

<p>Excmo. Sr. Presidente Iván Duque Márquez President of the Republic of Colombia contacto@presidencia.gov.co</p>	<p>Sr. Fiscal General Francisco Barbosa Delgado Attorney General of Colombia despacho.fiscal@fiscalia.gov.co</p>
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March 12, 2021

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned about a threat to indigenous leader **Ricardo Gonzáles Chirimia** in Cabildo Wounan Phobur, in the Córdoba district of Buenaventura in Valle de Cauca Department. He is a director of the Association of Communities Building Peace in Colombia (CONPAZCOL) and belongs to the Association of Indigenous Cabildos del Valle del Cauca-Pacific Region (ACIVA-RP).

At approximately 7pm on February 26, a person called Ricardo González Chirimia on his mobile phone asking, "Are you Ricardo?" When he answered in the affirmative, a second voice told him, "Tomorrow at 3:30am you should go to the main road, since we have been looking for you for a long time, and you must leave."


In 2003 paramilitaries forcibly displaced Ricardo Gonzáles Chirimia and his community from Bajo Calima village. In order to preserve their cultural identity, he and many of his indigenous community members temporarily settled in a small area designated by the Community Council del Bajo Calima. Since then they have been waiting for the national government's Territory Renewal Agency (ART) to designate another site for definitive relocation.

It is worth noting that Ricardo Gonzáles Chirimia received the threatening phone call after having participated in the seventh anniversary commemoration of the *Marcha para Enterrar la Violencia* (March to Bury the Violence) in Buenaventura. He was accompanied by representatives of international organizations and foreign embassies as they toured the area.

We **strongly urge** that

- authorities investigate the threat received by Ricardo Gonzáles Chirimia, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice
- the National Protection Unit activate preventative protection measures, in consultation with Ricardo Gonzáles Chirimia, and according to his wishes
- the Territory Renewal Agency (ART) guarantee the definitive relocation of the Wounan Phobur indigenous community as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordínators


Christine Stonebraker-Martínez

copies: Sr. Alfonso Campo Martínez , Director de la Unidad Nacional de Protección (UNP) ~ via email
Juan Carlos Zambrano Arciniegas, Director General de Agencia de Renovación del Territorio (ART) ~ via email
Francisco Santos Calderón, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via email, US mail
IACHR: Antonia Urrejola Noguera, Rapporteur for Colombia; Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Person, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
UN: Juliette De Rivero, Representative in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ~ via email
CONPAZCOL ~ via email
SOA Watch ~ via email
US Embassy: Kristen Farrell (human rights) and Mariel Chatman (vulnerable populations) ~ via email
US State Department: Christine Russell, Desk Officer for Colombia ~ via email
US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
US Representatives Beatty, Fudge, Gibbs, Gonzalez, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Ryan ~ via email

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The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: