

<p>Excmo. Sr. Presidente Gustavo Petro Urrego President of the Republic of Colombia contacto@presidencia.gov.co</p>	<p>Sr. Fiscal Francisco Barbosa Delgado Attorney General of Colombia despacho.fiscal@fiscalia.gov.co</p>
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January 16, 2024

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to demand justice for the assassination of Indigenous Nasa leader **Phanor Guazaquillo Peña**. On December 3, 2023, hitmen arrived at the funeral for another Nasa leader (Manuel Carlosama) that Phanor Guazaquillo Peña was attending at a cemetery in Puerto Asís, Putumayo Department.

Phanor Guazaquillo Peña was the current governor of the Cabildo Nasa Kwesx Kiwe tribe. He was the national spokesperson for the Special High Level Instance for Ethnic Peoples (Instancia Especial de Alto Nivel para Pueblos Étnicos, or IEANPE), a mechanism established to advance the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the 2016 Peace Accords, a chapter that he helped to construct during peace negotiations. He had served on the municipal council for Puerto Asís. He also served on the board of Communities Constructing Peace in Colombia (CONPAZCOL). The 45-year-old native of Santander de Quilichao (Cauca Department) was the father to four children.


On December 3, an unknown person wearing a mask approached Phanor Guazaquillo Peña and shot him. He fell to the ground, but did not die instantly. The shooter then shot him numerous times and pointed his weapon at others present at the funeral. The hitman fled the scene on a motorcycle, driven by another accomplice. Community members loaded Phanor Guazaquillo Peña into one of the funeral vehicles to drive him to the hospital, but he died due on the way due to the severity of his wounds.

Phanor Guazaquillo Peña became the 155th social leader killed in 2023. Civil society organizations denounce the serious security situation facing social leaders, particularly Indigenous leaders. They call on all armed actors (namely organized criminal groups and illegal armed groups) to stop the killing of social leaders and other non-combatant civilians.

We urge that you

- publish the results of the investigation into the assassination of Phanor Guazaquillo Peña and bring those responsible to justice
- work with the Nasa Indigenous communities of Putumayo to provide protection measures, in accordance with their wishes
- move forward in designing (and funding) a new comprehensive plan for the protection of social leaders, as ordered by the Constitutional Court on December 11, 2023, and involve social leaders in the process

Sincerely,


Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordiators


Christine Stonebraker-Martinez

copies: Luis Gilberto Murillo, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via email, US mail
José Luis Caballero Ochoa, Rapporteur for Colombia , Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) ~ via email, US mail
Arif Bulkan, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) ~ via email, US mail
UN: Juliette De Rivero, Representative in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ~ via email
US Embassy: Francisco Palmieri (Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim); Adam Levy (human rights) ~ via email
US State Department: Desk Officer for Colombia ~ via email
US Senators from Ohio: Brown & Vance ~ via email
US Representatives from Ohio: Beatty, Brown, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Miller, Sykes ~ via email

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