

IMAGINE



January to June 2014 Report Information
System on Attacks Against Human
Rights Defenders - ISAAHRD



PROGRAMA
SOMOS DEFENSORES
PROGRAMA NO GUBERNAMENTAL DE PROTECCIÓN A
DEFENSORES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS



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2014

The nongovernmental program for the protection of human rights – Somos Defensores (Program We are Defenders), is a protection space that looks to develop an integral proposal to prevent aggressions and protect the lives of persons who face risks because of their work as defenders of human rights, when they protect the interests of social groups and communities affected by the violence in Colombia.

The Programa Somos Defensores is composed of:



This edition was produced by the Programa Somos Defensores with the coordination of MINGA Association

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The work from the Programa Somos Defensores is possible in 2014 thanks to the Norwegian Embassy in Colombia and the international cooperation agencies GIZ, DIAKONIA, MISEREOR, Terre des Hommes – Schweiz and the European Union by means of Intermon Oxfam



I M A G I N A

The first six months of 2014 reflected an important struggle for Colombia. It was a struggle between the continuation of the war and a political and negotiated solution to the armed conflict that has spilt blood for 50 years in the country. In this struggle, the social and human rights movement was decisive in saying NO to the continuity of the war, reaffirming a conviction for peace. The second round of presidential elections was, certainly, the peak of this political struggle. In it the social mobilization imposed itself to close the path to the war. In the midst of the anguish of voting for a neoliberal presidential candidate, a large part of the citizens voted for the hope of silencing the rifles and imagining a country in peace.

And precisely this is what was left after these six months in the struggle for human rights in Colombia, an illusion; the illusion of starting to imagine a different country, despite the political opportunism of both candidates, despite the precariousness in the guarantee of the fundamental rights after 12 years of the implementation of the Democratic Security Policy and its regional development, such as the plans of territorial consolidation. We the defenders have the hope, not in a government, but in the possibility of counting on the elusive national public opinion for the backing of a negotiated peace and overcoming the armed conflict.

In this context, the present report is written with the same goal as the social and human rights movement, of giving a vote of confidence to the joint intention of peace, inviting everyone to imagine, to think about a country in peace, but above all, to participate with proposals and actions in the materialization of what we imagine today.

And still, amid the optimism and the political interest for peace, we must continue realizing the reality that is the situation for social leaders and defenders of human rights in the regions of the country, where diverse aspects come together that do not favor the environment for the exercise of social leadership and the work of defending human rights. Among them can be identified: the scenarios of protection are unstable and weak, since as it is noted in the report “Protección Al Tablero”¹ (Protection at the Board), the same local authorities do not have clarity about the existing politics, furthermore from the strong centralization in Bogotá; the challenges facing future peace agreements between the government and guerrilla generate uncertainty about their impacts on the territories; the upcoming release from prison of paramilitaries for completing prison sentences, also has set off alarms concerning

¹ “Protección Al Tablero” Special report of SIADDHH from Programa Somos Defensores about the implementation of protection policies (decree 4912 of 2011) and the state of investigation of crimes against human rights defenders in the period of 2009-2013. Available at www.somosdefensores.org

the possible retaliations facing their victims, and even among themselves, or the potential reality that they will return to their criminal activities, which are further favored because of the institutional weaknesses in the regions. Among these realities, during the first six months of 2014, the aggressions against leaders and defenders increased by 20%, but homicides decreased by 18%, which is a good indicator.

It is difficult to be optimistic in the face of the deaths and lack of protection for human rights defenders. However, in a historic moment like the one Colombia is living, where the historic tendency of conflict and sociopolitical violence can be broken; the social leadership and the movement of human rights have a lot to contribute in helping to generate the conditions for overcoming the armed conflict and to subsequently continue building the path for a country in peace. It is because of this that the semi-annual report for January through June 2014 from the Programa Somos Defensores, is launching its message of hope for people who are familiar and outsiders to imagine the country that we want, but along the same lines, for proposing the concrete actions that everyone can contribute to in the construction of this new chapter in the history of the country.

Of particular relevance on this subject we want to remember a man who

used music as a tool for peace and left us a message that today fills us with hope, imagination and commitment with the future:

“Imagine all the people
living life in peace...
You, you may say I’m a dreamer
but I’m not the only one
I hope someday you will join us
and the world will live as one.”

John Lennon also imagined, like hundreds of defenders of human rights in Colombia, a life in peace. As dreamy as it may seem, we also invite you to imagine a Colombia in peace.

We thank all the human rights and social organizations, social and cultural bodies, think tanks, women, afro-descendants, indigenous and rural organizations, organizations from the LGBTI movement, international human rights organizations and all those who collaborated in a direct manner with their information and contacts to make this report possible, and those who cannot be mentioned for obvious security reasons.

We also especially thank the financial support from the Norwegian Embassy and the international cooperation agencies DIAKONIA, MISEREOR and Terre des Hommes – Schweiz, GIZ, Oxfam Intermon, and the European Union, as well as the United Nations Development Programme – UNDP, since their support is fundamental in order to make this report possible.



Assured that the desires of the 30 human rights defenders assassinated during the first half of 2014 was also to have a country with peace and equity, we will remember their names and we will do a short review of the events that led to their deaths.

Peace in their graves and justice to their assassins. We continue imagining and working for a country where no one is ever again assassinated for defending the rights of their communities.

IN MEMORY OF THE ASSASSINATED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



**Jhon Braulio Saigama
Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez**

Indigenous Community
Emberá Chamí
El Dovio - Valle del Cauca



Threats had been reported: Yes
Alleged perpetrators: Paramilitaries
Social and/or human rights processes affected: Emberá Chamí
Indigenous Community

The leaders of the Emberá Chamí Indigenous Community, Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez and Jhon Braulio Saigama, 47 and 33 years old respectively, belonging to the settlement of La Esperanza, were assassinated in the municipality of El Dovio, Valle del Cauca, on January 1, 2014.

During December 30 and 31, members of post-demobilization illegal armed groups of the AUC (United Self Defense Group of Colombia), with presence in the zone, were inquiring about the whereabouts of another leader, Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez; the subjects were trying to find out if he would come to meet with the community for new year's day.

The Saigama brothers alerted Flaminio Onogama about the presence of these strangers that were searching for him, presumably to assassinate him the nights of December 30 or 31, 2013. During the early morning of the first of January the Saigama brothers left the group with which they had celebrated the new year, going in the direction of their respective residences. Their dead bodies were found in the morning hours, with evident signs of torture; the assassinations were perpetrated with knives.

At Berlain and Jhon's wake, unknown persons who appeared to belong to post-demobilization

illegal armed groups of the AUC, inquired again about the whereabouts of the leader Flaminio Onogama, hoping he would attend the funeral acts.

These three leaders (Flaminio, Berlain y Jhon) have done leadership work to prevent the forced recruitment of minors from the community and have actively participated in the Social, Indigenous and Popular Minga in 2013 (a Minga is a tradition of community or collective work of social utility).



Gerson Martínez
Pazur Hip Hop Movement
 Locality of San Cristóbal -
 Bogotá D.C.



Threats had been reported: No
Alleged perpetrators: Unknown
Social and/or human rights processes affected: Pazur hip hop Movement

Gerson Martínez, 29 years old, an urban artist and youth leader, was assassinated in the District Capital on January 4, 2014. The artist was found in the mountainous zone of los Cerros Sur Orientales of Zuque with bullet wounds, near the Ciudadela de Santa Rosa in the locality of San Cristóbal, which he traditionally attended in ritual form in the company of his friends to commemorate the new year.

Five masked men attacked the four young people, one of whom (Gerson) was assassinated, another injured and the others pursued by the members of the group. Despite the calls from the family, the members of the National Police who attended his search, refrained from entering the zone where the cadaver of the young artist was found, with the argument of having been “prohibited from entering this zone.”

Gerson Martínez was one of the leaders of the Pazur Hip Hop Movement, a representative of the graffiti in the locality of San Cristóbal and sympathizer of the Gustavo Petro administration. In the crime scene close to his cadaver, a blue bag tied to a stick was found, containing a badge of the Bogotá Humana government. According to the organizations to which the artist belonged, and the relatives of the victim, this object was apparently put there purposely by the aggressors, as a warning.



The secretary general of the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CPDH for its acronym in Spanish), Diego Martínez, said, “At this moment we are worried that the crime scene has been modified or altered. Sufficient actions to identify the perpetrators have not been developed. The police did not want to access the place where the Gerson Martínez’s body was found. We hope that the district attorneys contact the three young people who survived and that they want to collaborate with the investigation.”



Giovany Leiton

Communal Action Committee
from the town of Zabaleta
San José del Palmar - Chocó

Giovany Leiton and his partner Doris Viviana Vallejo were assassinated last January 4, in the town of San José del Palmar, Chocó. His body and his wife’s body were found in the morning hours in their house; the bodies were found with evident signs of torture.

He was the president of the communal action committee and a member of the National Board of Agricultural Dialogue and Accordance (MIA, for its acronym in Spanish), which led the agrarian protests last year. Leiton was an important protagonist in the protests against the eradication of illicit crops, a mobilization that lasted two months. Since then, a permanent assembly of communal action committees requested to be a part of the MIA National.

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Months before the leader had also made public complaints about the violent actions from the army and other illegal armed groups in their territories.

Threats had been reported: No
Alleged perpetrators: Unknown
Social and/or human rights processes affected: Communal Action Committee of Zabaleta, municipality of San José del Palmar



Ever Luis Marín Rolong

Bavaria Brewery Labor Union -
SINALTRACEBA
Soledad - Atlántico



Threats had been reported: Yes
Alleged perpetrators: Paramilitaries
Social and/or human rights processes affected:

Ever Luis Marín Rolong, 46 years old, worked at the Cervecería Águila company and was part of the Statutory Commission of Claims of the trade union SINALTRACEBA. The events occurred during the afternoon of last January 4, in the municipality Soledad, in the metropolitan area of Barranquilla, while he was waiting for the bus that would bring him to the Barranquilla Bavaria plant where he had worked for 26 years. He had to work the 4 p.m. shift. There he was approached by some hitmen who shot him six times with a nine-millimeter pistol, for which he was taken to the Police Clinic where he died.

“Marín was a member of the board of directors of Sintraceba (Bavaria Brewery Labor Union) that is connected to the CUT and he was going to his shift at 4:00 p.m., when armed men killed him,” stated Luis Alejandro Pedraza, president of the United Workers Federation (CUT, for its in Spanish).

However, the commandant in charge of the Barranquilla Metropolitan Police, Colonel Édgar Muñoz, discarded that the motives of this crime have something to do with his activity as a member of Sintralceba. “There aren’t situations that indicate that he has been assassinated for belonging to the union. “He wasn’t part of the union structure, nor of the board... furthermore he didn’t have threats (against him),” declarations that contradict what was said by the union itself and by the CUT.



Alberto De Jesús Díaz Mercado

Community of Barrio Juan XXIII
Plato - Magdalena



Threats had been reported: No

Alleged perpetrators: Unknown

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Community of
Barrio Juan XXIII, Plato Magdalena

Alberto de Jesús Díaz Mercado, 37 years old, businessman and community leader of the population in Plato Magdalena, was assassinated on January 10 during the night hours, when he met with several friends in a residence in Barrio Juan XXIII.

The assassination of Díaz Mercado was recorded in the corner of avenue 10 with street 25 in his own neighborhood, several blocks from where his parents lived. The victim received a bullet wound in the back and another in the head. According to information from the community, Alberto de Jesús met at seven at night at the residence of his brother, he then took the motorcycle of the property and traveled to the corner of avenue 10 with street 25, where he met with several friends who had arrived from Bogotá. When he was sitting in a seat, an unknown person showed up and without saying a word shot him several times. After committing the crime, the hitman shot several shots in the air while escaping on a high cylinder motorcycle that was waiting for him.

The community leader, from the Barrio Juan XXIII in the municipality of Plato, carried out civic work that benefitted the whole community in the sector, such as the support of sport days in support of displaced populations or supporting cases of extreme poverty.



Heriberto Mora Muñetón

Communal Action Committee
from the town of Minas Blancas
San Vicente del Caguán - Caquetá



Threats had been reported: No

Alleged perpetrator: Unknown

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Communal
Action Committee of Minas Blancas

Heriberto Mora Muñetón, 48 years old, was murdered by hitmen. Heriberto was assassinated in a rural area in the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán, in a site known as La Planada del Rayo, located on the route that goes from this municipality to Balsillas.

It appears that around 8:15 at night on the January 22, unknown men attacked Heriberto with a firearm, wounding him two times, once in his neck and the other in his chest.

According to unofficial versions, the leader was traveling with Mrs. Nirsa Velazco, whose whereabouts up to this date are unknown. Heriberto served as the president of the Communal Action Committee of Minas Blancas, a population close to the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán.

Two days after this assassination a pamphlet was left anonymously in the office of Caguán Vive in San Vicente del Caguán (Caguán Lives in San Vicente del Caguán Corporation), signed by a group that calls itself "Águilas Negras Guerreros del Yari," with a death threat giving a 48 hour time limit to abandon the locality, directed towards the mayor of the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán, Domingo Pérez, and nine other people, including officials of the municipality, human rights activists and community leaders.



Miguel Segundo Díaz Soto

Communal Action Committee
from the town of Camelias
Puerto Asís - Putumayo



Threats had been reported: No

Alleged perpetrator: Unknown

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: The Camelia
community in the rural zone of the
municipality of Puerto Asís.

The community leader Miguel Segundo Díaz Soto, 52 years old, was assassinated with two shots in the head and two more in the leg. He lived in the town of Camelias in the rural zone of the municipality Puerto Asís, located in the route Ancurá-La Alea.

According to the information from the community, the community leader left his house around 1:00 in the afternoon and did not return. As time went on his family became worried and gave notice to the community, which started a search that did not find any trace of him. The following day they continued with the task and they spread out to various sectors. Around 11 in the morning Díaz Soto was found dead close to a pasture in the town of Comandante, an hour and a half from the town where he resided. The body was removed by the community and taken to his house, and later brought to legal medicine.

According to the medical report, in addition to the bullet wounds, the body exhibited contusions in different body parts; he had allegedly been severely beaten.

Miguel was recognized by the Camelias community for his support of the actions of community development and for being president of the Communal Action Committee in the town. This zone of Putumayo had been warned about by the ombudsman's office via a risk report for Puerto Asís, days before as having high risk, due to the assassinations of 30 persons during the first days of 2014.



Duvis Antonio Galvis

Communal Action Committee
from the town of El Bojoso -
Rural Association of Catatumbo
- ASCAMCAT
Sardinata - Norte de Santander

Duvis Galvis, 33 years old, married and with three children, was assassinated on Sunday January 26 when he was returning to his house and unknown persons shot him several times in the chest. According to police sources from Norte de Santander, Galvis was taken down from his motorcycle by unknown persons who shot him. Also, the police indicated that the leader had not reported threats.

Olga Quintero, from the board of directors of the Rural Association of Catatumbo- Ascamcat, said that Duvis Antonio was a representative of the Community Action Council of the town of El Bojoso in the municipality of Sardinata and a recognized leader from the community in the zone of Catatumbu, who worked with families of coca farmers, welcoming crop substitution programs.



Threats had been reported: No
Alleged perpetrator: Unknown
Social and/or human rights processes affected: Communal Action Committee of El Bojoso in the municipality of Sardinata
- Rural association of Catatumbo -
ASCAMCAT

Galvis also was part of the movement known as the Marcha Patriótica (Patriotic March), which has reported the death of 30 of its activists, the forced disappearance of another three and the opening of judicial proceedings against close to 200 of its members since the creation of the movement two years ago.



Carlos Enrique Ruíz Escarraga

“Res Gestae” Counter-cultural Collective

Locality of Ciudad Bolívar - Bogotá D.C.



Threats had been reported: **Yes**

Alleged perpetrator: Paramilitaries

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Counterculture Collective “Res Gestae”

Carlos Ruíz Escarraga, a young worker, university student and cultural leader, 24 years old, member of the cultural organization Entre Redes (Between Networks) and a member of the Counterculture Collective “Res Gestae,” was assassinated on Wednesday January 29 in the vicinity of Sierra Morena neighborhood in Bogotá. The homicide occurred 48 hours after the circulation of a pamphlet signed by groups of “BACRIM-opción al paramilitarismo,” (BACRIM-option to the paramilitaries) that under the premise of “social cleansing,” threatened with death anyone they found in the street. Carlos Enrique’s body was found with various bullet wounds in a park close to his house in the sector of Sierra Morena in Ciudad Bolívar. Ruiz Escarraga had worked for several years in Sierra Morena as a cultural artist and in connecting other young people in practicing urban culture.

According to figures from legal medicine, so far this year 27 violent deaths have been reported in the locality of Ciudad Bolívar, 15 of which were homicides. Since the end of 2013 there had been an increase in the wave of violence in the locality, allegedly due to the arrival of a faction of the “Urabeños” to dispute the territorial control with other factions of the so-called BACRIM, like the Rastrojos and the Bloque Capital of the AUC.

Daniel Velásquez, from the organization Entre Redes, said that “pamphlets arrived to Soacha and Ciudad Bolívar threatening the young people that go out in the street during night hours, but in the end they end up claiming the lives of young, innocent people like Carlos Enrique Ruiz, a young community leader from

the student zone of Universidad Pedagógica.”

The Colombian National Youth and Student Association expressed that what occurred are not isolated incidents of “social cleansing, but a flagrant violation of human rights of low-class neighborhoods, which seems to be a part of the policies of the state based on selective assassinations, repression of social protests and establishment of fear as a weapon of social control.”



Luis Alberto Restrepo Vallejo

Communal Action Committee
from the town of Arcacai
Mistrató - Risaralda



Threats had been reported: No
Alleged perpetrator: Unknown
Social and/or human rights processes affected: Communal Action Committee of Arcacai

Luis Alberto Restrepo Vallejo, 43 years old, president of the Communal Action Committee of Arcacai in the municipality of Mistrató, was assassinated when he was heading to the town of Costa Rica of this locality.

The event took place on the February 5 at two in the afternoon, when he was traveling in his own vehicle through the sector of Mampay, neighboring the town, while he was doing a delivery, since apart from being a leader of the sector he worked carrying out deliveries. On the way he was surprised by armed people he did not know, who shot him four times, causing his immediate death.

Luis Alberto was a native of Belén de Umbría and he worked as a farmer and the president of Communal Action Committee. He was known for traveling frequently to San Antonio del Chamí, Río de Oro and Río Chamí bringing deliveries, which was the occupation that he lived from, but furthermore, for trying to unite defense processes of the territory with other community action committees.



Alcides Correa

Rural Community of the
municipality of Betulia - Antioquia
Municipality of Betulia - Antioquia



Threats had been reported: No

Alleged perpetrator: Unknown

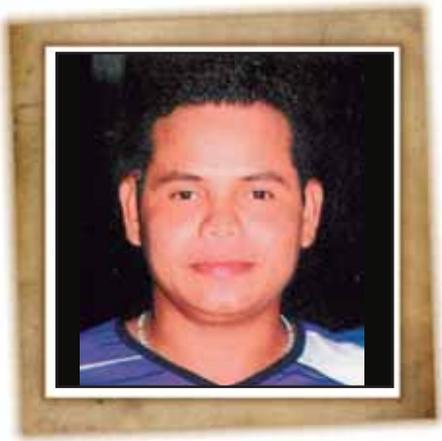
Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Rural Community
of the municipality of Betulia –
Antioquia

In the town of Yermal in the municipality of Betulia, on February 21, 2014, the rural leader Alcides Correa was assassinated. The leader was approached by hitmen when he was arriving to his home after buying groceries in the municipality and he was shot, causing his death. The leader was assassinated after participating in a departmental meeting on the framework of the National Agrarian Pact.

“Very sad, a 75 year-old leader who participated in a meeting that he was doing with the Secretary of Agriculture in Antioquia for the Agrarian Pact. He was going to his house with groceries and when was almost there he was shot three times in the back of his head and it ended the life of this man,” stated Alonso Benjamín Suarez of Dignidad Cafetera, a national coffee growers’ association.

Even though the authorities are advancing with the investigation, the hypothesis that is gaining strength is his refusal to pay extortion fees to criminal groups that operate in the zone. However, friends and relatives warn that the rural leader had not been threatened, which is why they have requested that the authorities clarify his death.



Jorge Eliecer Hernández Blanco

Communal Action Committee
from the town of Alto Limón
Municipality of San Pablo - Bolívar



Threats had been reported: No

Alleged perpetrators: National Army

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Communal
Action Committee of Alto Limón

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, in the town of Mate Bambú, the 28 year-old rural leader Jorge Eliecer Hernández Blanco was assassinated, presumably by La Fuerza de Tarea Conjunta Marte, a military task force. According to relatives and inhabitants of the region, Jorge served as the vice president for the Communal Action Committee of Alto Limón in San Pablo, in the south of Bolívar.

However, according the Second Division of the army, on Sunday, February 23, 2014: "During the development of the military operations, troops from the Second Division neutralized alias 'Severo,' an alleged member of the support networks of FARC's 24th front and 'Héroes y Mártires de Santa Rosa' (Heroes and Martyrs of Santa Rosa) of the ELN, and criminal bands that served drug trafficking. The event took place in the town of Tres Bocas in the municipality of San Pablo, in the south of Bolívar, when the troops from the Fuerza de Tarea Marte, were carrying out offensive operations. Alias 'Severo,' 24 years old, shot at the soldiers when he realized they were there; however, the troops reacted in legitimate defense, which caused the death of the subject in the development of the military operation."

According to versions from relatives: "He had the motorcycle running there, when he heard a car and turned on the lights, he took off and left, and was leaving when the army shot him, they shot him without telling him to stop, without



telling him to hand himself over if he has a problem...” The leader Jorge Eliecer Hernández, according to the community, was not a guerilla, or a delinquent, and he was not armed either. In the preliminary reports from the authorities, it is not mentioned that a firearm shot by Jorge Eliecer was found, which makes the position of the army less convincing.

On February 25, 2014, in the community of the municipality of San Pablo there was public mobilization to protest the assassination of Jorge Eliecer Blanco at the hands of the army.



Juan Alberto Causado Priolo

Process of land restitution in Pinar del Río
Barranquilla - Atlántico



Threats had been reported: Yes
Alleged perpetrators: Unknown
Social and/or human rights processes affected: The process of land restitution in Pinar del Río, Barranquilla.

At nine at night on Saturday, March 1, when having a conversation with a neighbor, the 55-year-old leader Juan Alberto Causado Priolo was assassinated with two gunshots. Allegedly Causado is the third lethal victim from the lawsuit that was led by a group of 16 displaced persons for land that the ex-mayor Humberto Caiaffa gave to them in 2000 in the Pinar del Río settlement, in the jurisdiction of Juan Mina. The land now appears as sold to a private citizen.

When hearing the shots, a group of people was able to retain the attacker and with “a blow to the head they knocked him down and later he was stoned until it caused his death,” said Colonel Edgar Muñoz, sub-commander of the Barranquilla police. He added that if it were not for the police arriving at the site “they would have incinerated the body of this person.” The protest was repressed by the ESMAD (Mobile Anti-Disturbances Squadron). Ten people were injured in the clashes with the police.

The identity of the attacker and the causes for which he shot at Causado are still unknown. Causado counted on protection measures granted by the National Protection Unit (a bulletproof vest from the unit), since he had received threats. According to the Barranquilla police commandant, the leader “had some elements (of security), he had a bulletproof vest and he had taken it off of himself upon arriving at his house.”

José Humberto Torres, from the Movement of Victims of State Crimes in Barranquilla, said that Causado represented a group of families that arrived to the city from San Bernardo del Viento at the beginning of the past decade. The assassinated land restitution and community leader was one of the representatives of 17 displaced families that appealed for the formalization of the documents of a 36.6 hectare lot in Pinar del Río, outside of Barranquilla, that they received from the mayor in 2001.

The value of the land has grown due to the fact that it is close to a free trade zone, which is why the families received different offers to buy it, which they declined because they wanted to continue cultivating, said Betulfo Salas, one of the three community leaders of the families in Pinar del Río over the telephone.



Epifanio Latin Ñuscue

Nasa Indigenous Community
Miranda - Cauca



Threats had been reported: Yes
Alleged perpetrators: FARC
Social and/or human rights processes affected: Indigenous Education, Dantas Education Center in the town of Cajones, Nasa Indigenous Community

The teacher and indigenous leader Epifanio Latin Ñuscue was brutally assassinated as he travelled to his workplace located in the Dantas Education Center in the town of Cajones. This occurred on March 3, 2014 at 8 a.m., in the town of Mina, in the indigenous territory of the La Cilia-la Calera Cabildo, municipality of Miranda. This happened less than 15 days since the assassination attempt against the humanitarian mission in Jámbalo.

According to the Nasa traditional indigenous authority, the assassinated man had been the victim of constant threats by members of the FARC guerrillas that operate in the region for defending the autonomy and the plan of indigenous life and government, positions that he defended with bravery in public debates.

The body of Epifanio Latin showed signs of blows on his whole body, punctures in his face and head from blunt items and signs of strangulation. The leader left a child less than five years old as an orphan.



Evelio Obando Campo

Communal Action Committee
from the town of El Placer
El Tambo - Cauca



Threats had been reported: Yes

Alleged perpetrators: Unknown

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Communal
Action Committee of El Placer

According to the information given by the residents of the sector, the leader was shot close to seven in the morning of Tuesday, March 11, by unknown persons when he was walking in one of the streets in the neighborhood, located in the north of the municipality of El Tambo.

The communities of El Placer and the neighboring towns protested their concerns over what happened, since a few days after the assassination of the leader, in rural zones and in the municipal seat of El Tambo, a pamphlet circulated that voiced death threats against communal leaders in the zone.

The flyer, which was signed by the illegal armed group “Los Urabeños,” emphasized that the threats were directed towards people who identified with the Partido Liberal (Liberal Party). Evelio Campo, besides being a member of the board of directors of the Communal Action Committee of El Placer, was part of this political party, according to what the community reported.

Evelio Obando requested protection from the State due to the intimidating pamphlets that arrived at his house, but this protection was not received; this 60-year-old leader was assassinated almost two weeks after receiving the threat. Obando stood out in this municipality for his management abilities of territorial entities regarding plans that benefitted the rural community of El Tambo.

The municipal representative, Antonio Useche, said that Evelio had orally disclosed the threats, then he was asked to duly report the threats before the public prosecutor’s office, but at the time of writing this report, the representative did not know if the process had in fact been done.



Faustino Acevedo Gaitán

Communal Action Committee
from the township of El Morro -
Asocomunal
Yopal - Casanare



Threats had been reported: Yes

Alleged perpetrators: ELN

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Communal
Action Committee from the township
of Morro - Asocomunal

On April 6, 2014, in the afternoon hours, Faustino Acevedo, communal leader of the petroleum township of El Morro, Yopal, was assassinated with a firearm. He allegedly died from receiving three bullet wounds in his head. Mr. Acevedo and other communal leaders from Asojuntas, had been carrying out a job in coordination with the Worker's Trade Union (USO, for its acronym in Spanish), in favor of labor rights. Faustino Acevedo led the recent strike against the company ISMOCOL to demand improvements in the work conditions.

These actions seemingly caused repeated threats and monitoring of Mr. Acevedo and the other communal leaders in this zone. Faustino Acevedo is the fifth member of the board association assassinated without even taking over the position: Oswaldo Vargas was assassinated on September 2, 2004; Parmenio Parra was assassinated on May 10, 2005, three days after being elected; Cenin Cruz and Javier Silva were forcibly disappeared.

Since 2012 the government and the authorities have known about the threats faced by the leaders of the zone, including the police and the national government in the consultation roundtables of 2012. However, there has not been substantial progress in the investigation, especially in identifying ties between the oil industry and the homicides. On April 7 the authorities offered five million pesos for the murderer of Acevedo, an event that caused indignation in the community, which as a form of expressing their disapproval, said that they would offer 50 million pesos.



On the other hand, via press release sent to some news outlets in Yopal, the National Liberation Army, ELN (for its acronym in Spanish) claimed responsibility for the assassination of the labor and communal leader.



Miguel Ángel Parra

The community of Barrio
Guadalupe
Locality of Kennedy - Bogotá D.C



Threats had been reported: Yes

Alleged perpetrators: Unknown

Social and/or human rights processes affected: The community of the locality of Kennedy

Miguel Ángel Parra, a recognized communal leader from the south of Bogotá, and a native of Cunday, Tolima, was assassinated by a gunshot. Miguel had lived with his wife for 20 years in the Barrio Guadalupe, in the locality of Kennedy. According to relatives, his dream to transform the environment of the neighborhood took him to the grave.

A man allegedly followed him for several blocks between the shanties on the edge of the Tunjuelito River and shot him with a 38 caliber gun. ‘Miguelito,’ as the man from Tolima was known, was injured in a store on the South Freeway with street 62A.

Tulia Aguilera, the wife of Miguel, said: “They tell us that he ended up having an argument with the man who was following him since he left the house. The saddest part is that the man involved was able to remove the evidence against him and argued to be illiterate to get his freedom,” indicated the wife. And she added: “That man said that the police hit him and that the community was going to lynch him for the homicide, now the crime against my husband remains in impunity.”

The woman said that Miguel Ángel dreamed about transforming everything that was around him, furthermore, he reported the existence of ‘ollas’ (drug dens) and illegal slaughterhouses and it was that hunt for control of the territory that ended the life of Parra. Now Tulia, along with her two daughters from Tolima, must leave the neighborhood. Meanwhile, the widow with the collaboration of community leaders and public transport drivers is looking for the recapture of her husband’s murderer.



Jesús Adán Quinto

Community of Cacarica - Chocó
Turbo - Antioquia



Threats had been reported: Yes
Alleged perpetrators: Unknown
Social and/or human rights processes affected: The process of land restitution of the community of Cacarica, Chocó.

Jesús Adán Quinto was a recognized leader for land restitution and the displaced community of Cacarica – Chocó who was assassinated on April 9 (the national day of victims of the conflict) in the municipality of Turbo – Antioquia, where he resided. The leader was stopped by two hitmen who were waiting in the street and who shot him without saying a word. Jesús Adán counted on protection measures granted by the National Protection Unit (a bulletproof vest and an armed escort). The day of the murder, according to versions from the family, Quinto left his house alone since the assigned bodyguards were not present.

The leader, besides having brought forward the processes of restitution in the humanitarian zones of Curvaradó and Jiguamiandó in Chocó several years ago, had also, since the month of January 2014, accompanied and advised 45 displaced families in the municipality of Turbo.

According to Carlos Páez Díaz, the director of the association Tierra y Vida (Land and Life), which brings together more than 10,000 displaced persons from all over the country, the National Protection Unit had reduced Quinto's security despite the constant death threats by armed groups from the region of Urabá in Antioquia y Choco.

In December 2013 the ombudsman submitted a petition from Jesús Adán Quinto to the National Protection Unit to increase his protection measures, because of the risk that came with being the legal representative of the collective



territory of Cacarica and the leader of the population that was displaced from the region of Chocó and is currently found in Turbo. Since January the ombudsman had warned about the risk that the population ran in the zone because of the presence of armed men from the 57th front of the FARC and because ‘Los Urabeños’ also have influence there.

The alleged perpetrator of the assassination is between 23 and 25 years old, he is a man with a thin body, he is 1.68 m and has afro-descendant features, according to the newspaper El Tiempo. Furthermore, 50 million pesos will be paid to the person who gives information that leads to his capture.



Douglas Zuluaga

Communal Action committee from the town of Cartagenita Convención – Norte de Santander.



- Threats had been reported:** Yes
- Alleged perpetrators:** Unknown
- Social and/or human rights processes affected:** Communal Action Committee of Cartagenita - Agrarian Strike of Catatumbo

The Rural Association of Catatumbo (Ascamcat) reported the assassination of the agrarian leader Douglas Zuluaga at the hands of unknown persons who shot him several times. On April 10 during the early morning Douglas Zuluaga, president of the Communal Action Committee of Cartagenita, was traveling on his motorcycle on the route that goes to the town of Gramales. At the area known as la subida al retiro (the climb to the retreat), he was allegedly approached by unknown persons who shot him repeatedly. Peasants from the zone found the dead body of Douglas Zuluaga with 10 gunshot wounds.

This is one more case in the region in which under strange circumstances, a rural leader who participated in the agrarian strike in Catatumbo in 2013 was assassinated. Duvis Galvis, president of the Communal Action Committee of Bojoso, a town in the municipality of Sardinata, was also assassinated by unknown persons, as referenced in this report.

These assassinations took place during the same week when the local assemblies were starting to define the new rural strike taking place in May. Zuluaga had become a driving force of the rural manifestations, attending planning meetings and bringing together the community so that they were present in the strikes.



Luis Albeiro Guetio

Association of Traditional Authority of Nasa Cxacha
Puerto Asís - Putumayo

On April 10 in the property “las minas” in the Alto Danubio sector of the Cabildo Yu’ Lux, Luis Albeiro Guetio, senior advisor of the Association of Traditional Authority of Nasa Cxacha, Puerto Asís – Putumayo, was assassinated. The association was created in 2001 and it brings together eight cabildos from the Nasa community.

Luis Albeiro Guetio, 32 years old, originally from Caldono – Cauca, had worked as the adviser of the association and also as the governor; he was the father of six children, all minors. On Thursday, April 10 he was working in his plot when around 11 in the morning two armed men wearing military uniforms arrived and shot him to death.



Threats had been reported: Yes

Alleged perpetrators: Unknown

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Nasa Indigenous Community of the Cabildo Yu’ Lux of the municipality of Puerto Asís, Putumayo.

The Association of Traditional Authority of Nasa Cxacha of Puerto Asís, Putumayo, has related this event, with the reports and demands that they have brought before the different governmental entities, with regards to the excessive militarization of their communities, the implementation of petroleum exploitation projects and fumigation in their territories, the lack of knowledge about and disregard towards the indigenous communities in the region, as well as the strong criticism against the violent actions and intimidation on the part of the legal and illegal armed groups that operate in the zone.



**Olmedo Jiménez
Guamanga**

Integration Committee of Macizo
Colombiano (CIMA, for its
acronym in Spanish)
Santa Rosa - Cauca



Threats had been reported: No
Alleged perpetrators: Unknown
**Social and/or human rights
processes affected:** Rural
communities of Santa Rosa

The communities in the south of Cauca were exposed to violence with the assassination of the rural leader Jiménez Guamanga, a peasant from the municipality of Santa Rosa who was shot when he was leaving his residence, located in the town of La Agencia, going to a nearby ranch on April 14, 2014. His journey was stopped by men that were dressed in military uniforms with long-range weapons. Without saying a word, these people shot at Alfredo Jiménez and then fled toward a mountainous zone.

He was one of the leaders looking to consolidate the peasant reserve zones in the nine towns of Santa Rosa. Guido Rivera, a member of the Integration Committee of the Colombian Macizo (CIMA) — an organization to which Jiménez Guamanga also belonged— says that the last time that he talked to Jiménez Guamanga, he told Guido Rivera that he was going to lead the national agrarian strike in the south of Cauca, scheduled for the end of that month.

He also was promoting— along with other leaders from Bota Caucana— the use of an area on the hill of La Tuna, which is declared as a reserve, to permit the installation of a mobile phone antenna and also to supply the networks of five towns that do not have electric power at this moment. Both projects have had problems with the indigenous communities, which demand that prior consultation takes place.

For the Network for the Life of Human Rights in Cauca, the violence against rural leaders in the department is worrying, since this humanitarian agency has records that indicate that last year 24 social leaders were assassinated, while so far this year there are already four reported cases.



Luis Javier Campo Méndez

Álvaro Ulcué Chocue Youth
Movement
Suárez - Cauca



Threats had been reported: Yes

Alleged perpetrators: Unknown

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Nasa Indigenous
Community, Álvaro Ulcué Chocue
Youth Movement.

The Indigenous Cabildo of Tijeras Hill, together with the Department of the Fight Against Transnational Companies of the United Workers Federation of Colombia – CUT, Valle del Cauca office, reported the assassination of the youth leader Luis Javier Campo Méndez. Luis was 22 years old, a father of two young children, and he dedicated his time to rural labors, besides being a youth leader.

His body was found in the early morning of Monday, April 21 in a secluded spot in the town of Los Mangos – township of Bellavista. His body had four stab wounds in his chest, several blows to his skull, his hands bound together, and another injury on his neck (slit), which infers that he was tortured by his victims.

Luis Javier Campo was an active member of the Álvaro Ulcué Chocué youth movement, an organization that has always reported the abuses by armed actors, both legal and illegal, in the territory of the cabildo. Together with Horacio Campo Cruz, another of the threatened leaders, he carried out pedagogical and craft activities that removed the youth and adults from the conflict activities that intensify in the region.

The territory that includes the Cabildo de Cerro Tijeras, counts on a large variety of natural resources that are sought by private extractive industries that were given, in an illegal manner from the previous government, immense swaths of territory of the communal and ancestral communities, for their mining exploration and exploitation at medium and large scales



Ernesto Castañeda

Communal Action Committee of
La Esperanza I neighborhood.
Bucaramanga - Santander



Threats had been reported: Yes

Alleged perpetrators: Unknown

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Communal
Action Committee of La Esperanza I

The communal leader Ernesto Castañeda who has served as the president of the Communal Action Committee of La Esperanza I neighborhood for the past three years, was assassinated in his house on Thursday, April 24 at approximately 5:45 in the afternoon. Four armed men burst into his home, where they started to shoot indiscriminately. In that moment he was wounded by a shot in the chest. The communal leader returned to the living room where he collapsed. Faced with the gravity of his state, the medics that arrived to assist him, ordered to transfer him to the emergency room in the University Hospital of Santander, HUS (for its acronym in Spanish), where he died a few minutes after entering.

The victim was the father of three children and he had three grandchildren. According to his relatives, in the last five months Castañeda had been the victim of six attempts against his life, in which he was unhurt. Due to the risk that his life ran, Ernesto Castañeda counted on protection measures granted by the national police, which is why two police officers had the mission to continuously pass by his home to check on it. However, the measures were not effective and he was assassinated.

“He was very good with people. He liked to help a lot. He also fought for the security of the neighborhood but that brought him problems,” added his sentimental partner. According to the police, the problems caused by reporting the actions of the gangs had caused Ernesto Castañeda to become one of the most threatened men in the city.

The reality is that the family of the victim indicated that they will leave the neighborhood in the face of the fear of continued attempts against them. "It's impossible that the police can't control a gang. We don't have another way out other than leaving this neighborhood, because of this we demand that justice is obtained," indicated a relative of Castañeda.



Édgar Bravo González

Communal Action Committee of
Renaldo Matiz neighborhood
Neiva - Huila

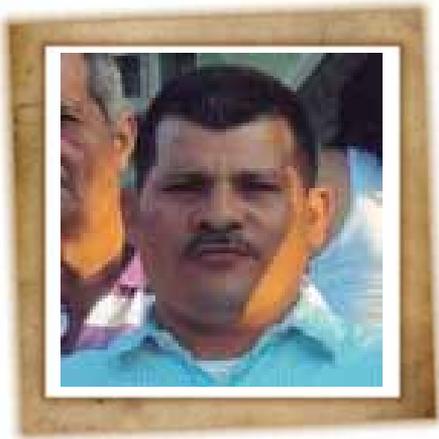


Threats had been reported: Yes
Alleged perpetrators: Unknown
**Social and/or human rights
processes affected:** Communal
Action Committee of the Reinaldo
Matiz neighborhood.

The communal leader Édgar Bravo González, 56 years old, was assassinated by a blow to the forehead on the April 26th. The crime against the leader occurred around 10 am, when an armed man arrived at his house, where his two small companies operate. Minutes later he was found lifeless by two youth who had arrived at the premises looking for cleaning supplies.

Édgar Bravo had received death threats; in May 2011 he was victim of an attack in which his friend Melkin Girón Fierro died. Official sources expressed that the homicide would have been recorded by the security cameras that the leader had installed in the house.

The leader had reported that, two months before, he had received a telephone call threatening against his life. "I cannot say that it was Mr. Coqueco who called me to intimidate me." He maintained that in the conversation he was warned that, "cucho, you S.O.B., you will not make it to the trial alive," mentioned Bravo.



Patricio Fernando Mejía Urzola

The Association of Users of
El Pueblo neighborhood -
Association of Users of Public and
Health care Services
Barranquilla - Atlántico



Threats had been reported: Yes
Alleged perpetrators: Unknown
**Social and/or human rights
processes affected:** The Association
of users of the El Pueblo
neighborhood. The Association
of Users of Public and Healthcare
Services.

The communal leader Patricio Fernando Mejía Urzola, 46 years old, was found dead in the conduit of the El Salao stream, in the neighborhood of Los Ángeles III. Patricio was the vice-president of the Association of Users of his neighborhood.

The corpse of Patricio Fernando Mejía was registered in Legal Medicine as non-identified. After a series of investigations, the institute staff were able to identify the corpse, comparing its prints with those in the database of the National Registrar. His death was caused by multiple blows with a blunt object.

According to the investigations, it was established that Mejía had left his house, located on Avenue 10D number 115-44 in the El Pueblo neighborhood, after he had received a call on his cell phone on April 24. An alleged member of the Association of Users had called him from the local healthcare post, informing him that he needed his help because he had problems with the Sisbén (the system of identification for potential beneficiaries of social programs). After that, he was not seen for two days.

The corpse of Mejía Urzola was found on April 26 covered with only one item of clothing, white underwear. The clothing he was wearing when he left his house and the suitcase in which he carried the documents related to his work as communal leader were not found at the crime scene.

Reina Mejía, the secretary of the Association of Users of the El Pueblo neighborhood, noted that approximately one month before her mother

had received a phone call wherein the Association was threatened for their social works and the complaints that they made against the health care system. "They called to tell us to stop claiming things from healthcare, that we were sapos [snitches]," she said. For several months the Association of Users had reported some irregularities in the health care assistance in the city.



Tomás Rodríguez Cantillo

Workers' and Negotiating Committee of the Candelaria Palm Ranch - SINTRAINAGRO. Ciénaga - Magdalena.



Threats had been reported: Yes
Alleged perpetrators: Unknown
Social and/or human rights processes affected: The Workers' and Negotiating Committee of the Candelaria Palm Ranch - SINTRAINAGRO.

On May 9, union leader Tomás Rodríguez Cantillo, who was part of the of the Workers' and Negotiating Committee of the Candelaria palm and rice ranch, a property of the Emma Perfecta Lacouture company, in the region of Ciénaga, Magdalena, was assassinated by individuals who shot him several times.

The murder of this union leader took place in the framework of collective negotiations for the list of demands which the National Union the Agricultural Industry Workers - SINTRAINAGRO (for its Spanish acronym) - is carrying out. There had also been abusive redundancies by the palm company, which the day previous to the assassination of the leader, had fired a worker without previous warning who had worked for 23 years in the company.

The abuses of this company against its workers had been thoroughly reported by the National Union the Agricultural Industry Workers - SINTRAINAGRO - without there being any steps towards an investigation by the State as of yet.



Wilson Hernando Guanga Nastacuashome

Indigenous Awá Community -
Ñambí Piedra Verde Indigenous
reservation of the community el
Cerro
Barbacoas – Nariño



Threats had been reported: Yes
Alleged perpetrators: Paramilitaries
Social and/or human rights processes affected: Indigenous community Awá of Ñambí Piedra Verde in the community of el Cerro

On Monday, May 12, 2014, in the township of Buenavista, four heavily armed men dressed as civilians, burst in to the home of Wilson Hernando Guanga Nastacuashome, an Awá indigenous man, and shot directly at him. One of the shots hit his head and the other three hit his chest.

Wilson Hernando, 28 years old, belonged to the indigenous Awá of Ñambí Piedra Verde reservation in the community of el Cerro, and was an indigenous guard accompanying displaced indigenous families. He was also an active member of the mingas of thought in the reservation.

Wilson died instantly, leaving behind three children and a widow. It should be noted that the national army installed a military control base less than 100 meters away, but none of the soldiers present at the base reacted to try to capture the assassins. After calling upon the relevant authorities to comply with procedures as stipulated by law in regards to removing the body, the entities expressed that “there were no conditions for the procedure.” As a result of the refusal, the indigenous guard of the Ñambí Piedra Verde reservation, making use of their autonomy, carried out the removal of the body.

Days before the homicide, the indigenous governor of the Ñambí Piedra Verde reservation, the indigenous guard and leaders of the Awá community were victims of threats, holdups, monitoring, and persecutions by illegal armed groups who are posted on both sides of the road that leads to the route Junín-Barbacoas.



Pablo Emilio Aponte

Union of Workers and Public Sector Employees, Autonomous Corporations, Decentralized Institutes and Territorial Institutes of Colombia- SINTRAEMSDES (for its acronym in Spanish) Cartago – Valle del Cauca

Pablo Emilio Aponte, assistant general manager of the Municipal Companies of Cartago and manager of the SINTRAEMSDES was assassinated by a hitman, who also injured his wife Teresa Gallo and one of their children, Alejandro Aponte Gallo, 15 years old.

The union leader, his wife and his son were shot at by two gunmen on a motorcycle who attacked them in the evening of Friday, May 16, while they left their home located in a residential sector of the municipality of Cartago, in the northern part of Valle del Cauca. The couple was employed by the Municipal Companies of Cartago, Emcartago.

Police sources who attended to the case, explained that the attack was perpetrated at 8:30 in the evening with 9 millimeter handguns, causing the death of Mr. Aponte, due to the bullet wounds he received to the head. His son is fighting between life and death due to a bullet lodged in his skull. Mrs. Gallo is safe, despite having a wounded cheekbone.

This criminal attack is related to another on March 17, in which hitmen attacked Carlos Andrés Mantilla Soto, also an employee of Emcartago, where he worked as a systems manager. Thus, three Emcartago employees suffered attacks from hitmen in less than two months, leaving one dead, two wounded, and dozens of frightened employees.

These attacks occurred in the midst of an intervention process carried out by the Superintendence of Public Home Services, starting on March 18, due to operational and financial mismanagement. The modus operandi of attacks by the criminals has been similar between the systems manager and the recent case of the Aponte Gallo couple: motorized hitmen, armed with guns, and they attack their victims in their homes.

Threats had been reported: Yes

Alleged perpetrators: Unknown

Social and/or human rights

processes affected: Union of Workers and Public Sector Employees, Autonomous Corporations, Decentralized Institutes and Territorial Institutes of Colombia- SINTRAEMSDES.





José Arlex Avendaño Arango

Communal Action Committee of
La Siria
Municipal Council for Rural
Development of San Pedro.
Tuluá - Valle



Threats had been reported: No
Alleged perpetrators: unknown
**Social and/or human rights
processes affected:** Communal
Action Committee of La Siria-
ASTRACAVA

On June 17, José Arlex Avendaño Arango, who was part of the Municipal Council for Rural Development of San Pedro, and president of the Communal Action Committee of the town of La Siria, was assassinated by hitmen who shot him nine times, a short while after leaving the town of La Siria, where he lived with his family. His wife, who was on the back of the motorcycle, was unharmed.

The hitmen stopped him as he traveled towards the municipal capital, on the road that leads from Tuluá to the township of Las Esmeraldas, close to an area known as Loma Redonda.

Avendaño was president of the communal action committee of La Siria, a member of the Association of Farm Workers of Valle del Cauca- ASTRACAVA, a member of the Municipal Planning Council, a member of the Municipal Committee for Stratification and a member of the Committee for Rural Development of San Pedro.

According to Jenny Morales, a cousin of the leader, he “had no enemies, since he was a farmer and dedicated himself to working on his small farm, where he lived in the company of his wife and their two children”.

Even though there were no known threats, the pressures against social and rural leaders in the municipality of Tuluá are well known by the authorities, due to the presence of several illegal armed groups that control the region and the use of public resources.

THE DISAPPEARED



Mario Arenas Peña

Community of displaced persons
settled in the Cuba, Lote 4 and
Tamarindo lots
Barranquilla - Atlántico

Since January 3, 2014, Mario Arenas Peña, leader for the defense of displaced communities in the city of Barranquilla, has been disappeared. During the entire last year, Mario Arenas Peña participated in all the events planned and carried out by Marcha Patriótica, both on a departmental as well as national level. He stood out as a defender of the rights of peasants and the displaced persons living in the Cuba, Lote 4 and Tamarindo lots, plots that had been taken over by paramilitaries and the object of illegal displacements. This is the motive for which the peasants saw themselves forced to take over the church of Chiquinquirá, one of the most significant actions carried out in the month of July 2013, and in which Mr. Arenas stood out for his active solidarity with the peasants and the displaced persons.



Threats had been reported: No

Alleged perpetrators: Unknown

**Social and/or human rights
processes affected:** The community
of displaced persons settled in the
lots of Cuba, Lote 4 and Tamarindo



PROGRAMA SOMOS DEFENSORES

PROGRAMA NO GUBERNAMENTAL DE PROTECCIÓN A
DEFENSORES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

January-June 2014 Report

Information System about Aggressions against Defenders of Human Rights in Colombia- SIADDHH

According to the registry carried out by the System of Information about Aggressions against Defenders of Human Rights - SIADDHH (for its acronym in Spanish - from the Non-governmental Program for the Protection of human rights defenders - We are Defenders², during the first six months of 2014, 194 defenders were victims of some type of aggression that put their lives and integrity at risk, and obstructed the legitimate and legal work of defending human rights in Colombia.

INDIVIDUAL AGGRESSIONS

In the first six months of this year, an increase of approximately 20% in aggressions against defenders was reported in relation to the same period in 2013. Between January and June of 2013, the System of Information reported 154 aggressions against defenders; during the same period of time in 2014, there were 194 cases.

When referring to the occurrence of these aggressions per month, we see

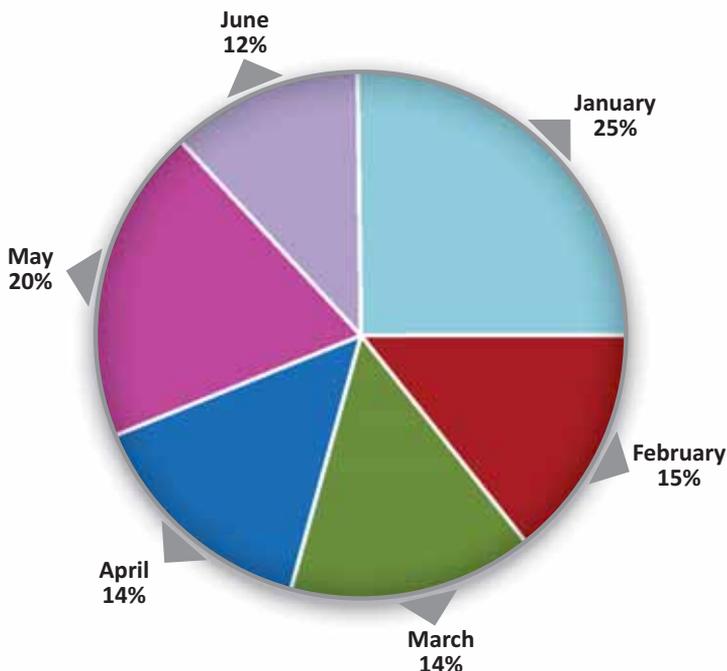
² This system registers information obtained directly by the Programa Somos Defensores and by direct sources from social organizations and nongovernmental organizations that report cases to Programa Somos Defensores

that the biggest number of registered cases happened in January 2014 with 49 aggressions and in May with 38 aggressions; then there are the months

of February, March and April with 28 aggressions, and finally June with 23 aggressions.

Number of individual victimizations per month

SIADDHH figures for six months 2014



With relation to aggressions based on sex, it can be inferred that, of the 195 aggressions towards defenders between January and June of 2014, 81% were towards men and 19% towards women.

Aggressions by Sex	Number
Women	37
Men	157
Total Individual Aggressions	194

The environment for the defense of human rights in Colombia during the first six months of 2014 was affected by the reorganization of political forces as a result of the **legislative and presidential**

elections, in which intentions for peace and the proposal to continue with the war was not the only evident struggle. Another determining factor was the polarization before the appearance



of a political party that publicly backs all the key issues of the extreme right in Colombia: the Centro Democrático (Democratic Center), a party openly opposed to the defense of human rights and negotiated peace.

The new political force reached a not insignificant number of 21 representatives in the Colombian parliament (second in number of senators after the National Unit, a coalition of three political parties that supports President Santos-) and an important flow of votes in the presidential race (6,905,001 votes, or 45% of all voters) in favor of the candidate Oscar Iván Zuluaga. This Colombian right calls for a military end to the conflict and a return to policies already known from ex-president Álvaro Uribe Vélez's administration between 2002 and 2010. Incidentally, he was also elected senator for the Democratic Center for the upcoming legislative period.

The appearance of this new political actor brought on an important **polarization** in public opinion and in general from the citizens. It was there that social movements and human rights organizations played an important role in the electoral struggle by encouraging the need for an end to the struggle via a negotiated peace and the continuing of the peace process with the FARC. This situation yielded a significant vote in opinion in favor of peace, and upon which the recently reelected president, Juan Manuel Santos, capitalized electorally. Still, the

current significant challenge, not only for the president who was reelected not for his management but against the war, but for all Colombians, is depolarizing a country which yearns to end the conflict.

The environment for human rights defenders in Colombia during these 6 months was also marked by **new agrarian protests**, which had already generated a crisis for the government and the agrarian sector in Colombia in 2013, as expressed in the 2013 report from Programa Somos Defensores, "D for Defense." In 2014, the impacts of the protests were much less significant but they are a sign that the commitments made by the government are still far from completely materializing.

Another subject that has generated great angst among human rights organizations and international agencies that work within the same field in Colombia, is that after August 15, 2014, a door will open for those who have met the prerequisites established by the Justice and Peace Law (Law 975). This means that next August 15 is **"Zero Hour" for paramilitaries to start being released from jails**. Although the institutions represented in the National District Attorney's Office and other responsible entities do not see this event as a risky situation for victims and social leaders, the perspectives of these groups from the regions where paramilitaries worked are different.

There is a generalized fear that these ex-paramilitaries will leave jail and

continue with criminal activities, or worse yet, that they will seek vengeance and retaliation against those who testified against them. This is made more serious by the fact that there are serious indications that many of these paramilitaries continued committing crimes from jail and that they keep close relations with the so-called Emerging Criminal Bands, or BACRIM (for its acronym in Spanish), which still affect several regions of the country. Zones such as the southern Córdoba,

the Bajo Cauca of Antioquia, Medellín and the Valle de Aburrá in northern Urabá, the Magdalena Medio, Valle del Cauca and Cesar are among the regions to which these ex-combatants could return. Up until now the number of paramilitaries to be released from jail is unknown, but it is certain that there is a latent risk that should be analyzed by the national government in order to avoid new outbreaks of violence against victims, social leaders and human rights defenders.

“The defenders and leaders of communities indigenous persons, victims, and land restitution were a common target of aggressions in the first six months of 2014.”

AGGRESSIONS ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF VIOLENCE

In the period of relevant time in this report, information was collected that reveals **seven types of aggressions against human rights defenders in Colombia:** assassinations,

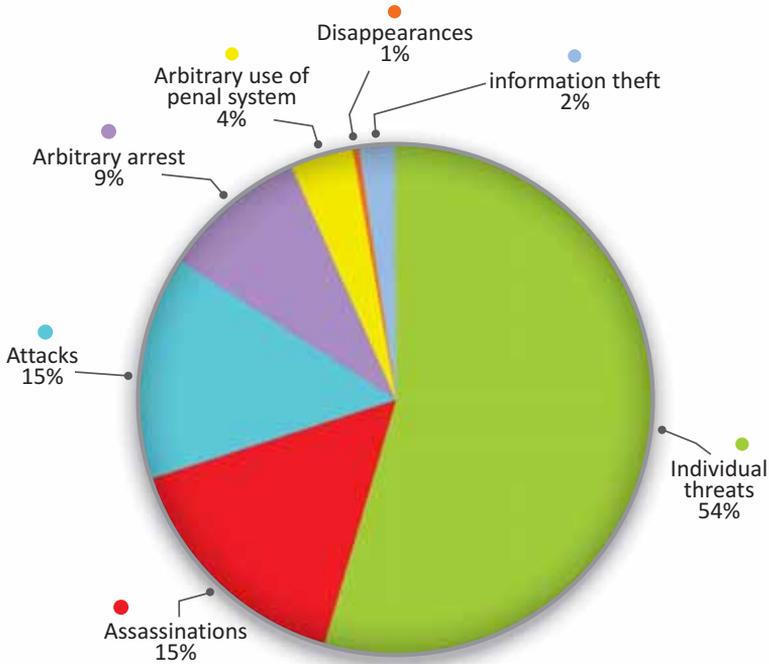
attacks, threats, arbitrary arrests, arbitrary use of the penal system, forced disappearances and theft of information.

Types of Individual Aggressions	Number of Aggressions from January - June 2014	Number of Aggressions from January to June 2013
Threats	105	86
Assassinations	30	37
Attacks	29	21
Arbitrary Arrests	18	6
Arbitrary use of the penal system	7	2
Information theft	4	2
Forced disappearance	1	Not registered
Total individual aggressions	194	154



Individual Aggressions According to Type of Violence

SIADDHH Figures, first six months of 2014



“On average, between January and June of 2014, there was an aggression against a defender every day and every six days one of them was assassinated”

Assassinations of defenders

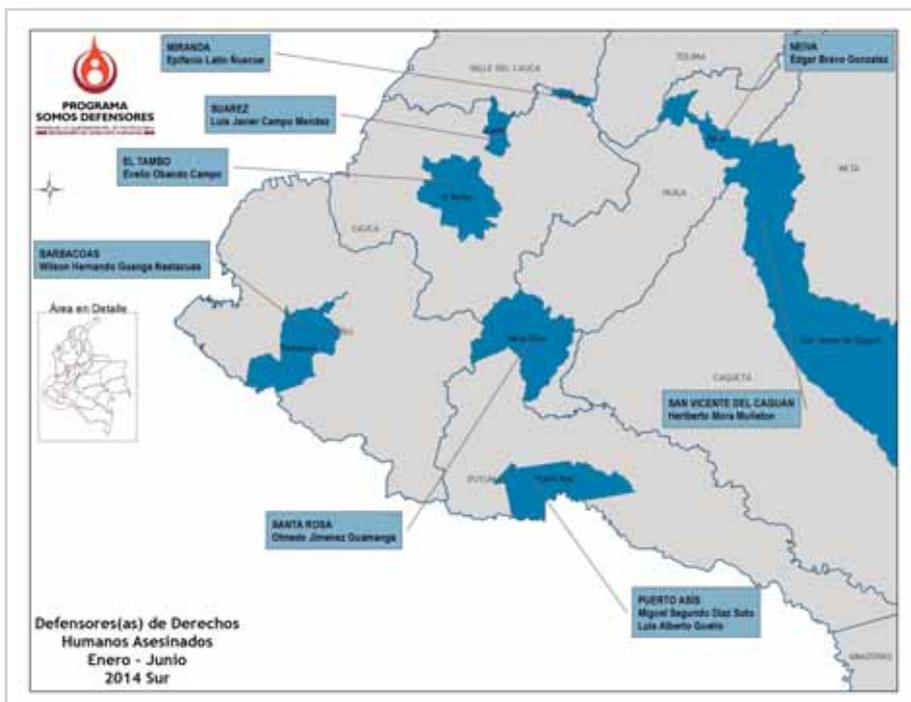
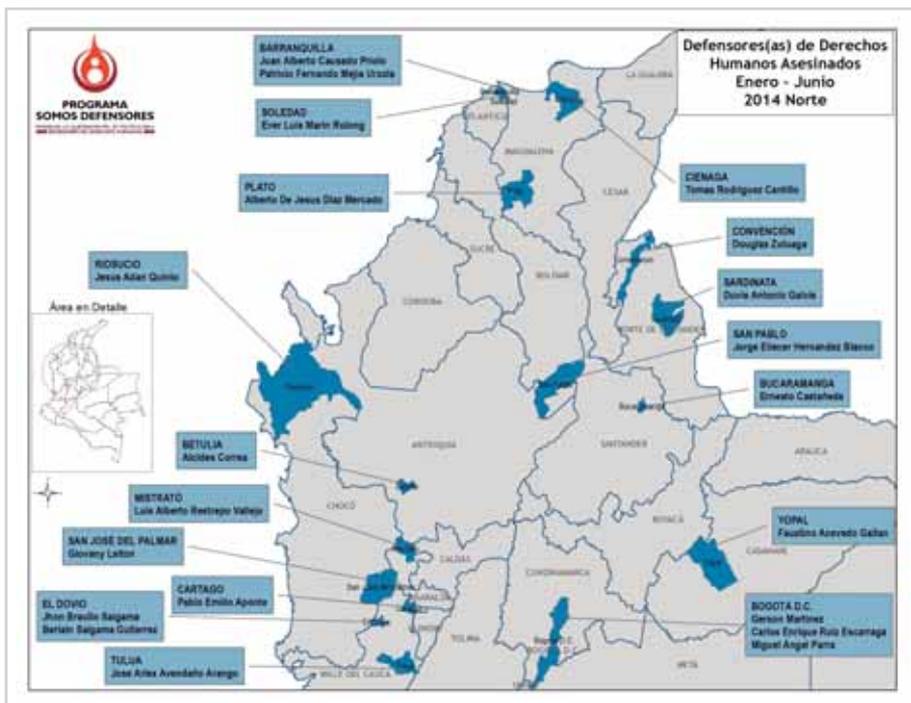
The number of homicides decreased in the current six months; between 2013 and 2014, we note a decrease of 18% in homicides. The number diminished from 37 cases reported in the first six months of 2013 to 30 cases of defenders

or social leaders assassinated in the first six months of 2014. Below, we highlight their names as recognition for their work, and so that they are not forgotten and justice is served:

Departament	Place	Victims	Organization	Type of leader	Alleged Perpetrator	Date
Antioquia	Betulia	Aldides Correa	Rural community of Betulia municipality - Antioquia	Rural Leader	Unknown	21/02/2014
Atlántico	Soledad	Ever Luis Marín Rolong	Bavaria Brewery Labor Union - SINALTRACEBA	Union Leader	Paramilitaries	04/01/2014
Atlántico	Barranquilla	Juan Alberto Causado Priolo	Land Restitution Process in Pinar del Río, Barranquilla.	Land Restitution Leader	Unknown	01/03/2014
Atlántico	Barranquilla	Patricio Fernando Mejía Urzola	Association of Users of Public and Healthcare Services	Communal Leader	Unknown	26/04/2014
Bogotá D.C.	Bogotá	Gerson Martínez	Pazur Hip Hop Movement	Youth Leader	Unknown	04/01/2014
Bogotá D.C.	Bogotá	Carlos Enrique Ruiz Escarraga	Between Networks Cultural Organization (entre redes)	Cultural Leader	Paramilitaries	26/01/2014
Bogotá D.C.	Bogotá	Miguel Ángel Parra	Community Locality of Kennedy	Communal Leader	Unknown	06/04/2014
Bolívar	San Pablo	Jorge Elicer Hernandez Blanco	Communal Action Committee of Alto Limón Town	Rural Leader	National Army	22/02/2014
Caquetá	San Vicente del Caguán	Heriberto Mora Muñetón	Communal Action Committee of Minas Blancas Town	Communal Leader	Unknown	22/01/2014
Casanare	Yopal	Faustino Acevedo Gaitán	Communal Action Committee of Township el Morro - Asocomunal	Communal Leader	ELN	06/04/2014
Cauca	Miranda	Epifanio Latín Ñuscue	Indigenous Nasa Community - Educational Center las Dantás, Cajones town	Indigenous Leader	FARC	03/03/2014
Cauca	El Tambo	Evello Obando Campo	Communal Action Committee, El Placer Town	Communal Leader	Unknown	11/03/2014
Cauca	Santa Rosa	Olmedo Jiménez Guamanga	CIMA	Rural Leader	Unknown	14/04/2014
Cauca	Suárez	Luis Javier Campo Méndez	Ávaro Ulcué Chocue Youth Movement	Indigenous Leader	Unknown	21/04/2014
Chocó	San José del Palmar	Giovany Leiton	Communal Action Committee Vereda Zabaleta Town	Rural Leader	Unknown	04/01/2014



Department	Place	Victims	Organization	Type of leader	Alleged Perpetrator	Date
Chocó	Cacarica	Jesús Adán Quinto	Comunidad de Cacarica, Chocó	Land Restitution Leader	Unknown	09/04/2014
Huila	Neiva	Édgar Bravo González	Communal Action Committee of Reynaldo Matiz neighborhood	Communal Leader	Unknown	26/04/2014
Magdalena	Plato	Alberto De Jesús Díaz Mercado	Community of Plato Magdalena	Community Leader	Unknown	10/01/2014
Magdalena	Ciénaga	Tomás Rodríguez Cantillo	Workers' and Negotiating Committee of the Candelaria Palm Ranch - SINTRAINAGRO	Union Leader	Unknown	09/05/2014
Nariño	Barbacoas	Wilson Hernando Guanga Nastacias	Indigenous Awá community - indigenous reservation of Nambí Piedra Verde	Indigenous Leader	Paramilitaries	12/05/2014
Norte de Santander	Sardinata	Duvis Antonio Galvis	Rural Association of Catatumbo - ASCAMICAT	Rural Leader	Unknown	26/01/2014
Norte de Santander	Convención	Douglas Zuluaga	Communal Action Committee, Cartagenita Town	Rural Leader	Unknown	10/04/2014
Putumayo	Puerto Asís	Miguel Segundo Díaz Soto	Community of the town of Camelias, Rural zone of municipality of Puerto Asís	Community Leader	Unknown	25/01/2014
Putumayo	Puerto Asís	Luis Albeiro Guetio	Indigenous Nasa community of cabildo Yu' Lux in Puerto Asís, Putumayo	Indigenous Leader	Unknown	10/04/2014
Risaralda	Mistrató	Luis Alberto Restrepo Vallejo	Communal Action Committee, Arcecaí Town	Communal Leader	Unknown	05/02/2014
Santander	Bucaramanga	Ernesto Castañeda	Communal Action Committee of La Esperanza neighborhood	Communal Leader	Unknown	24/04/2014
Valle del Cauca	El Dovio	Jhon Braulio Saigama	Emberá Chami Indigenous Community	Indigenous Leader	Paramilitaries	01/01/2014
Valle del Cauca	El Dovio	Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez	Emberá Chami Indigenous Community	Indigenous Leader	Paramilitaries	01/01/2014
Valle del Cauca	Cartago	Pablo Emilio Aponte	SINTRAEMSEDES	Union Leader	Unknown	16/05/2014
Valle del Cauca	Tuluá	José Arlex Avendaño Arango	Communal Action Committee of La Siria	Rural Leader	Unknown	17/06/2014





One hundred per cent of the victims of the 30 assassinations were men. The departments of Cauca and Valle del Cauca registered the highest number of assassinated defenders, with four leaders assassinated in each one. They are followed by Bogotá, DC and Atlántico with three, Putumayo, Magdalena and Norte de Santander with two, Antioquia, Bolívar, Caquetá, Casanare, Chocó, Huila, Nariño, Risaralda and Santander with one case of homicide. Our sources confirm that in 18 of the 30 homicides, the defenders had reported threats before their murders, particularly in four homicide cases that took place 24 and 48 hours after the issuing and circulation of a threatening pamphlet around their workplaces or homes.

Of the 30 homicides, 24 were carried out with firearms, three with knives, and three with blows from blunt objects. According to the reports received by the Program, it is evident that in five cases the bodies of the murdered defenders showed signs of torture.

A worrying situation is that three of the human rights defenders assassinated during this semester counted on protective measures from the National Protection Unit (UNP, for its acronym in Spanish) or the National Police, and were assassinated despite these measures.

The high levels of planning and monitoring done by the assassins are evident. In the vast majority of cases, it is evident that the crimes took place in the early morning hours or in the late evening, when leaders were leaving for work or returning from work.

It is equally worthwhile to note that in many of the homicide cases, aggressions continue against the children, siblings, parents and friends of the defenders; this same situation was detected during our analyses in 2012 and 2013. The leaders and defenders with the largest number of homicides were Community leaders and defenders (eight cases), rural leaders (seven cases) and indigenous leaders (six cases).

“The product of these 30 assassinated defenders, is that 30 processes involved in rural, communal, indigenous, union, victims, land restitution, cultural and youth issues lost a leader, his training, his experience and his recognition.”

Individual Threats

In the period of January through June 2014, 105 cases of aggression against defenders in the country were registered. Paramilitaries were the alleged perpetrators in 80 cases, unknown actors committed 21 cases and State security institutions (the army and the national police) are presumably responsible for nine cases. It should be

noted that some of the paramilitary or BACRIM groups that were allegedly already dismantled by the State (The Popular Revolutionary Anti-Terrorist Army of Colombia (ERPAC, for its acronym in Spanish), the Anti-Restitution army, the Autodefences Gaitanistas) have significant responsibility in the threats against defenders.

Likewise, the defenders who register the largest number of threats are those who belong to human rights NGOs, with 35 cases, and rural leaders with 18 cases. Furthermore, the zones that register the largest number of threats are Valle del Cauca with 21 cases, Caquetá with 20, Santander with 17, Atlántico with 12, Antioquia with nine, Sucre with six, and Huila and Bogotá with four each.

We highlight the situation in Caquetá, where most of the threatened leaders and defenders belong to rural and leadership processes with the displaced population. It is equally important to highlight that 27 of the 105 cases of threat involved human rights defenders for the most part in the departments of Atlántico, Valle del Cauca, Santander and Bolívar.

In comparison to the same time period in the 2013 report, we note an

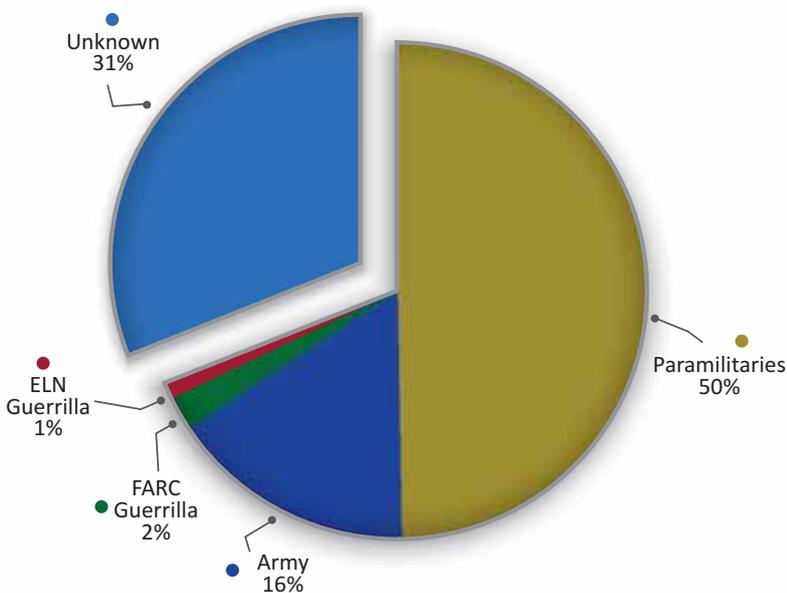
increase of 19% in the number of threats against social leaders and human rights defenders.

Arbitrary Arrests and Arbitrary Use of the Penal System

The increase in these types of aggressions (arbitrary arrests 33%; arbitrary use of the penal system or prosecutions 38%) in comparison to the same time period in 2013, was a trend that was identified in the 2013 Final Report of the Programa Somos Defensores, "D for Defense," as a result of an intense persecution of rural movements in different agrarian sectors that mobilized against the governmental policies in the sector. As we can see at least within the cases registered by the SIADDHH, this trend remains in the first six months of 2014.

Alleged Perpetrators of individual Victimizatioos

SIADDHH Figures, first six months 2014





Regarding the perpetrators of the 194 aggressions that took place between January and June of 2014, the SIADDHH registers paramilitaries as the alleged authors in the majority of the cases. Of the cases, paramilitaries are the alleged authors of 97 cases (50%), while in 61 cases the perpetrators are not known (31%). The increment of aggressions is considerable by paramilitaries towards defenders, leaders and social organizations and human rights activists considering that in the same period of 2013 paramilitaries had 45% of the alleged participation in these events.

The members of the State security forces (national army, police, SIJIN, and district attorney among others) appear registered in 31 cases with alleged responsibility for the aggressions. The FARC and ELN guerrillas appear being responsible for the aggressions in five cases, which it is worth noting that two of them are homicides.

AGRESSION ZONES

Regarding the zones where we register the greatest number of aggressions in these six months in comparison with our register from the same period in 2013, the increase of cases in the department of Valle de Cauca (went from 17 to 34 cases), followed by Santander (went from 18 to 25 cases) and Atlántico (went from 11 to 17 cases). In the cases of Santander and Valle del Cauca, in previous periods these departments had maintained a similar number of

cases of aggressions, however, in this period an important increase has been registered.

Similarly, we note with concern a significant increase in the number of aggressions registered in the departments of Caquetá (21 cases) and Sucre and Tolima (10 cases). These departments had not registered such high levels of aggression in previous semiannual periods.

There is also evidence of a decrease of in the registration of cases of aggression in Bogotá, Antioquia and Cauca.

Even though the semiannual and annual registry done by SIADDHH always exposes departments with an important concentration of aggressions, in the present Jan – June 2014 report there is a different tendency during this analyzed period of time.

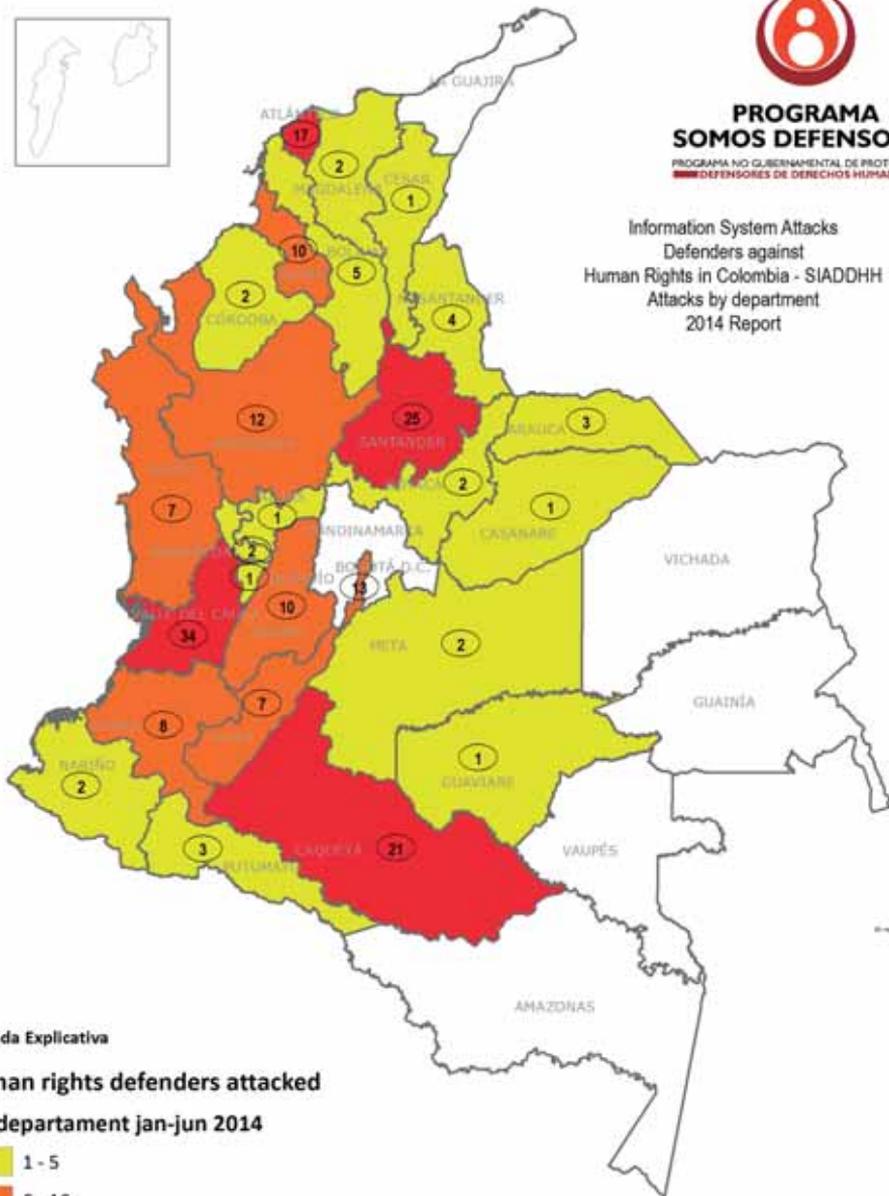
A key conclusion to make from the present semiannual registry is that aggressions were reported in a greater number of departments; we went from 20 departments registered in 2013 to 25 departments registered between January and June 2014. Even though it can be mentioned that this phenomenon is due to an expanded capability of SIADDHH to collect information, it is also important to stress that the aggressions against human rights defenders in less visible departments are continuously being made more evident.



**PROGRAMA
SOMOS DEFENSORES**

PROGRAMA NO GUBERNAMENTAL DE PROTECCIÓN A
DEFENSORES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

Information System Attacks
Defenders against
Human Rights in Colombia - SIADDHH
Attacks by department
2014 Report



Leyenda Explicativa

**Human rights defenders attacked
per department jan-jun 2014**

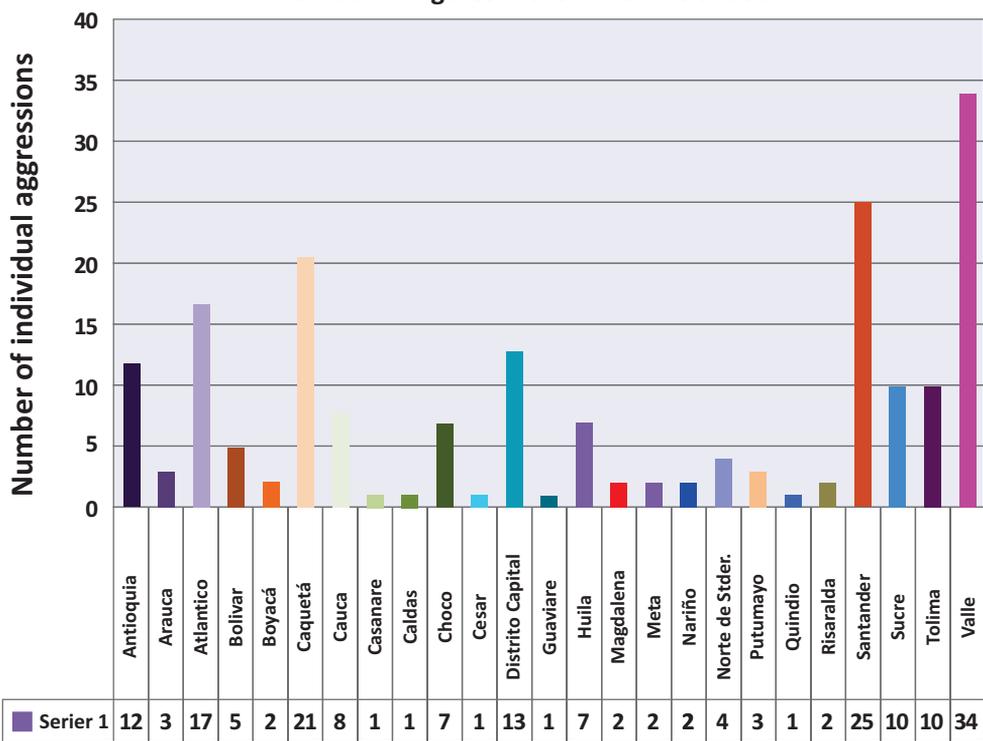
- 1 - 5
- 6 - 16
- 17 - 34

Escala 1:8.000.000



Place	Greatest Number of Cases 2013	Greatest Number of Cases 2014
1	Antioquia - 21 cases	Valle del Cauca - 34 cases
2	Santander - 18 cases	Santander - 25 cases
3	Bogotá - 18 cases	Caquetá - 21 Cases
4	Valle del Cauca - 17 cases	Atlántico - 17 cases
5	Chocó - 15 cases	Bogotá - 13 cases
6	Atlántico - 11 cases	Antioquia - 12 cases
7	Cauca - 8 cases	Sucre y Tolima - 10 cases

Departamentos que presentaron el mayor número de agresiones individuales
SIADDHH Figuras primeros seis meses de 2014



GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

To conclude, from the analysis of the figures from the Information System about the Aggressions Towards Human Rights Defenders - SIADDHH - from the first six months of 2014, the Programa Somos Defensores concludes that:

1 If the political environment is favorable to imagine a political solution to the armed conflict in the country, this would presume an improved relationship with human rights in many territories. The figures indicate that the risks and violence persists against the people who defend rights of their communities and exercise social leadership.

2 Ironically this report reveals something positive, the 18% decrease of assassinations compared to the same period last year. This report also reveals something negative in the fact that 60% (18 cases) of the assassinated persons had declared having been threatened, meaning that if these warnings had been addressed, they could have been protected and could have avoided sacrificing their lives. It highlights that several of these defenders had protection measures from the UNP, such a bulletproof vests and cellphones. Given such situations is it possible to believe that these "measures" serve to save lives?

3 Ever since having been monitoring aggressions against leaders and human rights defenders, it continues being an invariable constant that the highest figures of aggression are death threats. Being the case, in the first half of 2014, the percentage remained between 55 and 54%.

4 It is highlighted on a positive note that, according to the figures, the aggressions against women decreased, at least in the registries that SIADDHH had access to: regarding the aggressions in general, in the first six months of 2013, of the 154 cases, 44 (28%) were against women, while in 2014 these represented 19% (37 cases). In relation to the homicides in the first six months of last year, five cases were registered, and in this period of 2014, fortunately, there have not been any registered.

5 As has been warned in previous reports, the deliberate action of the aggressors against these leaders and defenders, is done frequently in their homes or very close to them, in many occasions affecting their families, even killing their wives. In the present registry, 15% of the homicide cases occurred within their homes or very close to them.