A solitary path
Informe January - June 2012
Report of the Information System on Aggression Against Human Rights
Defenders in Colombia - ISAAHRDC

Un camino solitario
Informe Enero - Junio 2012
Sistema de Información sobre Agresiones contra Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos en Colombia - SIADDHH
El Programa No Gubernamental de Protección a Defensores de derechos humanos – Somos Defensores, es un espacio de protección que busca desarrollar una propuesta integral para prevenir agresiones y proteger la vida de las personas que corren riesgos por su labor como defensores de derechos humanos, cuando resguardan los intereses de grupos sociales y comunidades afectadas por la violencia en Colombia.

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Diseño, diagramación e impresión
Editorial Códice Ltda.

Coordinación editorial y de publicación
Carlos A. Guevara Y Diana Sánchez

Investigación
Carlos A. Guevara
Gustavo Adolfo Ulcué

Georeferenciación
Carlos Alberto Zúñiga

Fotografías
Portada: Carlos Guevara
Fotos de defensores

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Orphans. Orphans on a difficult and dangerous path. Orphans: more than 31 sons and daughters, the result of 29 murders. Orphans...these are the defenders and social leaders in the diverse parts of Colombia, where the state and governmental institutions, and many sectors of society in general have naturalized the death of these leaders as a daily and almost normal fact of life. This is the reality shown by the report on the first six months of 2012, from the Information System of Aggression against Human Rights Defenders – ISAHRD – part of the We Are Defenders program.

Loneliness is a constant in the work of hundreds of men and women who, voluntarily and heroically, with their words and voice as their weapons, defend the rights of their communities on a daily basis, in a country that recognizes its war, but does nothing to stop it. Orphans, alone and unrecognized: words that for defenders in Colombia are sadly all too common. Common because of the actions of a State that, although it tries to protect defenders and leaders, does not do it effectively; due to an armed conflict that puts defenders and leaders in the middle of attacks from all sides; and as a result of a public who simply is ignorant to their importance.

This report also shows the number of orphans who remain as part of the families of these men and women who, even knowing the costs of their work, took the risks to carry it out. They are 29 victims, who leave 31 orphans more, normally minors of age. In various cases, the husband, the wife, the brothers and sisters, or the parents of the defender were also victims in the acts of violence, leaving them injured or in the worst of cases, dead. Will these sons and daughters ever be able to recover from these permanent absences? Will they be able to count on the State for help? Who will guarantee a dignified life for these sons, daughters, young people and in general the families who are now alone as a result of violence? Who defends the rights of these defenders’ families?

These defenders were Colombian and a vast majority from humble families, with little resources, as they were mostly indigenous, afro-descendents, peasants, teachers or from poor neighbourhoods.

The orphans of and effects on the families is also related to the circumstances in which these leaders were assassinated, given that in 10 of the 29 cases, the murders occurred in their homes or close to them, in front of their family members. This is a clear indicator of the complete lack of defence that these defenders and leaders face, normally in rural, far-off, and humble areas, exposed to the truly powerful actors.
As has been the case with previous reports, an important number of defenders and leaders assassinated in the first six months of 2012 were indigenous leaders (13), a reminder of the fact that of the 49 defenders and leaders murdered in 2011, 19 were from indigenous communities. This shows that the indigenous peoples of Colombia have become obstacles for the pretensions of armed and other powerful actors in the regions; actors who refuse to recognize the indigenus as the governors of their territories and possessors of constitutional and ancestral rights. The decisions taken by the Constitutional Court to protect the indigenous communities and the different spaces for dialogue and negotiation with the National Government have not been at all useful to defend indigenous rights shown by the fact that the results are visibly the same: Extermination.

This whole panorama of aggression is occurring parallel to the permanent discussion that the human rights platforms, as well as other social sectors, under the umbrella known as A Common Ceiling, have with the State and National Government in a space known as the National Table of Guarantees. This space was created more than three years ago with the purpose of allowing human rights and social organizations demand concrete guarantees from the State in order to be able to carry out the work of human rights defence in Colombia. Nevertheless, the facts are quite telling and the official entities have not shown anything that points to the contrary.

But still, contrast does not escape from this context. While defenceless leaders and human rights defenders realise their work, the political and leading class of the country, high-level government officials, former government officials, members of the Armed Forces, congress people and even members of the Colombian diplomatic corps continue popping up in hundreds of judicial investigations for their links with Mafioso groups, paramilitaries and drug traffickers. Given this situation, it is difficult to truly hope that things improve, as those who have the duty of enforcing the laws and the Political Constitution, not only violate them but also are often allied with their aggressors.

Confronted by this worrying panorama, this report entitled “A Solitary Path” intends to show the human reality of these tragedies, which occur in organizations, families and communities far away from the large national and international political stages. These deaths, which few people demand be seen, are of those who paid the ultimate cost to defend what was and is just for their communities.

We would like to thank all of the social and human rights organizations, social and cultural collectives, think-tanks, women’s organizations, afro-descendants, indigenous, peasants, the LBGTI movement, international human rights organizations and all those who directly collaborated by providing information and contacts for the realisation of this report, and who for clear security reasons cannot be mentioned.

We especially would like to thank the Embassy of Holland and the international cooperation agencies MISEREOR, Terre des Hommes – Schweiz and Terre des Hommes – Suisse for their financial support. Without them this report would not have been possible.
IN MEMORY OF THOSE DEFENDERS AND LEADERS ASSASSINATED SO FAR IN 2012

JAIME ALBERTO CHAZATAR BASTIDAS
Pastos de Guachavéz Indigenous Reservation
NARIÑO

On January 1, 2012 in Pasto, Nariño, indigenous leader from the Pastos ethnicity, and mayor-elect for the municipality of Santa Cruz de Guachavéz, Nariño, Jaime Alberto Chazatar Bastidas was assassinated. The murder took place when the indigenous leader was leaving his home with his family, and armed men on a motorcycle arrived, shooting Jaime Alberto various times. The attackers then fled from the scene on the same motorcycle.

Jaime Alberto Chazatar Bastidas was respected and well known by the indigenous members of his tribe – the Pastos – due to his work as a defender of the human rights of his community. According to the denunciation made by the peasant and indigenous community in the municipality, Jaime was to be sworn in as mayor of Santa Cruz de Guachavéz that same day, the 1 of January.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.

**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, ELN, Los Rastrojos, National Army and National Police.

His murder leaves three children orphaned and a widow.

VÍCTOR MANUEL HILARIÓN PALACIOS
Agrarian Organization of Sumapaz
META

January 10, 2012, in the municipality of San Luís de Cubarral, in the department of Meta, peasant leader Víctor Manuel Hilarión Palacios was tortured and assassinated, apparently by members of the National Army who operate in the Sumapaz plateau.
The events occurred on January 9, 2012 when the peasant leader left his home headed to a village on the Nevado River, to a community known as “the gourd” near the locality of Sumapaz, which makes up part of the Capital District of Bogotá. Apparently, at this point the peasant leader was detained by members of the National Army. With hours passed and still unaware of the whereabouts of Víctor, his family along with members of the Agrarian Organization of Sumapaz began to search for him. Finally on January 10, the lifeless body of Víctor Manuel Hilarión Palacios appeared in the installations of the CTI in the city of Villavicencio, Meta. The body was found with signs of torture.

Víctor Hilarión, a native of Sumapaz, worked as a peasant leader in the Agrarian, Communal and Educative Organization of Sumapaz, and also participated in community and social activities as a producer and presenter in agro-environment fairs.

**Presumed responsible actor:** National Army.

**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, National Army.

**His murder leaves a daughter orphaned and a widow.**

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**MILCIADES TROCHEZ CONDA**

Indigenous Reserve of Caloto

CAUCA

While he was leaving his reservation headed towards the city of Santander de Quilichao, in the company of another member of her community, Milciades Trochez Conda, 39 and active member of the Nasa Indigenous Guard from the Association of Indigenous Reservations of Northern Cauca – ACIN in Spanish – was assassinated. The murder took place right outside of the small town of El Palo, in the municipality of Caloto, in front of the town school, and less than seven kilometres from the military base located on the main road between Caloto and Corinto.

According to witness present at the time of the attack, subjects on two motorcycles approached the driver’s side of the car in which Trochez was travelling and without uttering a word opened fire. After a second round of gunshots, Milciades, badly injured, tried to get out of the vehicle, fell face-first to the ground and there he was finished off with evident brutality. In total, Milciades was shot 10 times, eight of which were in his head and two in his back.
At the time when the body was inspected, Trochez’s personal documents were not found, nor were the documents for the vehicle. All that remained of the radio for communication between the members of the Indigenous Guard that Milciades had at the time was the battery.

Milciades Trochez Conda lived in the village of Loma Gruesa in the lower part of the municipality of Jambaló, and was the father of seven children and husband of Rosalba Ipia who is a traditional authority of the Jambaló indigenous reservation. At the time of his murder, Milciades worked as a leader in his village, was part of the local and regional structure of the Indigenous Guard and was an active member of the political commission of the Jambaló Indigenous Reserve.

**Presumed responsible actor:** FARC.

**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, National Army.

His murder leaves seven children orphaned and a widow.

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**HERMINSON and ALEXANDER DE JESÚS MORALES ZAMORA**

*Embera Chami, Our Mother Candelaria of the Mountain Indigenous Reservation, Caldas*

Brothers Herminson and Alexander de Jesús Morales Zamora, 29 and 24 respectively, were disappeared on Saturday January 14 and later executed on January 15, according to a report by the traditional authorities of the Embera Chami, Our Mother Candelaria of the Mountain Indigenous Reservation, in the municipality of Riosucio, department of Caldas.

The brothers were members of the Ubarbá and Rebaño communities in the aforementioned reservation, active members of the community organizations, and had been recognized by their elders and fellow community members as young leaders.

On January 16, their family members received a note in which the unknown assailants informed them of the whereabouts of Herminson and Alexander. The community went to the area known as Tiger Hilltop, in the community of La Palma, where they found the lifeless bodies of the two brothers in a common grave, with various bullet wounds in both brothers’ bodies.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.

**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, Los Rastrojos, Los Urabeños, La Coordillera, Cacique Pipintá Block, National Army.
MAURICIO ARREDONDO  
Villa Paz Community and Neighbourhood, and USO  
PUTUMAYO

January 17, 2012 as a result of various bullet wounds, community leader Mauricio Arredondo and his wife Janeth Ordóñez were assassinated in their home located in the neighbourhood of Villa Paz in the first district of the city centre of Orito, Putumayo.

Mauricio, a recognized community leader, worked for PEI, a company dedicated to providing oil-related services, and was affiliated with the United Workers’ Union, USO in Spanish, the national union for oil workers. Arrendondo had had an active participation in his community and in events like the First Oil Forum for the Right to Work, and the Social and Economic Strengthening of Orito, Putumayo, carried out on January 13, 2012.

His wife, Janeth Ordóñez was also murdered. The attack was apparently carried out by two subjects wearing uniforms from the Bajo Putumayo Energy Company who entered the home of the couple and opened fire on the leader and his wife, in front of the terrified eyes of their five children, all minors.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.  
**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, Los Rastrojos, National Army.

His murder leaves five children orphaned, with neither mother nor father.

GILBERTO PAÍ CANTICÚS and GIOVANNI ROSERO  
Indigenous Unity of the Awá People - UNIPA  
NARIÑO

During the night of February 11, Gilberto Paí Canticús, 27, and Giovanni Rosero, 33, were murdered in the small town of Llorente, in the municipality of Tumaco, Nariño. These two indigenous Awá were accompanying the UNIPA organizational process, and were also members of the indigenous guard in the Piguambi Palangala reservation.

The two indigenous guards were intercepted by four people who were travelling on two motorcycles near the town market, who without saying a word shot the two indigenous men, killing them instantly. It is necessary to point out that the compe-
tent authorities – in this case the National Police – did not carry out an opportune inspection of the bodies and the crime scene.

The Awá community also denounced harassment and profiling by the members of the National Police, as well as members of the National Army, against the leaders and young people associated with UNIPA. The members of the Armed Forces took pictures of them and their identification documents, as well as registering them on video.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.  
**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, Los Rastrojos, Los Urabeños, Las Aguilas Negras, National Army.

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**AURELINA ADARME CHASOY**  
**Women of the Inga Indigenous People**  
**NARIÑO**

April 3, the women’s leader of the Inga indigenous people, Aurelina Adarme Chasoy, was murdered. According to the women of the Inga people, for whom Aurelina was their leader, Aurelina was headed home at night, after leaving the community of El Pedregal, in Nariño, when she was later intercepted by unknown assailants.

The Women of the Inga Indigenous People recognized Aurelina as one of the most charismatic leaders in the community. She was energetic and always in the vanguard of demanding respect for the rights and position of the indigenous women within the Inga organization.

The crime occurred in the small town of Aponte, within the municipality of Tablón de Gómez, in the north of Nariño. Preliminary reports point to two members of the FARC related to the murder. Aurelina was found with signs of torture and her death was caused by asphyxiation.

**Presumed responsible actor:** FARC.  
**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, National Army.
March 15, 2012, in the municipality of Dosquebradas, in the department of Risaralda, Argemiro Cárdenas Agudelo – 57 years old, ex-mayor of the municipality, and director and manager of the community radio station Metro Stereo Radio – was intercepted by hit-men. Cárdenas had contributed for the last 14 years to the activities of other local radio stations as well. He directed, since 2010, the Coffee Region Radio Network and was affiliated with the Worldwide Association of Community Radio Stations. At the time of his murder, he also worked as a representative of the western region to the National Consultation Committee of Community Radio, part of the Ministry of Information Technology and Communication, MINTIC in Spanish.

“Directing a community media outlet represents, by definition, an enormous risk in a region like Risaralda, a region strongly affected by drug trafficking and the terrible group known as “La Cordillera,” which has its roots in the paramilitary movements. These predators of the freedom to inform are responsible for various of the most recent cases of journalists killed or forced to leave the country,” said Argemiro Cárdenas to Reporters without Borders in 2011.

According to journalists in the region, Argemiro Cárdenas was not the victim of recent threats. He defended the interests of the communities against those of the local political class on his radio programs. He was getting ready to retire as well. Argemiro, in his final years, worked closely with the elderly and their well-being in Dosquebradas, with the organization, “Club for the Elderly.”

After Police investigations, Jhon Alexánder Jaramillo García, the supposed material author of the crime, who supposedly received one million pesos – roughly $400 Euros – to kill Cárdenas, was captured.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Jhon Alexánder Jaramillo García.  
**Armed groups in the zone:** Los Rastrojos, Las Aguilas Negras, La Coordillera, National Army, National Police.

**His murder leaves two orphans and a widow.**

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1 [http://es.rsf.org/colegia-director-de-radio-comunitaria-16-03-2012,42137.html](http://es.rsf.org/colegia-director-de-radio-comunitaria-16-03-2012,42137.html)
The council member Jesús Narváez was assassinated the night of March 16, a Friday, by unknown assailants, who attacked him with a machete and rocks, causing severe head injuries that then lead to his death. The attack took place around 9:30 p.m. on the road between the small town of El Rosal and the village of Pueblo Viejo, in the municipality of San Sebastian, in the department of Cauca. Jesús Narváez, at the time, was riding on a motorcycle with Edil Eduardo Mamian, who was also murdered. Jesús and Eduardo were friends for years and worked together on projects to benefit the community.

Jesús was 37 and the father of four children. For years he was an important worker for the community and at the time of his death was a councilman from the town of El Rosal. The community recognized his commitment and work for the necessities of the town, which led to his social leadership and were thus reflected in his election as councilman for the town in San Sebastian.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.

**Armed groups in the zone:** Las Aguilas Negras, FARC, National Army.

The murder of Jesús leaves four children orphaned and a widow.

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On March 27 and 28, 2012, the lifeless bodies of the leader for land restitution, Manuel Ruiz, 56, and of his son Samir de Jesús Ruiz, 15, members of the Afro-descendent and Afro-mestizo communities of Apartadocito in the municipality of Ríosucio, Chocó were found, after they had been kidnapped on March 23. Manuel Ruiz was a member of the community council in Apartadocito, on the basin of the Curvaradó River in the department of Chocó, and also was an active leader who fought for the restitution of the lands stolen from the displaced communities in Curvaradó y Jiguamiandó. He had participated in the “Census Committee,” a committee established with the purpose of identifying the land rights for the displaced people in the region.
The events took place starting on March 23, when Manuel Ruiz and his son were travelling between the city of Mutatá and the area of Apartadocito, and a group of paramilitaries, presumed members of the Black Eagles – Las Águilas Negras – forced them to get out of the vehicle. The leader communicated by telephone with his family to tell them that they were forced to abandon the vehicle and that their kidnappers demanded 2.5 million pesos – roughly $1,000 Euros – for their freedom. The next day, the paramilitary group informed the family that the leader and his son had been assassinated, and that their bodies could be found under the Ríosucio - Chocó Bridge.

On March 27, members of the community of the basin of the Curvaradó River, accompanied by national and international observers, found the body of Manuel Ruiz in the Ríosucio area. Later, on March 28, the body of his son was found near the Cañaduzales zone.

Manuel had solicited protective measures from the Ministry of the Interior on three occasions. The first time was in mid-2011, the second at the end of 2011, and the most recent occasion in February 2012.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Paramilitares.  
**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, Los Rastrojos, Los Urabeños, Las Águilas Negras, National Army.

The murder of Manuel and of his son Samir de Jesús Ruiz, forced his family composed of seven children and 12 adults, along with his widow to flee the territory, for the second time.

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**NANCY MARÍA MIRAMÁ and LIBARDO GUERRERO NARVÁEZ**

Luis Carlos Galán Educational Centre and the Women’s Artisanal Cooperative – COOFA NARIÑO

Nancy María Miramá, teacher and social and community leader, and her husband Libardo Guerrero Narváez, ex councilman from the municipality of Sandoná, Nariño and also social leader, were assassinated on April 11, 2012 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Nancy, who worked as the Director of the Luis Carlos Galán Educational Centre and her husband, Libardo Guerrero Narváez, were pulled out of their house in the village of La Regadera, part of the small town of San Miguel – located 15 minutes from the
city centre of the municipality – by a group of about 10 unidentified armed men. They were dragged to the main road where they were shot and killed.

Nancy and Libardo Narváez had denounced the recruitment of young people by paramilitary groups, particularly Los Rastrojos who are present in Nariño, a strategic department for the trafficking of arms, drugs and other contraband, towards the Pacific Ocean, and to and from Ecuador.

Nancy, had been a teacher for 22 years in the schools in the villages of San Francisco, San Miguel and for the last 15 years, in the Luis Carlos Galán school in La Regadera village. She balanced her teaching with her work as a community leader in the Community Action Board, member of the Catechism in the Our Mother of the Rosary Church and an artisan director of the Women’s Artisanal Cooperative.

Libardo Guerrero Narváez was a civic leader and councilman in Sandoná during 2011 as a representative of the National Social Unity party. Additionally, he was a councilman in previous administrations, as a representative of the small town of San Miguel. He was the president of the Community Action Board where he led various important development projects for the region. He balanced his political activity with the work as a construction foreman.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Paramilitares.
**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, ELN, Los Rastrojos, Las Águilas Negras, National Army.

Their murders were followed by a large march, rejecting the violence in Sandoná, Nariño, made up of at least 300 students, teachers and community members.

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**DANIEL AGUIRRE PIEDRAHITA**
*Sinalcorteros – National Union of Sugarcane Cutters*  
**VALLE DEL CAUCA**

On Friday, April 27, at 7 p.m., union leader Daniel Aguirre Piedrahita and his wife left their home in Florida, Valle del Cauca to make a phone call. A few metres ahead, a hit-man on a motorcycle waited for them. Moments later, the hit-man completed his job, killing Aguirre with three shots.

Daniel Aguirre, 35, began his leadership life in 2002 in Florida, and became one of the founders of the National Union of Sugarcane Cutters – Sinalcorteros – in 2003,
where he worked as the secretary general. In 2005, he led the first national strike of sugarcane workers. After the second national strike in 2008, the union won a small but important victory. “There we came to an agreement with the businesses, fundamental agreements like the right to negotiate contracts,” recalled one of the members of the union board. Finally, in 2011, after six years, the union achieved the ability to directly contract employees.

Daniel had not publicly reported any threats. He only had commented on some anonymous phone calls. Álvaro Vega, from the Central Workers Union – CUT in Spanish – confirmed that the murder of Daniel brought the number of unionists murdered in Colombia so far in 2012 to seven, four of which had occurred in the department of Valle del Cauca.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.

**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, Las Águilas Negras, Los Rastrojos, Los Urabeños, National Army.

**His murder leaves three orphaned daughters and a widow.**

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On May 13, 2012, around 2:35 p.m. the lifeless body of lawyer Juan Manuel Jaramillo Paque, 41 and Human Rights Ombudsman for the municipality of Caloto, Cauca – was found. Jaramillo had been working as this Ombudsman for three years, and for the new mayoral administration, he had been re-elected to the position.

Jaramillo was one of the officials who had facilitated the development of the Social and Community Mobilization to Defend Territory, Life and the Right to Peace, which had been carried out between May 9 and 11, 2012, starting in Caloto and passing through Santander de Quilichao, arriving to the municipality of Villa Rica, with the participation of some 14,000 people.

Juan Manuel Jaramillo was in his house, getting ready to go visit his mother. But before he could leave, a person entered his home, went up to the second floor and shot Juan Manuel in the head. The murderer left the gun next to the body trying to make the murder appear as a suicide. Minutes later, the body of Jaramillo was found by his 16-year-old son.
The report from the Legal Medicine office in Santander de Quilichao determined that “Manuel Jaramillo Paque was murdered and did not commit suicide like it was meant to seem. The authors of this crime, after committing the murder, left the gun on top of one of the victim’s legs, to make it seem as if the official had taken his own life.”

Jaramillo, 41, was beginning his second term in his position as human rights and government oversight ombudsman. Those close to him stated that Jaramillo had become a thorn in the side of some sectors of Caloto due to his constant denunciations regarding corruption that is common in the municipality.

It was notorious that in the last three years, five human rights and government oversight ombudsmen have been killed in the country. According to the National Federation of Human Rights Ombudsmen, in the last three years, more than 10% of these ombudsmen are threatened and the ombudsmen of Aguadas, (Caldas), Buesaco (Nariño), Segovia (Antioquia) have been murdered. The Human Rights Ombudsman from El Águila (Valle del Cauca) was disappeared.

**Presumed responsible actor:** FARC.

**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, National Army.

**His murder leaves an adolescent orphaned and a widow.**

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**JULIO DAGUA CORPUS**

**Association of Those Flooded in Monte Redondo**

**CAUCA**

Wednesday May 16, community leader Julio Dagua Corpus, President of the Association of Those Flooded in Monte Redonde, in the municipality of Miranda, Cauca, was assassinated. Julio belonged to the community of the village of El Horno, and he was killed in the village of La Unión, in Miranda. He got home around 2:00 p.m. after taking a motorcycle. Later, around 4:00 p.m. Julio left his house headed towards the city centre of Miranda. Minutes later on the road that leads to the city centre, at the point known at “Crucero” which connects the village of El Cabildo with Caraqueño, habitants of the area found the lifeless body of the leader, who had received almost 20 gunshots and whose body lay in close to the motorcycle that he was riding.

The murder of Luis Cagua Corpus is indicative of a very delicate situation of public order that the municipality of Miranda, Cauca has been living for the last few months. The constant armed confrontations with the population caught in the crossfire that occurred in June between the National Army and the FARC guerrillas caused the
forced displacement of roughly 180 people between indigenous and peasants. These displaced went to the recognized “Permanent Assembly” safe points located in the Health Centre in the village of Monte Redondo, the high school in the village of El Cabildo and the coliseum located in the city centre of Miranda.

Julio Dagua Corpus was known for his community-based work and for leading pending processes to strengthen the cultivation of coffee, as he was also the president of an association of local, small-scale coffee farmers.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.  
**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, National Army, Las Águilas Negras.

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**YEISON CAMPOS CUCUBANA**  
Macarieros Reservation of the Makaguan Indigenous People  
ARAUCA

Yeison Campos Cucubana, member of the Makaguan indigenous tribe, who lived on the Macarieros reservation, in the municipality of Tame, Arauca was murdered on Monday, May 21 on his reservation in Tame, around 2:00 a.m. when he was talking with other members of the community. There he was attacked by two armed subjects, who shot and killed him.

According to the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia – ONIC in Spanish – in their report entitled “Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity Occurring Now: The Case of the Indigenous Peoples of Colombia,” Campos Cucubana was a young leader of the Makaguan people, recognized and respected as such by his community. He was finishing his last year of high school at the time of his murder.

The Makaguan indigenous community, represented by its traditional authorities, demanded that the judicial authorities carry out an investigation to find those responsible for the assassination of the young Makaguan leader. Additionally, some human rights NGOs offered to provide accompaniment and any other necessary support, so that the indigenous peoples do not continue to suffer the consequences of the armed conflict in the country. The Association of Reservations and Traditional Indigenous Authorities in the department of Arauca, known in Spanish Ascatidar, asked for international accompaniment given the severity of the case.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.  
**Armed groups in the zone:** Las Águilas Negras, ERPAC, ELN, FARC.
YAMIT BAILARIN SUESCUN
Jaikerazabi Reservation of the Embera Indigenous People / The School of Audiovisual Work of the Indigenous Organization ANTIOQUIA

Yamid Bailarin Suescun, an indigenous Embera, member of the Jaikerazabi reservation in the municipality of Mututá, was found dead on Sunday May 27 in the basement of one of the buildings in the Ciudadela of New West, in Medellín. Bailarin Suescun was murdered after leaving the house of a family member in the same part of the city, according to the judicial authorities investigating the case. The official report states that he was killed with a handgun.

Yamid had gone to Medellín to participate in a training program in the School of Audiovisual Work in the office of the Indigenous Organization of Antioquia. This young indigenous man, who had already graduated from the University of Antioquia with a degree in Audiovisual Communication, worked as the coordinator for the communications collective of the Jaikerazabi reservation, in Mututá, in the area known as Urabá. Bailarin was one of the first young, indigenous audiovisual workers in Antioquia and his leadership on the topic meant that he was respected by his community and the reservation’s traditional authorities.

According to Wiliam Carupia, president of the Indigenous Organization of Antioquia, Yamid had made the indigenous movement visible by investigating the denunciations of maltreatment against indigenous and women. At the time of his death, he was also filming a documentary about the violation of human rights in Urabá.

*Presumed responsible actor:* Unknown.
*Armed groups in the zone:* FARC, Los Rastrojos, Los Urabeños.

PABLO GUTIÉRREZ
Regional Indigenous Organization of the Valle del Cauca – ORIVAC VALLE DEL CAUCA

The indigenous leader Pablo Gutiérrez, from the indigenous reservation in the Cañón de Garrapatas was assassinated on June 19 at 7:00 p.m. in front of the Transportation Cooperative in El Dovio, Valle del Cauca by two unknown assailants. In the same attack, the indigenous leader and Governor of the Indigenous Settlement in the village of El Dumar, in the municipality of El Dovio, Gilberto Chacoa was injured and is still in critical condition.
It is important to point out that the Embera Chamí people are at risk of physical and cultural extinction due to the conflict that exists in their territory, according to the Constitutional Court. The Regional Indigenous organization of the Valle del Cauca – ORIVAC in Spanish – has denounced the presence of various armed actors in the area and the constant combats and violent actions caused by their presence.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.
**Armed groups in the zone:** Los Rastrojos, Los Urabeños, Los Machos.

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**JEREMÍAS IPIA MESTIZO**  
*Association of Indigenous Reservations in the North of Cauca - ACIN CAUCA*

On February 20, in the Naya region of Cauca, more specifically the municipality of Buenos Aires, the Nasa indigenous leader Jeremías Ipia Mestizo, originally from Jambaló, was assassinated. Mestizo was recognized in the zone because of his taking part in the formative and organizational processes for the reservation of Jambaló.

The Association of Indigenous Reservations in the North of Cauca – ACIN in Spanish – has denounced that the context of war and political violence against the civilian population increases the murders at the hands of paid assassins in the indigenous territories in Cauca. Just in the last two years, in Jambaló alone, more than 15 community members have been murdered and no less than 40 people threatened, amongst them indigenous leaders and guard members.

**Presunto responsable:** Unknown.
**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, National Army.

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**ISRAEL MENDAZ**  
*President of the Community Action Board of the village of La Victoria CAQUETÁ*

On May 30, 2012 community leader and President of the Community Board of the village of La Victoria, Israel Mendaz was murdered. According to the denunciation, the fatal attack took place in the village of La Victoria, in the municipality of Puerto Rico, in
the southern department of Caquetá, when the community leader of 48, was in his home, where unknown armed men arrived and shot him various times, killing him on the spot.

According to unofficial versions, Mendaz was hit twice by bullets in his chest by the attackers who had gone to his house to kill him. According to the denunciation, the attack could be related to the denunciations that Israel Mendaz had realised on various occasions regarding the presence of legal and illegal armed groups and the pressure that these groups exercise on the Community Action Boards in the municipality. His work was constantly dedicated to his village, which earned him the recognition of his community but also the targeting by armed groups in the area.

Presumed responsible actor: FARC.
Armed groups in the zone: FARC, National Army.

His murder left two young children orphaned.

On June 10, at 8:00 p.m., in the Unified Chamí Indigenous Reservation in the municipality of Mistrató, Risaralda, indigenous leader Carlos Darío Arco Bernaza was assassinated. The attack took place when Carlos Darío was walking through the community with two family members, Gilma Arce Bernaza and Yolanda Cortez Arce. According to the report of the crime, a man in a ski-mask approached them and immediately began shooting Carlos Darío and his family members, killing Carlos and leaving his family members severely injured.

The Council of Traditional Indigenous Authorities of Risaralda – CRIR in Spanish – has stated that this murder is just one in a series of violent attacks against its members and against indigenous territories, which have resulted in captures, retentions in jails, and threats amongst other actions.

Presumed responsible actor: Unknown.
Armed groups in the zone: ELN, FARC, National Army.
On June 5, 2012 in the rural area of Miranda, Cauca, peasant leader Alberto Cunda Poscué was tortured and murdered by presumed members of the FARC. In the attack, the mother of Alberto, Otilia Poscué was also injured. The body of the peasant leader was found 70 metres from his home. According to the report of the crime, Alberto was found without underwear and his testicles were inflamed as a result of apparent torture. Next to the body, latex gloves and a syringe were found.

The indigenous and peasant communities of the area have denounced the fact that the humanitarian situation in Miranda has worsened since May of this year, when a military base was installed in the village of Calandaima, as a part of the Territorial Consolidation Plan of the Santos government. The Consolidation Plan covers the municipalities of Toribío, Caloto, Jambaló, Santander de Quilichao, Miranda y Corinto.

It is pertinent to point out that the brutality in the murder of Alberto is a common situation in Cauca, given the almost unstoppable violence against social and community organizations in the department. Alberto is remembered by his friends and family as a natural, purposeful and critical leader.

**Presumed responsible actor:** FARC.

**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, National Army, Las Águilas Negras.

The Association OREWA reported the kidnapping and murder of community leader Segundo Machado Parra on January 4, 2012 at 7:00 a.m., when a still-unidentified armed group took him captive by force. When he was taken away, he was travelling with his wife from Unguía to Turbo in the department of Chocó.

Segundo Machado Parra had just been elected as the legal representative from the Local Community Council of Ticole, which belongs to the Elder Community Council of Unguía. His election was the result of various years of community work and supporting his community. The Association OREWA reiterated that the territory to
which Segundo belonged to, in an area of dispute between violent armed actors in the region who want to take over the region. These areas belong to the Community Councils and Indigenous Reserves.

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.
**Armed groups in the zone:** Los Urabeños, Las Águilas Negras, National Army.

His murder left two children orphaned and a widow.

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José Rumualdo Sáenz Domicó, 60, was murdered on Friday January 27 in the municipality of Tierralta, Córdoba. José was a respected member of the Indigenous Association of the Alto Sinú and according to the first reports of his murder, the guerrillas were responsible for killing him in the village of Boca de Crucito, some 40 kilometres from the city centre of Tierralta.

Sáenz Domicó was found dead close to this area. The members of the reservation to which José Rumualdo belonged, lamented his death, which caused universal mourning. The Indigenous Association of the Alto Sinú and the whole community have become worried since the insurgents continue to attack the indigenous peoples in the zone.

**Presumed responsible actor:** FARC.
**Armed groups in the zone:** Los Rastrojos, Los Urabeños, Las Águilas Negras, National Army, FARC.

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On March 11, 2012, Alex Alejandro Benavidez Ayala, a young leader in the neighbourhood of San Cristobal in Bogotá was approached by two men who forced him into a taxi, according to neighbours in the
sector of Villa de los Alpes. Later, Alex Alejandro was found dead with a gun shot to the head. The young man had received threats days prior to his murder.

Alex Alejandro was a young man of 25 who worked as a recognized social leader in the sector of Villa de los Alpes and the surrounding areas. The investigations about his death are confusing and give no clear indication of those responsible. His brother, Giovanny Benavidez stated that he does not “share the version that was presented on Caracol News, in which a person whose face cannot be seen, said that [Alex] had killed himself playing Russian roulette.”

Days after the attack took place, Bogotá Mayor Gustavo Petro assured that what had happened was a murder and not a suicide, and was a clear act of aggression against the Progressive Party and its young members.

The locality of San Cristobal in the capital of Colombia is one of the most difficult areas of the city. According to the office of the Defensoría del Pueblo, in San Cristobal there exists a high risk for the young population and social organizations due to the “Circulation of threatening lists against young people in the sector carried out by social cleansing groups and the Águilas Negras, and their intentions to block all forms of community and social organization”\(^2\).

**Presumed responsible actor:** Unknown.
**Armed groups in the zone:** FARC, Las Águilas Negras, National Army.

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**EFRAÍN AMEZQUITA QUINTERO**  
Sintramásivo  
VALLE DEL CAUCA

On February 15, 2012, Efraín Amezquita, 42, was assassinated in Cali by two hit-men who attacked him after he left a station of the mass transportation system in Cali – el MIO – at 7:30 a.m. Efraín worked on the MIO in Cali and was the director for the Sintramásivo union. He had been fighting for six years for the recognition of the rights of his fellow workers and was well known in his neighbourhood in eastern Cali due to his community leadership and work.

According to declarations of Metrocali, Efraín was murdered in order to rob him, but his family members stated that when they left the union office with him, they were

attacked by two hit-men on a motorcycle who without saying a word shot and killed Efraín, in front of his son. The news outlet Caracol News showed a security video in which it can be seen that Efraín was the victim of hit-men and not of thieves.

Efraín Amezquita was a founding member of the Sintramasivo union.

*Presumed responsible actor:* Unknown.

*Armed groups in the zone:* Los Urabeños, Las Águilas Negras, Los Rastrojos, Los Machos, FARC, ELN, National Army.

*His murder leaves on son orphaned and a widow.*

**PEDRO BURGOS**

*Community Action Board in the small town of Popayán CÓRDOBA*

On March 7, Pedro Burgos — the ex president of the Community Action Board in the small town of Popayán, in the municipality of Canalete, department of Córdoba — was assassinated by hit-men. According to the Police report, the crime took place when the victim was in the front door of his house, where two men on a motorcycle shot and killed Burgos without saying a word. The causes of the crime, until this moment, have not been established and despite Police investigations, there have been no captures either.

Diverse entities have recognized the leadership work of Pedro, who had been working for more than five years for the rights of his community and its members. Authorities such as the National Police and the Defensoría del Pueblo have pointed out the severity of the humanitarian situation in Canalete, especially in the small town of Popayán, given its closeness to Montería — the departmental capital — and the pressure from illegal armed groups on the community action boards and other community organizations.

*Presumed responsible actor:* Unknown.

*Armed groups in the zone:* Los Urabeños, National Army.
**THE DISAPPEARED**

**Javier Silva Pérez**, peasant leader and community director from the small town of El Morro, has yet to be found since he was disappeared on April 21, when he was last seen in the city of Yopal, Casanare.

Javier Silva, President of the Community Action Board of El Morro, had denounced the environmental, social and economic effects caused by the oil companies that have camps and are developing new exploration sites in his region of Casanare. The authorities have not given any information about the disappearance despite the fact that no traces of the director have been found, not even the motorcycle that he was driving.

The communities of the villages of Marroquín, La Vega, La Guamalera, La Cabaña, Tisaga, La Libertad, Perico, Planada, Socochó, La Colorada, Porvenir, Progreso, Guayaquito, La Tebaida, the small town of El Morro and the neighbouring municipalities of Labranzagrande y Paya, all have asked the National Government to take urgent actions to find Javier Silva Pérez and have demanded that the right to free association be recognized and respected, and that the peasant and community leaders as well as the communities themselves all be protected. **We will keep waiting for Javier!**

**Martha Cecilia Guevara Oyola**, community leader from San Vicente del Caguán, member of the Patriotic March political movement, disappeared on April 20, 2012.

In San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá, Martha Cecilia came from the village of Laureles Bajos to the city centre for a medical appointment in the San Rafael Local Hospital, after which she was going to meet with her husband to go together with a regional group to launching of the Patriotic March Political Movement in the city of Bogotá.
On April 20, 2012, in San Vicente del Caguán, at 3:00 p.m., Martha Cecilia was in the city centre waiting to go to Bogotá to participate in the launching of the Patriotic March Political Movement, when she was seen for the last time. In the 23 years living with her family, Martha never went anywhere without telling someone first. **We will keep waiting for Martha!**

**Hernán Henry Díaz**, the spokesperson for the Table of Social Organizations of the department of Putumayo and member of the National Peasant Union Federation – FENSUAGRO in Spanish – was seen for the last time on April 18, 2012.

Henry Díaz was in the city of Puerto Asís in the department of Putumayo, leading a delegation of more than 200 people who were to travel from the municipality of Valle del Guamuéz, in Putumayo, to Bogotá to participate in the launching of the Patriotic March Political Movement, to be carried out between April 21 and 23 in the capital of Colombia.

On April 18, at 1:30 p.m., Henry Díaz bought a ticket with Cootranstigre to travel from Puerto Asís to the small town of El Tigre, scheduled to leave at 3:40 p.m. He also told a friend about his trip during a phone call at 2:30 p.m. Nevertheless, Henry changed his plans. He went to the port and contracted a boat to go to the other side of the river, heading towards the small town of Puerto Vega. Once in the small town, he sent a text message to his wife at 3:30 p.m. saying that he was in Puerto Vega and he was leaving, presumably to go to El Tigre.

The whereabouts of Hernán are still unknown, and he was last seen in Puerto Vega, an area with high levels of State military presence. **We will keep waiting for Hernán!**
According to the registry of the Information System of Aggression against Human Rights Defenders – ISAAHRD – from the non-government program for the protection of human rights defenders – We Are Defenders – during the first six months of 2012, 163 defenders were victims of some kind of attack that put their life and integrity in risk, as well as created obstacles for their legal and legitimate work of human rights defence in Colombia.

**INDIVIDUAL ATTACKS**

The We Are Defenders program has registered a 12% increase in the individual attacks against defenders compared to the same period in 2011. Between January and June 2012, the Information System reported a total of 163 defenders attacked, while during the same period in 2011, there were 145 cases.

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3 This System registers information directly known by the We Are Defenders program and by direct contact with the Social and Non-governmental Organizations that report the cases to the Program.
When looking at the cases by month, it can be seen that the largest number of cases occurred in May 2012, with 26% - or 42 attacks – and January with 20% - or 33 attacks. February is next with 17% - or 27 attacks, followed by June and April which both represent 15% - or 25 attacks. Finally in March there were 11 attacks, or 7%.

Regarding cases by sex, the ISAAHRD showed that of the 163 defenders attacked between January and June of 2012, 74% of them were men and the remaining 26% women. It is worth pointing out that there has still been an increase of 24% in attacks against women when comparing this period to the same in 2011, when 35 cases were registered.

This first semester of 2012 was marked by a clear worsening of the war in places like Nariño, Putumayo, Cauca, Santander, Norte de Santander and Arauca, which clearly resulted in increased effects against the civilian population, social movements and leaders in these regions of Colombia.

The political changes and transformations also influenced the context. For example, the debate and eventual passage in Congress of the Judicial Outline for Peace, the birth of new political movements – the Patriotic March and the Pure Democratic Cen-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attacks by Sex</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Individual Attacks</strong></td>
<td><strong>163</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is important to point out that between November 2011 and March 2012, Colombia appeared in nine important reports written by diverse international organizations, all of which make calls to the National Government regarding the critical situation of the human rights defenders in Colombia, naming the country as a dangerous place to defend human rights.

The published documents show the severity of the risks for defenders and leaders fighting for land restitution, victims, indigenous, women and afro-Colombians. Nevertheless, and despite the seriousness of the denunciations made in these nine reports, the situation does not seem to be getting better, as the statistics from January to June 2012 show.

The published reports are the following:

1. Reports of the ICHR regarding the situation of human rights defenders in Latin America – March 2012.


3. Report by Margaret Sekeggya, Special Rapporteur regarding the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, for the UN Human Rights Council – February 2012.

4. Declaration of Amnesty International at the 19th session of the UN Human Rights Council regarding Colombia, with a section devoted to human rights defenders – February 2012.


The community, indigenous and victims leaders and defenders were the common target of attacks in the first six months of 2012.”


ATTACKS ACCORDING TO TYPE OF VIOLENCE

In the time period covered by this report, information was registered that shows at least seven types of attacks against human rights defenders in Colombia: murders, physical attacks, threats, arbitrary detentions, disappearances, robbery of information and sexual violence.

Source: ISAAHRD – We Are Defenders Program 2012.
Table: Type of Individual Attacks and Number

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Individual Attacks</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Threats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murders</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>Physical attacks</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>Arbitrary detentions</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Disappearances</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Robbery of information</td>
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<td>Sexual violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
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</table>

"On average, between January and June 2012, everyday a defender was attacked and every six days, one was murdered".

The Murder of Defenders

Death continues to follow the exercise of human rights defence and social leaders in the country. The cases registered by the Information System between January and June 2012 represent a proof of this fact.

According to the ISAAHRD, 29 defenders or social leaders were murdered in the first six months of 2012. Next their names are listed along with the recognition of their work so that they are not forgotten and so that justice is done:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dpto.</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Victims</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Type of Defender</th>
<th>Presumed Responsible Actor</th>
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<td>Caldas</td>
<td>Riosucio</td>
<td>Herminson Morales Zamora</td>
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<td>Indigenous Leader</td>
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<td>Role</td>
<td>Organization</td>
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<td>Juan Manuel Jaramillo Paque</td>
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<td>Cauca</td>
<td>Miranda</td>
<td>Julio Dagua Corpus</td>
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<td>Cauca</td>
<td>Miranda</td>
<td>Alberto Cunda Poscué</td>
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<td>Argemiro Cárdenas Agudelo</td>
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<td>Pablo Gutiérrez</td>
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<td>Víctor Manuel Hilarión Palacios</td>
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<td>Macarieros Reservation of the Makaguan Indigenous People</td>
<td>Indigenous Leader</td>
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Of the 29 murdered defenders and leaders, 27 were men, for a total of 93.2 percent, while the remaining 6.8 percent, representing two cases, were women. Cauca was the most affected department with six leaders assassinated, followed by Nariño with six; Valle del Cauca with three; and Chocó, Córdoba and Risaralda with two. Antioquia, Arauca, Bogotá, Caquetá, Meta and Putumayo all had one case each.

Due to these first six months of 2012, the We Are Defenders Program and its information system are making a special call so that the conditions in which these leaders were assassinated can be observed and analyzed. The high levels of brutality with which the assassinations were committed are quite evident, especially in the cases where acts of torture were present before the killing, or where murders took place with large weapons and numerous gunshots.

It is also necessary to mention that in many of the murder cases of leaders and defenders, the crimes took place inside or in front of the homes of the victims, often in front of their family members, and on some occasions, the victims were dragged from their homes and later executed.
Another particular aspect worth noting is the fact that in various cases, the family members of the victims were also affected, most wounded in the same attack although on other occasions family members were also killed. Such is the case of the two married couples murdered as well as two pairs of brothers. Also, it is extremely worrying that of the 29 leaders killed, 13 of them – or 44.8 percent – were members and leaders of indigenous communities.

**Disappearances**

In 2012, the increasing tendency in the disappearance of human rights defenders identified by the We Are Defenders program in 2011 is continuing. Three defenders were disappeared and until this day, there has been no news of their whereabouts. It is telling that in the three cases presented in this report, the three victims all had some kind of link of the Patriotic Match, which took place in April 2012.

**Javier Silva Pérez**, peasant leader and community director from the small town of El Morro, is still missing after his disappearance on April 21, when he was last seen in the city of Yopal. As President of the Association of the Community Action Boards in El Morro, Javier had denounced the social, economic and environmental effects caused by the oil companies that operate camps and are developing new exploration sites in this part of Casanare. The authorities have given no information regarding the case and no trace has been found of Javier – not even the motorcycle he was riding in Yopal the same day he disappeared.

**Martha Cecilia Guevara Oyola**, community leader from San Vicente del Caguán, connected to the Patriotic March political movement, disappeared on April 20. Martha had arrived to San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá, for a medical appointment in the San Rafael Local Hospital. Her plan was to later meet with her husband to go with a group from the region to the launching of the Patriotic March Political Movement in Bogotá.

**Hernán Henry Díaz**, is the spokesperson of the Table of Social Organizations from the department for Putumayo, and member of the National Peasant Union Federation – FENSUA-GRO in Spanish. He was seen for the last time on April 18, 2012 when we...
was in Puerto Asís to lead a delegation of some 200 people from the municipality of Valle del Guamuéz to Bogotá to participate in the launching of the Patriotic March Political Movement. He was last seen in Puerto Vega, a small town in Puerto Asís.

**Individual Threat and Attacks**

During the first half of 2012, a total of 81 cases of threats were registered throughout the country. The most common way to threaten human rights defenders was through telephone calls. At the same time, in 18 cases there was direct intimidation against the leader or defender, taking place in their home, in the street or in rural areas. The proliferation of threatening pamphlets, communiqués, text messages and e-mails against human rights defenders and organizations were also part of the repertoire of threatening actions.

It is worth noting that paramilitary groups (Las Águilas Negras, Los Rastrojos and Los Urabeños) and unknown actors are responsible for the largest number of threats registered according to group. Cauca leads the list with the largest amount of individual threats against human rights defenders according to the Information System with 15 cases, followed by Santander with 13, Valle del Cauca with 12, and both Sucre and Bogotá with 10 cases.

In Antioquia, Arauca, Atlántico, Caldas, Huila, Putumayo, Meta, Chocó and Bolívar, threats were also reported.

Regarding physical attacks, it is vital to note the significant increase in these cases between the same period in 2011 and 2012. Between January and June 2011, there were 10 cases of physical attacks, while during this period in 2012 the number of cases was 29. **The increase in attacks together with the much more direct and personalized threats make the jump from words to action by the attackers worryingly evident.**

**Robbery of Information**

Three female defenders were victims of the robbery of their information in the first six months of 2012:

**Martha Burbano**, Director of the Corporation for Regional Development – CDR in Spanish – in Cali, Valle del Cauca had the RAM memory and hard drive stolen from her computer inside her office. The rest of the computers were in perfect condition with nothing taken, and there were no signs of forced entry into the building. It is important to remember that on Wednesday May 30, in the building of the House of Spain, on Calle 35 # 16-42 in Bogotá, before the beginning of the "Forced Disappearances: Peace and Impunity" Forum, led and organized by the Work-group on Forced Disappearances of
the CCEEU – member organization of the CDR – the laptop belonging to the assistant investigator of the Human Rights and IHL Observatory of the CCEEU was stolen. Both computers contained sensitive information regarding forced disappearances and human rights violations.

**Nubia Mendoza Lobo**, technical secretary of the Norte de Santander chapter of MOVICE was robbed when her laptop, video camera and external hard drive were stolen from her home. These instruments contained all of the information, photographic archives, videos and databases concerning her work and personal life.

**Ana Margarita Díaz Gómez**, Vice President of ASORVIMM in Barrancabermeja, Santander was the victim of the robbery on the street when her agenda containing exclusive information for the organizations and her cell phone with the complete information about the associates of the organization were both stolen.
Concerning the presumed responsible actors for the attacks against human rights defenders and leaders, the Information System registered unknown assailants as the most common actor, with a total of 72 cases, or 44 percent. Paramilitary groups are next on the list representing a total of 43 cases, or 26 percent. During the same time period in 2011, unknown assailants were responsible for 29 percent of cases, and paramilitaries 59 percent.

Members of the State security forces (National Army, Police, SIJIN, Public Prosecutor’s Office, amongst others) appear as the responsible party in 27 of the attacks, representing 17 percent. The guerrillas (FARC, ELN, EPL) are responsible for 21 cases, or 13 percent. It is essential to note the increase in participation by both of these actors when compared to the same period in 2011 when the State security forces were responsible for 10 percent of cases, and the guerrillas just two percent.

ZONES OF ATTACK

In the first six months of 2012, Cauca is the department that registered the highest number of attacks in the country with 25. Santander has shown again a large number of attacks against leaders with 21. Nariño, Valle del Cauca and Bogotá follow with 19, 17 and 14 cases of attacks respectively. Chocó, Risaralda, Antioquia, Arauca and Córdoba close out the rest of the list.

It is worth pointing out that the first four places with the greatest number of cases of attacks in the fix half of the year are also areas in which the armed conflict has increased in intensity during the same time period.

It is also important to note that the number of attacks in Bogotá decreased significantly from 33 in 2011, to 14 in 2012. The vast majority of the cases in Bogotá were attacks against social organizations with headquarters in the capital city but that carry out actions on a national level.
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A solitary path: January - June 2012 Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Greatest No. of cases 2011</th>
<th>Greatest No. of cases 2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Bogotá D.C.</td>
<td>33 cases</td>
<td>Cauca – 25 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Caquetá</td>
<td>16 cases</td>
<td>Santander – 21 cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Valle del Cauca</td>
<td>16 cases</td>
<td>Nariño – 19 cases</td>
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<td>4 Sucre</td>
<td>14 cases</td>
<td>Valle del Cauca – 17 cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Antioquia</td>
<td>13 cases</td>
<td>Bogotá D.C. – 14 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Risaralda</td>
<td>11 cases</td>
<td>Chocó – 10 cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Cauca</td>
<td>10 cases</td>
<td>Risaralda – 7 cases</td>
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Zones of Attacks by Department
January - June 2012
GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

With a complete analysis of the Information System of Aggression against Human Rights Defenders – ISAAHRD – from the non-government program for the protection of human rights defenders We Are Defenders, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding the situation of human rights defenders and leaders for the first six months of 2012:

1. The cases registered in the Information System show a 12 percent increase in attacks against human rights defenders when compared to the same time period in 2011.

2. There continues to be a worryingly high level of attacks against leaders and defenders of indigenous communities, which contrasts with the large amount of legislation and rulings by the Constitutional Court regarding their protection, given that these communities receive special recognition as “vulnerable” in the Colombian Constitution of 1991, an adjective that indigenous communities themselves use as well.

3. It is important to highlight the increase in attacks presumably carried out by the guerrilla forces, as well as unknown assailants. In previous reports, We Are Defenders has shown that when the number of cases with unknown assailants increases, the cases with paramilitary authorship decrease.

4. The attackers of human rights defenders and social leaders act very openly and calmly, especially when the closeness to the lives of the victims is considered, showing that the local and national authorities simply cannot provide the prevention and protection they are responsible for, according to their public function. The 29 murders in the first half of 2012 is a contradictory indicator to the official discourses that have argued on many occasions for an increase in preventive and protection measures.

5. The solitude and lack of defence of human rights defenders and leaders are clearly manifested in the manner in which they must lead organizational processes, without any type of State or governmental support. Added to this lack of support is the lack of comprehension on the part of a society that still does not understand the importance of the work of defenders and leaders.
to strengthen Colombian democracy. Their lack of defence is also reflected in how they are attacked: inside or close to their homes, together with their families, in public service vehicles and on roads and paths between towns and villages, which represent the path of their community-based work. The solitude and lack of defence continue for their family members, widows, and orphaned children who do not count on State or governmental support to continue to push forward with their lives now marked by pain, poverty and loss.

6. Although the Information System does not directly monitor the progress of the judicial investigations that look to clear up what happened with these crimes and find those responsible, it is evident that the Public Prosecutor’s Office and the other state entities of control and investigation have not become aware of the positive results of forwarding these investigations, which has only shown, yet again, the state of impunity that is ever-present in Colombia.

7. The We Are Defenders program is making an emphatic call to the National Government and in general the Colombian State so that they see the results of their performance in these cases of attacks against human rights defenders, and not only those reported in the We Are Defenders Information System but also by human rights, peasant, indigenous, afro-descendent, women’s, LGBT, young people’s, journalists and unionist organizations. These vulnerable but important groups are reporting on a daily basis situations that make their legitimate, legal and already difficult work that much more difficult, and that much more dangerous.