

<b>Excmo. Sr. Presidente Iván Duque Márquez</b> President of the Republic of Colombia <a href="mailto:contacto@presidencia.gov.co">contacto@presidencia.gov.co</a>	<b>Sr. Fiscal Francisco Barbosa Delgado</b> Attorney General of Colombia <a href="mailto:despacho.fiscal@fiscalia.gov.co">despacho.fiscal@fiscalia.gov.co</a>
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October 25, 2021

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply distressed about the continued trend of assassinations of social leaders across Colombia.

Sep 10, Meta Department

**Marco Tulio Gutiérrez Mendoza**, a 62-year-old campesino and secretary of the Community Action Board of Albania village, was killed by armed men in Lusitania village, municipality of Lejanías. The Institute for Development and Peace Studies (INDEPAZ) had denounced the presence of several armed groups in the region, including the AGC paramilitaries (Self-Defense Forces Gaitanistas).

Sep 20, Chocó Department

**Dilio Bailarín**, an indigenous Embera community leader, was shot to death near the Alto Guayabal Reservation. He and five other leaders were being threatened by AGC paramilitaries, which operate in the Bajo Atrato River area. The Alto Guayabal Biodiverse Humanitarian Reserve is designated as a conflict-free zone in this area where local communities are threatened by multinational companies involved in extractive industries. Just four days prior, former indigenous Embera governor of the Chidima-Toló Reservation, **Efren Antonio Bailarín Carupia**, was also killed by AGC paramilitaries in Acandí, Chocó.

Sep 26, Bolívar Department

**Erley Osorio Arias**, a local leader of the agricultural & mining workers' federation FEDEAGROMISBOL, was kidnapped on September 26, reportedly by AGC paramilitaries (also known in the area as Clan del Golfo), in the South of Bolívar. His body was found on September 30. FEDEAGROMISBOL blames the mayor of Montecristo municipality for delay in organizing a search for him.


Oct 14, Cauca Department

**María Steffania Muñoz Villa** became the 10th female ex-combatant and signer of the Peace Accords killed when she was attacked in the village of Mazamorrero, outside of Buenos Aires municipality. María Steffania Muñoz Villa was a member of the Carlos Patiño de La Elvira Territorial Space for Reincorporation (ETCR) in Buenos Aires. Her partner (also an ex-combatant) Yorbis Valencia Carabali was also killed on the outskirts of Buenos Aires on July 25. INDEPAZ reports that several armed groups operate in the region, including AGC, ELN (National Liberation Army), and a residual faction of the FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army). At least 289 ex-combatants have been assassinated since the signing of the Peace Accords in November 2016.

We strongly urge that you

- conduct thorough and transparent investigations into the killings of Marco Tulio Gutiérrez Mendoza, Dilio Bailarín, Efren Bailarín Carupia, Erley Osorio Arias, and María Steffania Muñoz Villa, publish the results, and bring the perpetrators to justice
- take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary structures operating throughout Colombia

Sincerely,

  
 Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Co-Coordinators

  
 Christine Stonebraker-Martinez

copies: Francisco Santos Calderón, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via email, US mail  
 Daniel Palacios Martínez, Minister of the Interior ~ via email  
 IACHR: Antonia Urrejola Noguera, Rapporteur for Colombia and the Rights of Indigenous Persons, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email, US mail  
 UN: Juliette De Rivero, Representative in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ~ via email  
 CIPJ: Comision Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz (InterChurch Commission for Justice and Peace) ~ 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, 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:**