Pascal García (29 August), **Barbacoas:** Diego Alfredo Chirán Nastacuas (26 August).

Cauca Department (8 people): Corinto: Cecilia Coicué (29 August) **Almaguer:** Nereo Meneses Guzmán (29 August), Ariel Sotelo (29 August), Joel Meneses (29 August) **Sucre:** Martha Pipicano (1 September), Libio Antonio Álvarez (1 September) Simón Álvarez Soscué (5 September) Salvador Acosta (5 September).

Caquetá Department (3 people): San Vicente del Caguán: Jhon Fredy Medina Perdomo (7 September), Pablo Romero (16 September), José Aldrual Macías Lavao (16 September).

Antioquia Department (2 people): Barbosa: María Fabiola Jiménez de Cifuentes (8 September) **Medellín:** William García Cartagena (16 September).

Bolívar Department (1 person): Municipality of San Pablo: Álvaro Rincón Galán (11 September).

¹ Information collected by the Espacio de Cooperación para la Paz (*Cooperation Space for Peace*) from several statements received by the Social Organisations

Cesar Department (1 person): rural area of La Sierrita: Néstor Iván Martínez (11 September).

Córdoba Department (1 person): township of Acadillo: Armando Bedolla Fabra (10 September).

Tolima Department (1 person): Municipality of Coyaima: Ramiro Culma Capera (17 September).

Arauca Department (1 person): Anderson Antonio Martínez Arrieta (25 August).

2. THREATS (13) to the Comisión de Interlocución del Sur de Bolívar² (25 August), Judith Maldonado³, Leonard Martin Rentería Valecilla⁴, Noralba Daza Alarcón, Antonio Santofimio, Carlos Arturo Salazar, Javier Guependo, Cristian Obdulio Trujillo and Diafanol Borrero⁵, motorcycle taxi drivers in the town of Arauquita (25 August) and against a person demobilised from an illegal armed group, only 19 years of age (26 August)⁶, the leader and member of MOVICE (*Movement of Victims of State-Sponsored Crimes*) Bogotá, Blanca Nubia Díaz (sept.2)⁷, and on 19 September a pamphlet was circulated in the subregion of Magdalena Medio threatening gremios, political parties, transporters, miners, amongst others⁸.

3. FORCED DISPLACEMENT (1) 18 families from the Municipality of Puerto Gaitán, plots of land in El Porvenir, Meta Department (27 August)⁹.

4. HUMANITARIAN CRISIS (1): Municipality of El Bagre, Antioquia:massacres, killings, mutilations, threats and forced displacement have been executed both in rural and urban areas allegedly perpetrated by the paramilitary organisation “The GulfClan”

² Communiqué, Solidarity Committee of the Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Colombia (*Central Union of Workers*) Valle, which was received via an email on 26 August, 2016 cosocutvalle@gmail.com

³ Communiqué, Corporación Construyendo Poder, Democracia y Paz PODERPAZ (*Building Power, Democracy and Peace Corporation*) on 26 August, 2016

⁴ <https://afrocolombian.org/2016/09/09/la-acsn-condena-amenazas-de-muerte-racista-contra-defensor-de-la-paz-afrocolombiano/>

⁵ Early warning from the Corporación por la defensa de los derechos humanos Caguán Vive (*Corporation for the defence of human rights Caguán Vive*)

⁶ <http://comitepermanente.org/index.php/regiones/centro-y-santanderes/1096-alerta-temprana-cpdh-arauca-a-defensoria-ante-asesinatos-y-amenazas>

⁷ <http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/Amenazan-con-arma-blanca-a-defensora-de-DDHH-Blanca-Nubia-Diaz>

⁸ <http://www.lafm.com.co/orden-p%C3%BAblico/noticias/panfleto-amenazante-los-que-ap-215094>

⁹ Communiqué Corporación Claretiana Norman Pérez Bello www.corporacionclaretiana.org

denounced by the Asociación de Hermandades Agroecológicas y Mineras de Guamocó, Aheramigua, (*Association of Agroecological and Mining Brotherhoods of Guamocó*).¹⁰

Moving towards a sustainable and lasting peace involves opening scenarios, where conflict transformation is possible through the adoption of institutional and structural reforms based on the respect and guarantee of human rights.

In this regard, we urge the competent Colombian authorities to:

1. Promptly investigate these facts, identify the masterminds and perpetrators, and punish them.
2. Within the framework of the National Commission for Security Assurances and the Research and Dismantlement of Criminal Organisations Unit provided by the Agreement, establish and implement measures aimed at the effective and sustainable dismantling of paramilitary groups and criminal gangs throughout the entire country, as well as the economic and political structures that support them.
3. Create a High Level Commission for guarantees of non-repetition, which serves to review state security policies and ensure the implementation of institutional reforms, particularly in the Armed Forces and the National Police.

We invite the international community with permanent delegation in Colombia and international bodies responsible for ensuring that human rights are fulfilled, to follow up on these serious events, express themselves publicly in the framework of their mandates, and to maintain their advocacy work and monitoring of the human rights situation in Colombia post the signing of the Final Agreement, comprehensive and definitive, between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP.

We wish to express our solidarity with the families and victims organisations in regard to these events. We reiterate our commitment to ensure that human rights are respected and protected as this is an essential requirement to make progress in the building of a sustainable and lasting peace.

ESPACIO DE COOPERACIÓN PARA LA PAZ

Bogotá, 22 September, 2016

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¹⁰ See communiqué 014 of 2016 Aheramigua