

# Basta ya! Enough is enough!

## Colombia and Cauca suffer and need solidarity!



...  
*For those who soaked the homeland in blood... I ask for punishment.  
For the executioner who ordered this death... I ask for punishment.  
For the traitor who rose above the crime... I ask for punishment.*

...  
*For those who defended this crime... I call for punishment*

...  
*I want to see them tried here in this square in this place. I want punishment.*

**Pablo Neruda**

### TO BE A SOCIAL LEADER IS NOT A CRIME

We, the undersigned citizens of the world, international and solidarity organisations, in the face of the grave humanitarian situation in Colombia request that the Colombian government guarantees the lives of social leaders, as well as the rights to free expression and organisation based on international pacts and agreements. [Every 41 hours a social leader is assassinated in Colombia!](#)

We denounce the worsening of the armed, social and economic conflict throughout the length and breadth of the country. These conflicts cruelly affect the population and especially social leaders. [Since the government signed of Peace Accords with the FARC in 2016, nearly 1,000 social leaders and human rights defenders have been killed](#)<sup>ii</sup>, as well as 263 former guerrillas who signed the agreement. [The UN reports 255 social leaders killed and 66 massacres in 2020](#)<sup>iii</sup>. So far in 2021, 39 social leaders have been assassinated and 23 massacres have been registered.

**Enough is enough!** In this tragedy, the most affected region is the department of Cauca, an area the size of Belgium with 1,300,000 inhabitants, comprising mainly peasant, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. In the first three months of this year 7 social leaders have been assassinated and 3 massacres have taken place in the department. This is despite the increased presence of the armed forces (more than 8,000 troops), making Cauca the most militarised department in Colombia. Last week a car bomb exploded in front of the mayor's office in Corinto, leaving dozens wounded. According to Indepaz, **between 2015 and 2020 in the department of Cauca 267 social leaders were killed.**

**Enough is enough!** The deepening violence that plagues Colombia today is caused by the criminal policy of the government of Iván Duque. Duque has insisted on imposing war, denying a political solution to the conflict. He has ignored advances and proposals from the communities; and at the same time he has allowed narco-paramilitary gangs to become a generalised and strong presence in our territories. Despite the militarisation the narco-paramilitary gangs mobilise, threaten and assassinate with total impunity.

**Enough is enough!** We demand that the Colombian government do what is necessary to put an end to the acts of stigmatisation, persecution and criminalisation of social leaders and their organisations. We demand those responsible for the assassinations are punished. We demand an end to the arbitrary detentions of social leaders, who are acting to construct a just and peaceful country.

**Enough is enough!** We ask the governments of the world and international institutions and organisations [to initiate urgent actions of solidarity with Colombian social organisations and with the victims in Cauca](#), in order to stop the armed, social and economic conflict and to ensure that the Colombian government takes the necessary measures to stop this genocide which is causing dispossession, displacement of inhabitants, environmental damage and narcotisation of our territories and the economy.

We therefore urge the citizens of the world to intercede with their authorities so that the Free Trade Agreements in force with Colombia are temporarily suspended in virtue of the conditional clause of respect for human rights and in attention to the precautionary principle on the empowerment of the mafia and money laundering.

**Public statement addressed to the Presidency of Colombia, the Ombudsman's Office and the Attorney General's Office**, with copies to the European Parliament's Human Rights Committee, the UN Human Rights Committee, European political parties, trade unions, European solidarity organisations and the media.

#### Signed by:

ATTAC - France, Ligue des Droits de l'homme - France, Le Mouvement de la Paix - France, France Amérique Latine - Gentilly, Culture Milonga - Paris, Casa por la paz en Colombia - Paris, Hernando Calvo Ospina - escritor, Colombia/Francia, Association Reencuentro Marimba y Bomba - Paris, France Amérique Latine - Poitiers, TIO Francia, Periódico virtual La pluma - Paris, Théâtre d'Or - Francia, Ciudadanías por la paz de Colombia - Paris, Colombia vida paz y dignidad - Lyon...  
Comité de Solidaridad con América Latina COSAL - Asturias, Internacionalista Corriente Sindical de Asturias CSI, Pueblo y Dignidad de Asturias, Asociación Astur Cubana Bartolomé de las casas SUATEA Sindicato Unitario y Autónomo de Trabajadores de la Enseñanza de Asturias, AESCO País Vasco, Fundación Mundubat ...  
Asociación Internacional de Derechos Humanos y Desarrollo Social AIDHDES - Ginebra, Ceiba vieja - Ginebra, Colectivo Europeo de la Diversidad Ecuatoriana - Ginebra...  
Comité Carlos Fonseca de Roma, la Confederación Nacional de los Comités de Bases COBAS - Italia, el Centro Social Ocupado y Autogestionado "Ex Snia" - Roma  
Collectif Saya Bruxelles...  
Kolumbienkampagne Berlin...

<sup>i</sup> [https://caracol.com.co/radio/2021/01/26/judicial/1611683689\\_058206.html](https://caracol.com.co/radio/2021/01/26/judicial/1611683689_058206.html)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/es/mundo/indepaz-en-colombia-971-1%C3%ADderes-han-sido-asesinados-desde-la-firma-del-acuerdo-de-paz/1924456>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1080082>