



ON THE EDGE OF DARKNESS

Semi-annual report January - June 2022

Information System on Attacks against Human Rights Defenders in Colombia - ISAAHRD -



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



Calle 19 No. 4-88 Oficina 1302 Bogotá D.C. – Colombia.
Tel: (051) 2814010 / www.somosdefensores.org
prensa@somosdefensores.org
2022

The Somos Defensores (We Are Defenders) Program, is a protection area that seeks to develop a comprehensive proposal to prevent aggression and protect the lives of people at risk due to their work as human rights defenders, when they protect the interests of social groups and communities affected by violence in Colombia.

The Somos Defensores program is formed by:



This edition was produced by the Somos Defensores Program, under the direction of the MINGA Association

Editorial and Publishing Coordination

Lourdes Castro García and Sirley Muñoz Murillo

Research

Lourdes Castro García, Diana Sánchez Lara, Sirley Muñoz Murillo, Nancy Villota,
Suly Pinzón, Carolina Morales

SIVeL System

Vladimir Támara (<https://sivel.sf.net>)

Design, Layout and Printing

Editorial El Búho S.A.S.

Translation

Osiris Duarte

Illustrations

Eduardo Montoya

Maps

Claudia Campo Cisneros

ISBN: 978-628-95390-0-4

The content of this report holds responsibility on its authors and does not compromise the organizations and institutions that support this publication. This publication is of a cultural, pedagogical nature and its distribution is free. It can be photocopied and reproduced as long as the source is cited. The printing of our 2022 report is possible thanks to the financing of Diakonia Sweden and the Norwegian Embassy in Colombia.



Embajada de Noruega

La gente
cambia
el mundo

Diakonia

The work of the Somos Defensores Program is possible in 2022 thanks to the financial and political support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the cooperation agencies Misereor, Diakonia, Amnesty International and Bread for the World.

INTRODUCTION

This biannual report covering the period January - June 2022 is situated at an electoral juncture marked by the pugnacity of the campaigns and the upsurge of violence in the territories, but at the same time, by an unprecedented result (which would occur weeks later) with the triumph of a progressive coalition both in the Congress of the Republic and in the presidency, which constitutes a milestone in the republican history of the country.

The election of Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez as president and vice-president, respectively, not only represents a profound political twist, but also marks a turning point in terms of change in the dominant social scenarios. On the one hand, by electing as president a man who, just as at one point in his life opted for armed struggle, later opted for peace and constancy in a political exercise framed in the channels of democracy for about three decades. On the other hand, by choosing as vice-president a black woman, a leader forged in a context of socioeconomic precariousness, overcoming all kinds of difficulties and threats in the heat of social struggles.

In that order of ideas, the past months of the year have been presented with both clarity and darkness. Clarity due to the hope generated by the electoral result that was expressed at the polls, overcoming the fear imposed by vio-

lence. Desolation due to the increase in the number of murders of human rights defenders during the first half of the year. 99 murders verified by the Somos Defensores Program Information System, representing an increase of 71% in relation to the same period of the previous year.

In these mixed feelings is one of the reasons that gave rise to the title of this report: *On the Edge of Darkness*, which seeks to express the desire to end the dark night in order to clear the way for flickering fireflies that illuminate the path of defenders and social leaders; flashes of light aimed at the recognition of their work and their integral protection, through initiatives such as the Emergency Plan for the prevention and protection of defenders and social leaders, assumed by the incoming government from the first day of its term of office.

The title of the report also has a connection to the crime film *The Edge of Darkness* by director Martin Campbell, starring Mel Gibson, which revolves around a murder and the webs of power and interests that surround it. In this publication we also focus the lens on the increase in murders of human rights defenders and social leaders during the first half of the year and, as we have expressed on multiple occasions as Somos Defensores Program, beyond who pulls the trigger it is necessary to reveal who is behind the murders, who benefits





from the death or who is disturbed by the work of defense; overcoming impunity for these crimes is a determining factor in addressing selective violence.

The report is composed by four chapters. The first, entitled *One Glimmer of Hope*, provides some contextual elements that are considered important to frame the aggressions recorded by the Information System in the first semester from two blocks: the loss of territorial control by the State as evidenced by the occurrence of two successive armed strikes, and the turning point marked by the results of the elections for both the Congress of the Republic and the presidency.

The second chapter entitled *The Dark Side*, as mentioned above, seeks to deepen the look at the increase in murders during the first half of the year based on different factors that mark patterns in this aggression such as the territorial concentration of these events, the weapon used, the profile of the leaders, the place of occurrence, the alleged perpetrators and the preceding events such as threats and forced disappearance, among other aspects that pose an analysis of how the murders occurred in a period with a high record.

The third chapter entitled *Paradoxes*, as it has in other reports, presents some reflections on the behavior of the international community towards the outgoing government, starting from considering the importance of its accompaniment and support for the defense of human rights, responding to humanitarian crises and providing protection to human rights defenders

and social leaders. That said, it is considered that even though the Duque government paid little attention to the concerns of the international community and its commitment to the Peace Agreement, in recent months it received significant political support from some actors in this sector, a situation that is seen as paradoxical.

The fourth chapter contains, as usual, the analysis of the cases of aggressions registered and verified during the semester by the Somos Defensores Program's Information System. Aspects such as the most affected leaderships, the territorial location of the events and the alleged perpetrators are highlighted, along with some considerations in this regard.

We are aware of the delay in the publication of this semiannual report, which exceeds the usual time frame, and we take this opportunity to apologize to those who have been patiently awaiting its publication.

Finally, our sincere thanks to all those organizations and individuals who provided us with input for this report: Early Warning System -SAT- of the Ombudsman's Office; Office in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Colombia - Europe - United States Coordination; Association of Indigenous Councils of Northern Cauca; Development and Peace Foundation -FUNDEPAZ-; Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights Risaralda; Yariguíes Corporation; Territories for a Dignified Life; ORIPAP; CINEP; Sumapaz Foundation; Joel Sierra Human Rights Foundation; Campaign for Life, Integrity, Dignity





and Autonomy of Social and Popular Organizations Soacha; Corporation for Education and Citizen Self-management -CEAC-; Colombia Diversa and Sisma Mujer. Thank you for your trust and your belief in the importance of these reports.

We would also like to thank the cooperation agencies and organizations that support us in our daily work and encourage us to continue with it, such

as Bread for the World, Misereor, Global Witness, Amnesty International and Front Line Defenders, and especially the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Colombia and Diakonia Sweden, which have constantly supported and trusted in the value and importance of these reports, not only as a tool for dissemination and analysis of the aggressions faced by defenders, but also as a contribution to the historical memory.



IN MEMORY OF THE MURDERED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

During the first semester of 2022, violence took the lives of 99 human rights defenders in Colombia, who from their processes in different territories worked for their communities, to build a more equitable and peaceful country. Here we recall the names and profiles of those whose lives were extinguished, so that their memories may live on and to demand that their murders do not go unpunished.

JANUARY 7, 2022

PABLO ALFONSO ORTIZ TARAZONA

**Member of the Community Action Board
(JAC) of La Judía de Floridablanca
neighborhood
Floridablanca, Santander**



Pablo Alfonso Ortiz Tarazona, 66 years old, was a member of the Community Action Board (JAC, from its initial letters in Spanish) of La Judía in Floridablanca and a teacher at the Normal School of Piedecuesta. For many years he was a plant lover, a gardening enthusiast and a promoter of community activities. On January 4 he was reported missing by his family. On January 7 his lifeless body was found in his farm located in the same village, with two shotgun shots.

Alleged responsible: Unknown





JANUARY 14, 2022

BREINER DAVID CUCUÑAME LÓPEZ

**Member of the Student Indigenous Guard
of the Las Delicias reservation**

GUILLERMO CHICAME IPÍA

**Coordinator of the Indigenous Guard of
Las Delicias**

Buenos Aires, Cauca



On January 14, the community alerted the Indigenous Guard of the Las Delicias reservation due to the presence of unidentified armed men in the territory, apparently members of the illegal armed group Jaime Martínez structured after the peace agreement. The guard decided to conduct a tour in the territory and in the middle of the tour they were attacked with firearms and explosives. Four people were wounded, among them two guards, Guillermo Chicame Ipía and Breiner David Cucuñame López, who were transferred to Santander de Quilichao and died due to the severity of their wounds. Days after the event, the Indigenous Guard reported the capture of three of the perpetrators.

Guillermo Chicame was a member of the Indigenous Guard in the Las Delicias reservation. Breiner David Cucuñame López, 14 years old, was a young environmental defender and member of the Student Indigenous Guard in the same reservation.

**Alleged responsible: Peace
Post-Agreement groups**





JANUARY 17, 2022

MIGUEL ALEXI AMADO CARRILLO

Cultural manager at the Arauquita Cultural House. Member of the Campo Alegre JAC and ASONALCA Arauquita, Arauca



Miguel Alexi Amado Carrillo was a community leader, member of the Community Action Board of Campo Alegre, of the Parents' Association of the Juan Jacobo Rousseau School and the National Peasant Association José Antonio Galán Zorro, a recognized cultural and artisan manager at the Miguel Matus Caille House of Culture in Arauquita. He was murdered on January 17, while he was in the La Libertad neighborhood, armed men on a motorcycle shot him several times.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

JANUARY 17, 2022

LUZ MARINA ARTEAGA HENAO

Land claimant of the Matarratón and El Porvenir process, Puerto Gaitán (Meta) Orocué, Casanare



Luz Marina Arteaga Henao was a victims' leader, recognized as a peasant farmer, doctor and Human Rights defender. Since 2015 she represented peasant communities in different spaces of denouncement in the department of Meta, such as El Porvenir and the Matarratón village, supporting land claim processes.



On January 12, 2022, she was reported missing. She apparently left her farm “El Raudal” located in the Mataratón village, in Puerto Gaitán (Meta), and was on her way to her place of residence in the municipality of Orocué. She was last seen at 4:30 p.m. when she disembarked from a boat in the “el paso” sector. On January 17, her lifeless body was found on the road in the La Esmeralda area, approximately 8 kilometers from the municipality.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

JANUARY 17, 2022

MARIO JONATHAN PALOMINO SALCEDO

Defensor del medioambiente

El Carmen de Viboral, Antioquia

Mario Jonathan Palomino Salcedo, 35 years old, was a teacher at the Monsignor Ramón Arcila School, environmental promoter and human rights defender in the municipality of El Carmen de Viboral. He was recognized for his sensitivity, his knowledge of nature, the promotion of community processes and environmental defense activities.



On the night of January 17, he was murdered in La Chapa de El Carmen village. When he was on his way to his place of residence, unknown men shot repeatedly against him. Days after the murder, the community organized a march at the Monsignor Ramón Arcila School, as a symbol of rejection of the murder.

Alleged responsible: Unknown



JANUARY 17, 2022

WILSON CORTÉS MOLANO

**JAC President, El Paraíso village
Puerto Guzmán, Putumayo**

On January 17, armed individuals arrived in the village of El Cerrito, Puerto Guzmán, and proceeded to forcibly remove three people from their homes and then open fired on them, thus causing their death. Among the victims was Wilson Cortés Molano, who was president of the community action board of El Paraíso village.



Alleged responsible: Unknown

JANUARY 19, 2022

JOSÉ ABELINO PÉREZ ORTIZ

**Member of the Joel Sierra Human Rights
Foundation, Tame branch office
Arauca, Arauca**

José Abelino Pérez Ortiz, 51 years old, was an activist, human rights defender and member of the Joel Sierra Foundation, Tame section. Due to his leadership work he denounced being a victim of judicial persecution, was deprived of his freedom for five months, then suffered the murder of a family member on February 16, 2021 and was dislocated in a context of armed confrontations between the National Liberation Army -ELN- and FARC dissidents.



He was murdered by firearm on January 19 in the municipality of Arauca, while he was working as a motorcycle loader on the road leading to the Clarinetero village.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

JANUARY 19, 2022
SIMEÓN DELGADO RUÍZ
JAC Vice-president,
Villa de Aranjuez neighborhood
Saravena, Arauca



Simeón Delgado was vice-president of the Community Action Board for the Villa de Aranjuez neighborhood. He was killed in a car bomb attack against the Héctor Alirio Martínez building in Saravena, headquarters of different social organizations in Arauca.

Simeón worked as a security guard at the Colombian Agricultural Institute, ICA, and was on duty on January 19, when around 10 p.m. several men arrived in a car loaded with explosives which they left in front of his workplace. The leader died because of the explosion.

**Alleged responsible: Post-peace
agreement groups**



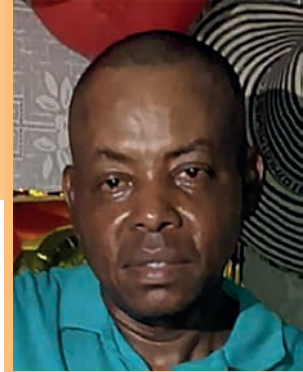
JANUARY 20, 2022

LIBARDO CASTILLO ORTIZ

Member of the Alejandro Rincón

Community Council

Barbacoas, Nariño



Libardo Castillo, 33 years old, was a leader of the Community Council in the village of San Miguel de Nambí, Barbacoas, where he had also worked as a driver for the past 20 years. On January 20, while he was working in his public service ship on the Telembí River, he was approached by a group of armed men who forced him and several other passengers out of the vessel. When they were already on land, in front of all the people, they killed the community leader.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

JANUARY 24, 2022

PEDRO NEL SÁNCHEZ GALLEGO

Community leader

Puerto Guzmán, Putumayo



Pedro Nel Sánchez was a community leader who promoted and accompanied activities with his wife, who was also a leader and member of the Community Action Board. He was murdered on January 24 when he was in front of his residence, when armed men arrived and shot him several times.

Alleged responsible: Unknown



JANUARY 24, 2022

JOSÉ ALBEIRO CAMAYO GÜETIO

**Former regional coordinator
of the Las Delicias Indigenous Guard
Buenos Aires, Cauca**

José Albeiro Camayo Güetio, 42 years old, was an indigenous leader, founder of the Indigenous Guard and former regional coordinator of the Las Delicias reservation. He was recognized for his dedication, conviction, and knowledge in the defense of the territory and traditions of his community.

On January 24, amid an armed attack against the community, perpetrated by the post-peace agreement group Jaime Martínez Mobile Column, the Indigenous Guard, in the midst of their territorial defense work, approached the armed group and asked them to leave the area. Hours later they searched for Camayo in his home and assassinated him.

**Alleged responsible: Post-peace
agreement groups**



JANUARY 25, 2022

ÁLVARO PEÑA BARRAGÁN

**JAC President, La Unión Village,
Saravena
Tame, Arauca**

Álvaro Peña was president of La Unión Community Action Board. He was killed on the afternoon of January 25 in the sector known as Casezín,



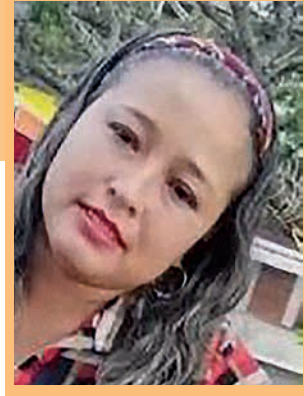


located between the hamlet of El Batallón and Alto Cauca, in Tame. While he was there, armed men arrived and murdered him.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

JANUARY 29, 2022
DEISY SOTELO ANACONA
Community leader
Argelia, Cauca

Deisy Sotelo Anaconda, 31 years old, was a community leader in the village of Llano Alto in El Plateado village, in the municipality of Argelia, Cauca. On January 23 she and her husband were reported missing. Days later, on January 29, Deisy's lifeless body was found, showing signs of torture and gunshot wounds.



Alleged responsible: Unknown



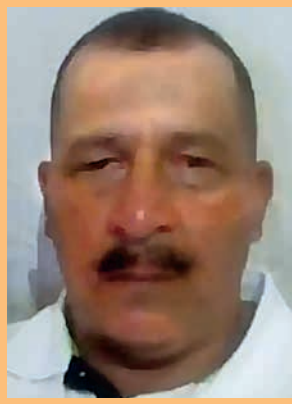


JANUARY 31, 2022

JOSÉ EUCLIDES GONZÁLEZ MARÍN

Vice President of ASTRAZONACAL

Caloto, Cauca



José Euclides González Marín was vice president of the Association of Peasant Workers of the Caloto Municipality Peasant Reserve Zone -ASTRAZONACAL-, and a member of the National Association of Peasant Reserve Zones -ANZORC-, the Process of Popular Unity of Southwestern Colombia -PUPSOC- and Patriotic March -MP-, recognized for his work defending the rights of peasants.

On January 31, while he was in the village of El Placer in Caloto, José was approached by armed persons who shot at him; he was left injured but died while being transported to a medical center. The leader had requested protection measures from the National Protection Unit -UNP- due to threats received by illegal armed groups.

Alleged responsible: Unknown





FEBRUARY 1, 2022

JULIO CÉSAR BRAVO

**Member of the Males resguardo
and of AICO
Córdoba, Nariño**



Julio César was an indigenous leader who promoted the defense of ancestral territory, he was a member of the Males reservation, and he was a councilman of the municipality of Córdoba and president of this institution. On the night of February 1, he was shot to death while he was in his home in the Guitungal village.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

JUAN CARLOS NIETO CALVARIO

**President of JAC, San Miguel de Guarupay
Village
Cabuyaro, Meta**



Juan Carlos Nieto Calvario was the father of 4 children, president of the San Miguel de Guarupay Community Action Board. He focused on promoting the welfare of the community. He took office as president of the Community Action Board on February 1 and the following day, while he was at his home, he was approached by armed men who arrived there on a motorcycle and opened fire against him.

Alleged responsible: Unknown





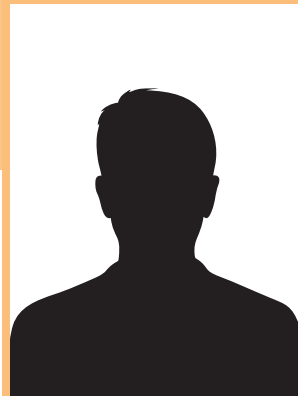
FEBRUARY 2, 2022

EFRÉN RAMOS

JAC Prosecutor, El Basal

Puerto Leguísimo, Putumayo

Efrén Ramos was the prosecutor of the El Basal Community Action Board. He was murdered in the middle of a massacre in Puerto Leguísimo, in El Basal sector, in which two other young men were also assassinated. Apparently the three lifeless bodies were found in the place, with signs of torture and burns.



Alleged responsible: Unknown

FEBRUARY 4, 2022

VÍCTOR MANUEL PACHECO

JAC President, Bruselas Village

Fortul, Arauca

Víctor Manuel Pacheco was president of the Bruselas Community Action Board and a member of the community council in Fortul, Arauca. On February 4, when he was at his farm, he was approached by men carrying firearms, who came to the place and executed him. Victor was carrying out processes for his community related to the crisis in his village of Bruselas due to the drought and lack of drinking water, a situation that affected around 23 families.



Alleged responsible: Unknown





FEBRUARY 6, 2022

SEGUNDO CORTÉS NASTUACUÁS

**Indigenous authority of the Pianulpí
community of the Piguambí Palangala
Reservation
Tumaco, Nariño**



Segundo Cortés was an indigenous leader, elder of the Pinualpí community of the Piguambí Palangala Reservation of the Awá people. On February 6 he was seized during the afternoon by armed men and later, his body was found with gunshot wounds.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

LUIS CHAMAPURO QUIRO

**Wounaan indigenous leader
Medio San Juan, Chocó**



Luis Chamapuro Quiro was a Wounaan leader of the community of Puerto Chamapuro and a teacher. On Thursday, February 3 at 06:30 in the afternoon he was forceably held while he was in the San Juan River. In the following days, the indigenous authorities began their search for him, and on the morning of February 9, his corpse was found with three gunshot wounds.

Alleged responsible: ELN





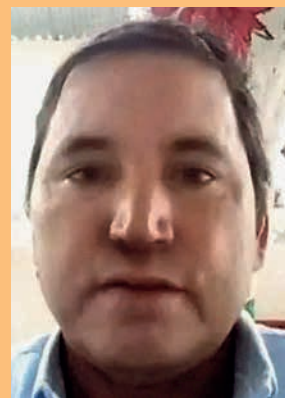
FEBRUARY 10, 2022

ULADIEMIRO VEGA GARCÍA

JAC President, Cimarrón Township

Río de Oro, Cesar

Uladiemiro Vega García was president of the Cimarrón village Community Action Board in the municipality of Río de Oro, South Cesar. He was known for being a hard-working man dedicated to social work. He was murdered on the night of February 10, when he was riding a motorcycle to work, unidentified persons shot him indiscriminately.



Alleged responsible: Unknown

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

JUAN CARLOS JARAMILLO

Community leader in the Guabas township

Guacarí, Valle del Cauca

Juan Carlos Jaramillo was a community leader in the Guabas township in Guacarí. He was also a contractor in the municipality. He was killed when he was in the El Sol neighborhood, armed men on a motorcycle shot at him several times.



Alleged responsible: Unknown





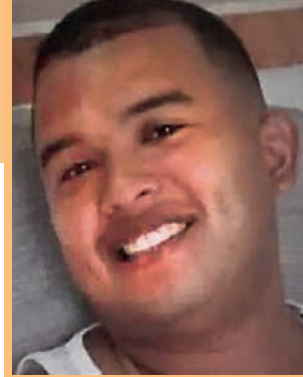
FEBRUARY 13, 2022

MICHAEL STIVEN PÉREZ SALCEDO

Community Overseer

Cartagena, Bolívar

Michael Steven Perez Salcedo, 31 years old, was a community leader, recognized for his social and cultural leadership in La Maria neighborhood, and for his service work for many years. He was also a contractor for the Bolivar Government. He was murdered on February 13 at night; when he was with relatives near his place of residence, unknown persons on a motorcycle arrived at the place and opened fire on him.



Alleged responsible: Unknown

FEBRUARY 13, 2022

ELSY ERAZO

Community leader

Leiva, Nariño

Elsy Erazo, 50 years old, was a community leader. She was murdered on February 13 during the afternoon hours, while she was in a commercial establishment she owned; armed men arrived in the place and shot at her.



Alleged responsible: Unknown





FEBRUARY 18, 2022

STEVEN LOAIZA CÓRDOBA

**National Strike Committee Activist
Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca**



Steven Loaiza Córdoba, 36 years old, was a member of the Buenaventura Merchants Association, in which he led what was called the race for peace and reactivation, in addition, he was an activist and member of the National Strike Committee. The leader was promoting the march for peace and non-violence scheduled for February 24. He was murdered on February 18 at night in the Trapiche neighborhood of Buenaventura; when he was about to enter his place of residence two men on a motorcycle approached him and shot him.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

February 19, 2022

SAULO MORENO

**Muellamues Indigenous Reservation
Guachucal, Nariño**



Saulo Moreno was an indigenous leader of the Muellamues indigenous reservation located in the village of Cristo Bajo in Guachucal, Nariño. He was known for his service work promoting sports activities and for representing his population in different sporting events. He was murdered in his house, located in the indigenous reservation, on the afternoon of February 19, when armed men arrived and shot him thus ending his life.

Alleged responsible: Unknown





FEBRUARY 22, 2022

BOLIVAR LAVIN DELGADO GUEVARA

Indigenous Guard of the Piguambí

Palangala Reservation

Tumaco, Nariño



Bolivar Lavin Delgado Guevara was a member of the Indigenous Guard of the Piguambí Palangala reservation located in a rural area of the municipality of Tumaco. He was reported missing on February 20 after he went out to attend some cultural activities. On February 22, a commission led by the Guardia Indígena began searching for him and found the leader's dead body.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

FEBRUARY 22, 2022

JORGE ALBERTO TAFUR

CISBSC spokesperson, member

of the ANC and the Peoples' Congress

San Martín, Cesar



Jorge Alberto Tafur was a peasant farmer, spokesman of the Interlocution Commission of Southern Bolivar, Central and Southern Cesar -CISBSC-, member of the National Agrarian Coordinator, of the Peoples' Congress and trade unionist of the rural workers' association -ANUC-. He opposed the destruction of swamps and forests in the regions of Cesar and Magdalena. On Tuesday, February 22, Jorge was murdered together with leader Teófilo Acuña; while they were in the latter's house, unidentified armed men arrived at the place and attacked them with firearms.

Alleged responsible: Unknown



FEBRUARY 22, 2022

TEOFILO ACUÑA

**President of FEDEAGROMISBOL,
member of the ANC and
of the Peoples Congress
San Martín, Cesar**



Teofilo Acuña was a peasant leader, founder, and president of the Agronoming Federation of Southern Bolívar - FEDEAGROMISBOL - where he represented the peasant community and small-scale gold miners. He was also a member of the National Agrarian Coordinator and the Peoples' Congress. He promoted campaigns for rural reform throughout the region, specifically in the departments of Cesar, Magdalena and Santander; he denounced the affectation of swamps and the illegal appropriation of land by businessmen; he led roundtables with the National Government in the framework of spaces for dialogue between the productive and social sectors and the State with the objective of rural development for the community. He was a victim of judicial persecution due to his leadership work.

On February 22 he was murdered in his place of residence, while in the company of his family and the leader Jorge Alberto Tafur, whose life was also extinguished by armed men during the same incident.

Alleged responsible: Unknown



FEBRUARY 23, 2022

JULIO VICTORIA CÁRDENAS

**President of the Minor Council
of ACADESAN and member
of the Cimarrona Guard
Litoral de San Juan, Chocó**

Julio Victoria Cárdenas was an Afro-descendant leader, president of the Small Council of the General Community Council of San Juan - ACADESAN -, community of Barrios Unidos in Litoral San Juan and a member of the Cimarrona Guard. He was executed by the National Liberation Army -ELN- on February 23 at 7 p.m., members of this armed group came to his house and deliberately shot him.



Alleged responsible: ELN

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

JORGE SANTOFIMIO YEPES

**Legal representative of the COMUCCON
cooperative
Puerto Guzmán, Putumayo**

Jorge Santofimio Yepes, 38, was a father of four children, peace signatory, promoter of environmental, productive and social welfare initiatives, legal representative and co-founder of the COMUCCON cooperative and delegate of the National Integral Program for the Substitution of Illicit Crops -PNIS- in the department of Putumayo. He demonstrated his commitment to the peace process, helped coordinate



voluntary crop substitution programs and co-founded COMUCCON, a cooperative focused on environmental protection.

On February 24, the leader was in a meeting at the Cooperative's premises when armed men arrived and fired at him. Four other people were wounded, including two minors: Jorge's son, a 5-year-old boy, and a 4-month-old baby

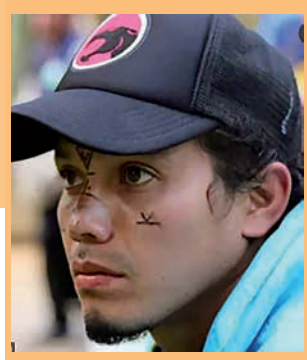
Alleged responsible: Unknown

FEBRUARY 25, 2022

DILSON ARBEY BORJA ROLDÁN

**Indigenous Guard of the Río León
Community
Turbo, Antioquia**

Dilson Arbey Borja Roldán, 34 years old, was an indigenous guard, he stood out for his commitment and accompaniment in a process of restitution of lands expropriated by paramilitaries from the Embera Eyábida Río León indigenous community, he was also the local governor in Currulao, municipality of Turbo. For several years he was a victim of threats that led him to request protection measures, which were not answered; he was also a victim of displacement. On February 25 he was killed by unknown gunmen who arrived at his place of residence and shot him in the presence of his family.



Alleged responsible: Paramilitary



FEBRUARY 26, 2022

GUSTAVO ANTONIO TORRES

**Legal representative of the Caño Indio
Productive Association
Tibú, Norte de Santander**



55-year-old Gustavo Antonio Torres was a peasant leader, in 2017 he created the Caño Indio Productive Association in which he served as legal representative and promoted sustainable and productive community projects for 20 families, victims of displacement in the Tienditas village of the Orú township in the municipality of Tibú, Norte de Santander. He was recognized for his empathy and community leadership. On February 26, a group of armed men entered his house located in the Tienditas village and ended his life.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

MARCH 5, 2022

ARQUÍMEDES RIVERA REMOLINA

**JAC Treasurer, La Curva township
Bucarasica, Norte de Santander**



Arquímedes Rivera Remolina, 49 years old, was a farmer and treasurer of La Curva Community Action Board. On the night of March 5, a group of men on motorcycles arrived at a gas station located in La Curva and identified the leader and his companion Jesús Emel Ochoa Jácome, member



of the victims' table in Norte de Santander, after which they opened fired indiscriminately. Arquímedes died while his companion was injured.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

MARCH 5, 2022

EDUARDO EMILIO VANEGAS MENDOZA

JAC President, Pueblito Mejía

Barranco de Loba, Bolívar

Eduardo Emilio Vanegas Mendoza, 36 years old, was president of the Pueblito Mejía Community Action Board, Barranco de Loba, he had been serving as a leader since 2010 and was head of community development, he was promoting a mining business project in 'Mina La Gloria', an area in the township of Pueblito Mejía.

He was attacked on March 5 at 6 o'clock in the evening in Barranco de Loba Bolívar; unknown persons on a motorcycle shot him when he was in the company of three people, the leader died, and his companions were injured. Vanegas had denounced death threats against him.



Alleged responsible: Unknown



MARCH 6, 2022

LUCIANO ALVINO ORTIZ PINEDA

**JAC President, La Armenia Village
Planadas, Tolima**

Luciano Alvino Ortiz Pineda was president of La Armenia village Community Action Board. He was reported missing on March 6. The community began searching for him and found his body buried near his house. Apparently two men came to his farm, killed him with a firearm and stole several of his belongings.



Alleged responsible: Unknown

MARCH 6, 2022

JULIÁN ANDRÉS SUÁREZ

**Peasant leader
San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá**

Julián Andrés Suárez was a peasant leader and promoter of an illicit crop substitution project. The leader was detained on March 5 by members of the National Army in midst of irregular operations in the El Triunfo de San Vicente del Caguán area, during which several farms were reported to have been burned down. A day later his lifeless body was found in the area. The community denounced that it was an extrajudicial execution; the fact was recorded in a video in which the manipulation of Suarez's body by members of the Army is evidenced.



Alleged responsible: Public force





MARCH 9, 2022

MARCOS MORALES

**JAC President, Miramar Village
La Montañita, Caquetá**

Marcos Morales was president of the Community Action Board of the Miramar neighborhood in Morales, Cauca. He was known for promoting the Comprehensive National Program for the Substitution of Illicit Crops -PNIS-, the Development Programs with a Territorial Approach -PDET- and for his support to different communities. He was murdered on March 9 by members of the Jorge Briceño Suárez structure of the post-peace agreement groups, when he was at his home in the company of his partner.



**Alleged responsible: Post-peace
agreement groups**

MARCH 9, 2022

GUSTAVO GUERRERO RAMÍREZ

**JAC President, Villa Colombia
Villa Garzón, Putumayo**

Gustavo Guerrero, 58 years old, was president of the Community Action Board of Villa Colombia, a recognized social leader and farmer. On March 9 he was approached by armed men who shot him on several occasions while he was working in the fields.



Alleged responsible: Unknown





MARCH 10, 2022

SANTIAGO RIVEROS

**JAC President,
Banco de Arena township
Cúcuta, Norte de Santander**

Santiago Riveros, 74, was a community leader, church pastor and president of the Community Action Board of the Banco de Arena township in Cúcuta, Norte de Santander. On March 10 he was killed in a rural area of Cúcuta in the middle of armed clashes between the National Liberation Army -ELN- and members of the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia -AGC- in the Banco de Arena township.



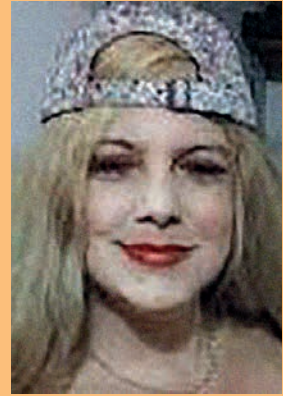
Alleged responsible: Paramilitary

MARCH 10, 2022

ANDREA ROZO ROLÓN

**LGBTIQ+ Advocate
Bucaramanga, Santander**

Andrea Rozo Rolón, 55 years old, was a member of the victims' participation table and of several collectives that defend the LGBTIQ+ community. She stood out for her courage, determination, and commitment in the defense of people of the LGBTIQ+ community and especially of people who, like her, identified themselves as transgender. On March 10, she was the victim of femicide when she was at the hairdresser's where she worked.



Alleged responsible: Unknown



MARCH 14, 2022

FABIÁN PÉREZ HOOKER

**Member of the group Hety and Zambo
San Andres, Archipelago of San Andres,
Providencia, and Santa Catalina**



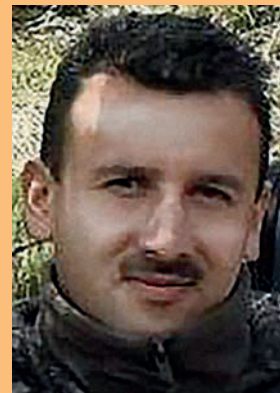
Fabián Pérez Hooker was a community and cultural leader, member, and singer of the group Hety and Zambo. From a young age he produced music for the promotion of the Raizal culture and the preservation of Creole. He was internationally recognized in countries such as India, Brazil, and the United States where he represented his community with fusion rhythms such as Mento, dancehall and modeup and became known as the “King of Creole”. On March 14 he was murdered with a firearm.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

MARCH 14, 2022

JOSÉ MILLER CORREA VÁSQUEZ

**Traditional authority of Tacueyó and
coordinator of the life plan Nasa project
Popayán, Cauca**



José Miller Correa Vásquez, 40 years old, was an indigenous leader, traditional authority of Tacueyó, coordinator of the Nasa life plan project and councilman in the village of El Damián, Tacueyó Reservation, in Toribío. He represented 22 indigenous authorities of northern Cauca and from different instances denounced the violation of



human rights. He was an outstanding leader since his youth when he was part of the Álvaro Ulcué Chocué Youth Movement, then governor of the indigenous council of Tacueyó on two occasions, he was involved with the municipal administration of Toribío as Secretary of Government and then as coordinator of the Indigenous Training Center -CECIDIC-. Because of his work and trajectory, he received death threats. He was murdered on Monday, March 14 during nighttime, near Las Chozas, on the road that leads from Popayán to El Tambo.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

MARCH 17, 2022

LUIS CARLOS BUSTAMANTE FERNÁNDEZ

Dancer, cultural manager, activist of the LGBTI community

San Andres, Archipelago of San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina

Luis Carlos Bustamante Fernández, known as “Luchín”, was 40 years old, a community leader, dancer, cultural manager, activist of the LGBTIQ+ community, representative of the island in the central committee of artists for Colombia and in the National Dance Council. On March 17, his lifeless body was found with gunshot wounds near his place of work, on the Circunvalar road, in front of the entrance of Morgan’s Cave.



Alleged responsible: Unknown



MARCH 20, 2022

RICHARD NILSON BETANCOURTH

**President of JAC, Santa Clara Village
Argelia, Cauca**



Richard Nilson Betancourt, 48 years old, was president of the Santa Clara Community Action Board, he promoted support processes for displaced persons, collaborated with the Environmental Committee, the peasant guards and the Serranía del Pinche. He was murdered on March 20 while on his way to his place of residence, members of FARC dissidents shot him several times.

**Alleged responsible: Post-peace
agreement groups**

MARCH 24, 2022

FREDDY ENRIQUE PALLARES AMAYA

**Founder and member of the Mobility
Oversight Committee of Cúcuta
Cúcuta, Norte de Santander**



Freddy Enrique Pallares Amaya, 50 years old, was a community leader, founder and member of the Mobility Oversight Committee of Cúcuta, Norte de Santander. He carried out surveillance and monitoring of traffic agencies in the department. On March 24, in the 7 de Agosto neighborhood, while Pallares was in the living room of his house with his wife and children, an unidentified person arrived and shot him. A week before the incident he had reported threats against his life to the authorities.

Alleged responsible: Unknown



MARCH 24, 2022

ALCIBIADES MORENO MORENO

Member of ACGICDM

Muzo, Boyacá

Alcibiades Moreno Moreno was a defender and spokesman for the communities and guaqueros in western Boyacá, a member of the Association of Intermunicipal Community Guaqueros Committee of Muzo -ACGICDM-, and of the land collection committee, he was also a defender of the rights of ancestral and traditional miners. On March 24 he was murdered at his place of residence when armed men arrived and opened fire on him.



Alleged responsible: Unknown

MARCH 28, 2022

SARCELINO LANA

Indigenous Governor of the Tamandó community

Medio Atrato, Chocó

29-year-old Sarcelino Lana was the indigenous governor of the Tamandó community in the municipality of Medio Atrato, department of Chocó. On March 25 he was kidnapped by members of the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia -AGC- and on March 28 his corpse was found on the banks of the Atrato river.



Alleged responsible: Paramilitary



MARCH 28, 2022

DIDIER HERNÁNDEZ ROJAS

**JAC President, El Remanso Village
Puerto Leguísimo, Putumayo**



Didier Hernández Rojas was the president of the El Remanso Community Action Board in the municipality of Puerto Leguísimo, he had been elected for his work for the community in the process of new community dignitaries. He was killed along with his wife Ana María Sarria Barrera, who has two children of 6 and 2 years old, during a massacre perpetrated by the National Army in their village on March 28, while a community bazaar was being held to raise funds to cover the needs of the community. A total of 11 civilians were killed by the security forces.

Alleged responsible: Public force

MARCH 28, 2022

PABLO PANDURO COQUINCHÉ

**Indigenous Governor of the Kichwa
Chapter of Bajo Remanso
Puerto Leguísimo, Putumayo**



Pablo Panduro Coquinché was the indigenous governor of the Kichwa chapter of Bajo Remanso in the municipality of Puerto Leguísimo in the department of Putumayo. He had



been elected governor on January 15 of this year. He was killed on March 28 during a massacre perpetrated by the National Army in the village of El Remanso, while a community bazaar was being held to raise funds to cover the community's needs. A total of 11 civilians were killed by the public force.

Alleged responsible: Public force

MARCH 31, 2022

CRISTIÁN CAMILO GUEVARA

**Youth Leader in San José de Uré
Montelíbano, Córdoba**

Cristián Camilo Guevara, 21 years old, was a youth leader in San José de Uré, former president of the Community Action Board of the village of La racha. He was killed on March 31 in an apparent robbery, after withdrawing some money from the bank. He was traveling in a vehicle in the company of family members when men on a motorcycle approached him, asked him to hand over the money and shot him.



Alleged responsible: Unknown





MARCH 31, 2022

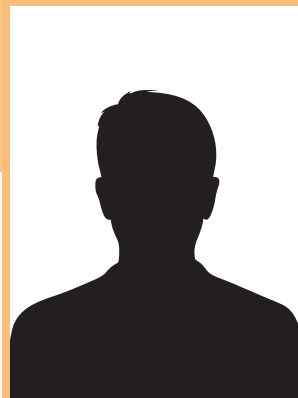
ALEXANDER PASTRANA LOSADA

JAC conciliator, Puerto Gaitán

La Montañita, Caquetá

Alexander Pastrana Losada was a conciliator of the Community Action Board in the Puerto Gaitán village of Union Peneya inspection. On March 31 at 2:00 a.m. he was murdered in the town of Puerto Gaitán.

Alleged responsible: Unknown



APRIL 1, 2022

LUIS ALFREDO CASTAÑO GÓMEZ

**Representative of the municipal
committee of Toro coffee growers**

Toro, Valle del Cauca

Luis Alfredo Castaño Gómez, 69 years old, was a representative of the Municipal Committee of Toro Coffee Growers and former president of the Association of the Toro Peasant Market -Asomercatoro- from where he encouraged the coffee growers of the municipality to promote the production of coffee and thus begin to export. His passion for the countryside led him to cultivate and produce organic coffee, among other products of the family market basket. His mission was to bring together the farmers of the sector so that they could sell their harvests and be paid a fair price. He was also a councilman of the municipality of Toro in the constitutional period 1995 - 1997 and the father of two children. On April 1, he was killed with a firearm in the El Roble village.

Alleged responsible: Unknown





APRIL 1, 2022

CARLOS ANTONIO MARCILLO GUANGA

Indigenous guard of the Gran Mallama reservation

Mallama, Nariño

Carlos Antonio Marcillo Guanga was a defender and indigenous guard of the Gran Mallama reservation, he stood out for his work and service to the community. He was murdered on April 1 at 2:00 p.m. when he was traveling in a vehicle on the road leading from Ricaurte to the municipality of Mallama, in the Pilualés sector, he was approached by unidentified armed men on a motorcycle who shot at him.



Alleged responsible: Unknown

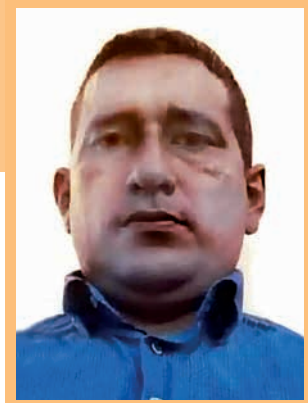
APRIL 2, 2022

ALEXANDER FONSECA PEÑARANDA

Wayuú indigenous leader

Manaure, La Guajira

Alexander Fonseca Peñaranda was an indigenous leader and teacher in the municipality of Manaure of the Wayuú indigenous reservation of the middle and upper Guajira. He was murdered on April 2; while he was spending time with his family in a public establishment in the village of Aremasain, Manaure, armed men arrived on a motorcycle firing shots in



the air; apparently the Wayuú leader and other people decided to pursue the motorcyclists and the unknown persons fired indiscriminately. The leader and one other person died, while others were injured.

**Alleged responsible: Post-peace
agreement groups**

APRIL 3, 2022
JOSÉ PASCUAL QUEVEDO VELÁSQUEZ
Member of COOAGROGUAVIARE
and of ASCATRAGUA
Puerto Concordia, Meta



José Pascual Quevedo Velásquez, 50 years old, was a farmer leader, member of the Multiactive Agricultural Cooperative of Guaviare -COOAGROGUAVIARE- and of the Association of Farmers and Workers of the Guayabero River Region -ASCATRAGUA-. On the evening of April 3, he was in a commercial establishment in the Diamante neighborhood with other people and was killed with a firearm by unknown men.

Alleged responsible: Unknown



APRIL 7, 2022

ALEXANDER TEQUIA CANGREJO

**JAC President, Panama Village
Soacha, Cundinamarca**

Alexander Tequia Cangrejo was president of the Community Action Board of the Panama village, in the municipality of Soacha, in this community he stood out as a person who fought for the welfare of its inhabitants. On April 7 he was murdered when he was in the Los Cerezos sector and an unknown person shot him twice.



Alleged responsible: Unknown

APRIL 11, 2022

PABLO EMILIO BAQUERO CÁRDENAS

**Peasant leader
Puerto Caicedo, Putumayo**

Pablo Emilio Baquero Cárdenas was a peasant leader for 20 years, he participated in the Community Action Board of La Independencia, Puerto Caicedo, Putumayo. He was murdered on April 11 when armed men arrived at his house and shot him several times, the community took him to a medical center, but he arrived with no vital signs. Baquero had repeatedly denounced threats against him.



Alleged responsible: Unknown





APRIL 14, 2022

FABINSON DUCUARA BARRETO

JAC President, Horizonte

La Montañita, Caquetá



Fabinson Ducuara Barreto was president of the Community Action Board of the Horizonte village in Miramar, La Montañita, Caquetá. He was known for promoting sports and cultural activities in his community. He was reported missing on April 10, 4 days later his remains were found.

Alleged responsible: Criminal alliances

APRIL 14, 2022

LUIS ALBERTO NASTACUAS TAICUS

Indigenous guard of the Piguambí

Palangala reservation

Tumaco, Nariño



Luis Alberto Nastacuas Taicus was an indigenous guard of the Piguambí Palangala reservation of the Awá people in Tumaco, Nariño. He had been defending his territory for several years. He was assassinated with a firearm on April 14.

Alleged responsible: Unknown



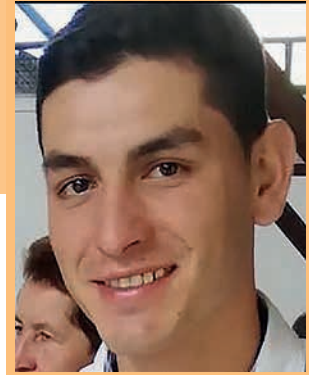


APRIL 17, 2022

VÍCTOR ALFONSO GIRALDO VALENCIA

**JAC Youth Committee, La Inmaculada
Neighborhood
Rionegro, Antioquia**

Victor Alfonso Giraldo Valencia, 25 years old, was a member of the Youth Committee of La Inmaculada Neighborhood Community Action Board in Rionegro, Antioquia. From a very young age he was a proactive man, he promoted projects in the sector and worked with young people with the Pastoral Social to fight against stigmatization in the community. On April 17 he was executed with a firearm along with another young man from the area.



Alleged responsible: Unknown

APRIL 18, 2022

FRANCENET YOLIMA PÉREZ OLAYA

**Member of the Women's Oversight Group
against Violence and chocolates among
friends
Mesetas, Meta**

Francenet Yolima Pérez Olaya, 34 years old, was a peace signer, a cheerful woman who fought for the defense of human rights, a member of the Women's Oversight Group against Violence and of Chocolates among Friends, an organization that promotes the defense of women's rights and offers different entrepreneurship initiatives to promote women's economic autonomy. On April 18 she was murdered, apparently by her partner.



Alleged responsible: Individual authors





APRIL 18, 2022

JOHN JAIR ESQUIVEL

Member of the National Peasant Association José Antonio Galán Zorro and the Interethnic and Popular Peasant Guard of the Center East Saravena, Arauca



John Jairo Esquivel, 28 years old, was a member of the National Peasant Association José Antonio Galán Zorro and the Interethnic and Popular Peasant Guard of the Center East, he was part of ASOJER and lived in the village of Salem in the municipality of Fortul, Arauca. A firearm took his life on April 18, in the municipality of Saravena.

Alleged responsible: Post-peace agreement groups

APRIL 18, 2022

WILMER HERNÁNDEZ ORMAZA

Member of the JAC Coexistence Committee, Puerto Miranda, CPDH and SINDEAGRO Tame, Arauca



Wilmer Hernández was a member of the Puerto Miranda JAC Coexistence Committee, CPDH and SINDEAGRO. He was recognized because he fought for the school feeding of children, he also developed different social activities for the communities, he promoted guarantees and alter-





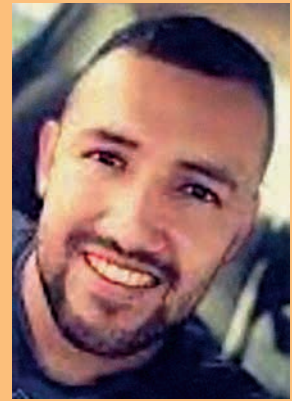
natives for the life of Puerto Miranda in terms of work, territory, and peace. He was a victim of forced displacement at the beginning of the year. Wilmer was murdered on April 18 when unknown men arrived at a school in the village of Puerto Nidia where he was carrying out his activities and forced him to leave; hours later his body was found, no vital signs, on the road to Fortul near the village of Puerto Miranda.

Alleged responsible: ELN

APRIL 19, 2022
CAMILO ANDRÉS CRUZ GÓMEZ
 Youth Leader
 Rionegro, Antioquia

Camilo Andrés Cruz Gómez, 27 years old, was a member of the Boy Scouts, leading and promoting activities for children and adolescents in the territory. He was recognized as a simple, humble and hard-working man.

On the night of April 19 he was murdered in the sector of Cuatro Esquinas in Rionegro, Antioquia. When he was driving his vehicle, he was approached by men on a motorcycle, who opened fired against him.



Alleged responsible: Unknown





APRIL 25, 2022

ERMINSON RIVERA

**JAC President, La Esperanza Village
Cantagallo, Bolívar**

Erminson was president of the Community Action Board of La Esperanza village, a position to which he was elected in November of the previous year. On April 25 he was in the company of community leader José Obdulio Sánchez, when they were approached by armed men who took them out of the house where they were staying and shot them repeatedly.



Alleged responsible: Paramilitary

APRIL 25, 2022

JOSÉ OBDULIO SÁNCHEZ

**Community leader
Cantagallo, Bolívar**

José Obdulio was a community leader, member of the Community Action Board of La Esperanza and worked on illicit crop substitution projects in Cantagallo. On April 25, he was in the company of Erminson Rivera, president of La Esperanza Community Action Board, when they were approached by armed men who took them out of the house where they were staying and shot at them repeatedly.

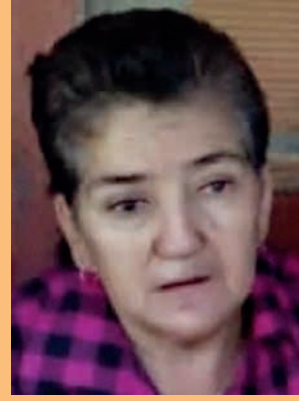


Alleged responsible: Paramilitary



**APRIL 29, 2022****MARÍA ELVIA GÓMEZ ALZATE****Community leader****El Peñol, Antioquia**

María Elvia Gómez Alzate, 62 years old, was a community leader and former president of the Community Action Board of La Magdalena village. On April 29 she was found dead at her place of residence.

**Alleged responsible: Unknown****APRIL 30, 2022****MARÍA JOSÉ ARCINIEGAS SALINAS****Indigenous leader****Puerto Leguizamo, Putumayo**

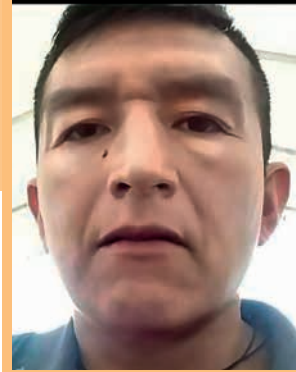
María José Arciniegas Salinas, 27 years old, was a leader in the indigenous reservation El Hacha. She was murdered on April 30 in Puerto Leguizamo, Putumayo, apparently by members of the paramilitary group Comandos de la Frontera. She was forcibly removed from the reservation and later executed with a firearm in the presence of her brothers on the outskirts of the village. She had been threatened due to her leadership work.

**Alleged responsible: Criminal alliances**

APRIL 30, 2022

YESID CAÑA

**Former indigenous authority and member
of the Regional Indigenous Council
Caldono, Cauca**



40-year-old Yesid Caña was an artisan, native of El Rincón, member of the La Aguada reservation, former indigenous authority, and member of the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca -CRIC-. He was recognized for his work in the creation of the largest mochila of the world (a “mochila” is a traditional indigenous bag made from different materials, but mainly nylon or wool), a work that took 10 years; on the other hand, he had participated in actions to protect the territory together with the Indigenous Guard. He was murdered in the La Aguada de Caldono reservation during the night of April 30, when armed men arrived at the place and shot him repeatedly.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

MAY 1, 2022

HENRY OLIVERO

**Member of the Olaya Herrera Community
Council in Sanquianga
Olaya Herrera, Nariño**



Henry Olivero was a member of the Olaya Herrera Community Council in Saquianga, Afro-descendant leader, defender of the ethnic, territorial, and collective rights of the black commu-



nities of the Saquianga Community Council, Nariño. During the morning of May 1, he was murdered by unknown persons who entered his house located in a rural area of the El Sajo village and opened fire on him multiple times.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

MAY 1, 2022

MISAE FERNANDO ÁVILA SOLARTE
Member of SINTRAUNICOL
Cali, Valle del Cauca

Misael Fernando Avila Solarte, 37 years old, was a member of SINTRAUNICOL and a chef at the Universidad del Valle for 16 years. He was the father of a 4-year-old girl. On May 1 he was murdered in the Alfonso neighborhood, when he was talking with colleagues in a house, a person attacked him with a knife and subsequently passed away.



Alleged responsible: Unknown





MAY 1, 2022
LUIS ANTONIO TOMBE MENZA
Indigenous Guard
Miranda, Cauca

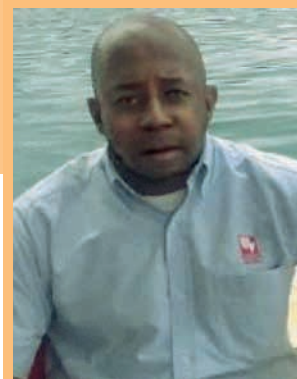
Luis Antonio Tombe Menza, 54 years old, was an indigenous guard of the Nasa people, an elder who had been performing as a defender of the territory for 20 years. On Sunday, May 1, while a process of liberation of mother earth was taking place in the community farm Las Palmas in Miranda, Cauca, an area occupied by the sugarcane agroindustry, the ESMAD and the Police arrived at the place, attacked the indigenous people, and captured three people. The community decided to go to the Miranda police station to request their release and were attacked with firearms, in which Tombe died and two other people were injured.



Alleged responsible: Public force

MAY 3, 2022
MAURICIO FORY BALANTA
Member of SINTRAEMPUVALLE
Cali, Valle del Cauca

Mauricio Fory Balanta 56 years old was a member of the Mixed Union of Workers and Public Employees of the Universidad del Valle -SINTRAEMPUVALLE-. He was murdered in Cali on May 3, when he was driving his vehicle and was approached by an unknown gunman on a motorcycle who fired several shots against him.



Alleged responsible: Unknown





MAY 5, 2022

RAFAEL RODRÍGUEZ BARRIOS

**JAC President, La Gloria Village
San Pedro, Sucre**



Rafael Rodríguez Barrios was president of the Community Action Board of the village of La Gloria in the municipality of San Pedro, Sucre. On May 5, armed men entered his place of residence and executed him.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

MAY 6, 2022

EVER ORTEGA MONROY

**President of the Santa Helena Community
Action Board
Norosí, Bolívar**



Ever Ortega Monroy was president of Santa Helena's Community Action Board in Norosí, he stood out for his charisma and willingness to serve, helping in the processes in favor of his community. He was murdered in the middle of the armed strike declared by the paramilitary group Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia -AGC-, he was standing on his doorstep when he was shot several times. Prior to his murder he received several death threats from the same group.

Alleged responsible: Paramilitary





MAY 7, 2022

ALDEMAR URQUINA CRUZ

JAC President, Morrocoy Village,

Doncello

San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá



Idenar Urquina Cruz, 58 years old, was president of the Morrocoy Village Community Action Board in the municipality of Doncello, Caquetá. He was native from Pitalito, Huila and later settled in El Doncello. He was murdered with a firearm by unidentified persons in El Guayabo village in San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

MAY 10, 2022

ADIN CERQUERA HUACA

Community leader

Puerto Guzmán, Putumayo



Adin Cerquera Huaca was a community leader and former president of the Paujil Community Action Board in Puerto Guzmán, Putumayo. On May 10 he was murdered by a group of heavily armed men who attacked him in his house with firearms, they also kidnapped his son John Fredy Cerquera, current president of the Community Action Board, who managed to escape.

Alleged responsible: Criminal alliances





MAY 13, 2022

SOCIO FERNANDO DOMICÓ

**Indigenous leader, Choromandó reservation
Dabeiba, Antioquia**

Socio Fernando Domicó was a teacher and public servant of the Antioquia Education Secretariat, in charge of the implementation of the Indigenous and Intercultural Education System -SEIP-. He was known as "The People's Cheerful One" for motivating the community with his musical group and for his commitment to promoting the social, economic, and emotional well-being, the educational rights of his students, and artistic projects. He was the father of five children.



On May 13 he was murdered near the Choromandó reservation. When he was in the company of one of his children, he was approached by armed men who demanded the child to continue walking and subsequently killed Domicó.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

MAY 15, 2022

EDGAR QUINTERO

**JAC President, Lomitas village
and member of the Cimarrona Guard
Santander de Quilichao, Cauca**

Edgar Quintero was president of the Lomitas Community Action Board and a member of the Cimarrona Guard. He was also leading several processes





related to the implementation of the Peace Accord, such as the cultivation of pineapples to strengthen the economy of the area and collective restitution in his community council. In the early morning of May 15, four men arrived at Quintero's house, located in the Lomitas village, Santander de Quilichao, and shot him several times; he was taken to the Francisco de Paula Santander hospital, but reached the institution with no vital signs.

Alleged responsible: Unknown



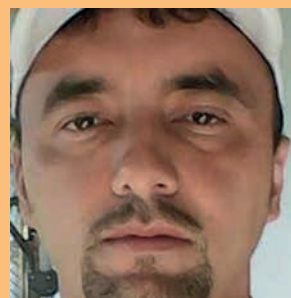
MAY 15, 2022

JOSÉ ALEXANDER ESPINOZA VALENCIA

JAC President, El Retiro Village

Tuluá, Valle del Cauca

José Alexander Espinoza Valencia was president of El Retiro Community Action Board, in Tuluá, and father of two daughters. On May 15 he was assassinated in the Morelia de Tuluá village; while he was on his way to his place of residence, and he was approached by armed men who shot him.



Alleged responsible: Unknown





MAY 18, 2022

PEDRO NEL SÁNCHEZ SANABRIA

Community leader

Simití, Bolívar

Pedro Nel Sánchez Sanabria was a community leader in the village, he was president of the San Antonio village Community Action Board between 2018 and January 2022. He was also an agricultural producer focused on milk and cheese production in the area. He worked for the rights of peasants. He was killed with a firearm on May 18, at a farm in the village of Sabanas de San Luis.



Alleged responsible: Unknown

MAY 24, 2022

ELIZABETH MENDOZA

JAC President, Calarcá Tetuán Village

MARCO TULIO MOLINA

JAC Vice-president, Calarcá Tetuán

FABIAN RICARDO BERJAN

Member of the JAC's coexistence and citizenship committee, Calarcá Tetuán

Chaparral, Tolima

Elizabeth Mendoza, 36 years old, was president of the Community Action Board of Calarcá Tetuán, she had received an award from the Ministry of the Interior for her achievements as a community leader, her husband Marco Tulio Molina, 51 years old, was vice president of the same JAC and her nephew Fabian Ricardo Berjan, 24 years old, was a member of the



coexistence and citizenship committee in this same process. On May 24, the three of them and the couple's 16-year-old son were murdered in a massacre perpetrated in the residence of Elizabeth Mendoza and Marco Tulio Molina; armed men entered the place and shot them, their bodies were found in the following days.

Alleged responsible: Unknown



MAY 24, 2022

ALCONIDES VALLEJO ÁLVAREZ

**JAC Vice-president, La Clarita Village
Vegachí, Antioquia**

Alconides Vallejo Álvarez, 64, was vice-president of La Clarita Community Action Board and former councilman of the municipality of Vegachí. On May 21, he was wounded with a firearm when a group from the Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the Police arrived in the territory to carry out an operation. Since this event the leader was reported missing, his family began searching for him in police stations, in the Attorney General's Office and in hospitals with no news regarding his whereabouts. On May 24 he was reported dead in the hospital of Barrancabermeja after an armed confrontation. The community claims that in the operation there was no exchange of fire and that a helicopter attacked without any response from the armed groups, in the event Vallejo was wounded while working on his farm.



Alleged responsible: Public force



MAY 29, 2022

JHON JERSON CAMACHO BARRERA

JAC delegate from La Meseta

to ASOJUNTAS

Tame, Arauca



Jhon Jerson Jerson Camacho Barrera was a delegate of La Meseta Community Action Board to the Association of Boards -ASOJUNTAS- in the rural area of the municipality of Tame.

He was murdered during the night of May 29 when he was driving on the road that leads from Puerto San Salvador to the urban center of the municipality of Tame. On this route he was approached by members of the 28th Front of the FARC dissidents who forced him to get out of his vehicle and took his life with firearms in the presence of his wife and daughter.

Alleged responsible: Post-peace agreement groups

MAY 31, 2022

EDISON GÓMEZ ORTIZ

Puerto Sábalo and Los Monos reservation leader

Solano, Caquetá



Edison Gómez Ortiz was a leader of the Puerto Sábalo and Los Monos reservation, Murui indigenous people, teacher in Peñas Rojas and defender of the right to differential education in

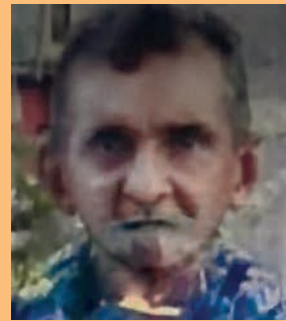


the department of Caquetá. He was murdered on May 31, two days after serving as a voting juror; apparently members of a post-peace agreement group had threatened days before that he was not allowed to participate as a voting juror on May 29.

**Alleged responsible: Post-peace
agreement groups**

JUNE 2, 2022
HAROLD VICENTE HERAZO CASTAÑO
JAC President,
Tapa Sola Village
Planeta Rica, Córdoba

Harold Vicente Herazo Castaño, 63 years old, was president of the Tapa Sola village Community Action Board. He was murdered on the night of June 2 when armed men entered his house, forcibly dragged him out and then shot him near the Troncal Occidente, on the stretch that connects Planeta Rica with Montería.



Alleged responsible: Paramilitary



JUNE 6, 2022

JOSÉ ERNESTO CUETIA YAJUE

**Traditional doctor, member of Asprozonac and representative of the Smiles & Lives Without Borders Foundation
Florida, Valle del Cauca**



José Ernesto Cuetia Yajue was a traditional doctor, member of the Association for the Establishment of the Peasant Reserve Zone of the Miranda Municipality - Asprozonac - and representative of the Smiles Lives Without Borders Foundation. On June 5 he left his home located in El Desbaratado village, Miranda, Cauca; on the next day his lifeless body was found by the authorities in El Llanito township, Florida, Valle del Cauca.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

JUNE 7, 2022

JESUSITA MORENO MOSQUERA

**Defender of Afro-descendant communities in Bajo San Juan
Cali, Valle del Cauca**



Jesusita Moreno Mosquera, 60 years old, was a defender of Afro-descendant and indigenous communities in Bajo San Juan, Chocó. She was the victim of attacks and judicial set-ups because of her work in the context of the humanitarian crisis that San Juan,



Calima and Buenaventura have been suffering since 2021 and that has left people murdered, disappeared, threatened, confined and displaced. She was murdered on June 7 in Cali by armed men who entered the house where she was and shot her.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

JUNE 8, 2022

ÓSCAR PARADA TORRES

**Representative of bisexual people
in the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Council
Bogotá, Capital District**

Óscar Parada Torres was a representative of bisexual people in the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Council, he was a man of solidarity, dedicated to the defense of his community. He was murdered on June 8 in the Bonanza neighborhood of Engativá, in the western part of the city. Apparently, a man shot him while he was in his home, in midst of a possible case of homophobia.



Alleged responsible: Unknown



JUNE 8, 2022

DANILO DE JESÚS MADRID LÓPEZ

**JAC Vice-president,
Doradas Altas Village, Tarazá, Antioquia
Tarazá, Antioquia**

At 45 years of age, Danilo de Jesús Madrid López was vice-president of the Community Action Board of the Doradas Altas neighborhood. He was a well-known activist and human rights defender in Tarazá.



On June 8 in the morning, he was found in his farm with several shots fired from a shotgun. The body was recovered by his family since the competent authorities were not present.

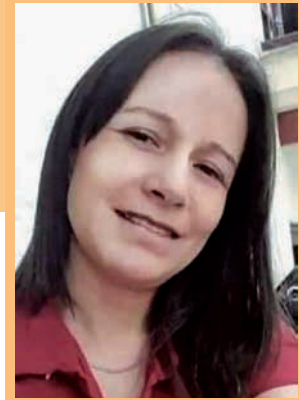
Alleged responsible: Unknown

JUNE 10, 2022

KELLY URREGO

**Member of the Yarumal Environmental
Board
Yarumal, Antioquia**

Kelly Urrego was a member of the Yarumal Environmental Board. She was executed on June 10 in the village of Llanos de Cuivá in the municipality of Yarumal, Antioquia.



Alleged responsible: Paramilitary





JUNE 10, 2022

JULIO CÉSAR OJEDA JARA

Secretary of Human Rights of the SUTEV

Sub-Directorate

Restrepo, Valle del Cauca



Julio César Ojeda Jara was secretary of Human Rights of the sub-directorate of the Sindicato Único de Trabajadores de la Educación del Valle -SUTEV-, he led and promoted the campaign of the Historical Pact. He was murdered on June 10, when he was traveling in a vehicle with a farmer on a rural road in Restrepo and was approached by two assassins on a motorcycle who killed them with firearms.

Alleged responsible: Unknown

JUNE 19, 2022

ROBERTO CARLOS RIVAS

JAC President, San Martín Neighborhood

Guapi, Cauca



Roberto Carlos Rivas, 37 years old, was president of the Community Action Board of the San Martín neighborhood and member of the Historical Pact. He was murdered on June 19 in Las Américas neighborhood, Guapi, when he was on his way to a school to carry out his work as an electoral witness of the Historical Pact. While he was riding a motorcycle, he was intercepted by armed men who shot him.

Alleged responsible: Unknown





JUNE 27, 2022

LEONARDO MORA CALDERÓN

**Vice President of the Arauca Welders Association -ASA
Saravena, Arauca**



Leonardo Mora Calderón, 47, was vice-president of the Arauca Welders Association -ASA- and a labor rights activist. On June 27, when he was talking with other people in a public establishment when he was approached by hitmen who attacked him with firearms.

Alleged responsible: Post-peace agreement groups

JUNE 27, 2022

JULIÁN DAVID OCHOA

**Environmental Defender
Granada, Antioquia**



Julián David Ochoa was an environmental, youth and community leader in the municipality of Granada, Antioquia; a charismatic, supportive, and cheerful man. On June 27 in the village of Santa Ana, Granada, he was murdered in a hitman attack, while in the company of his wife and his father. Unidentified shooters fired a shotgun at him. Some of his family members were injured. Julian David had reported threats against his life.

Alleged responsible: Paramilitary



CHAPTER 1

ONE GLIMMER OF HOPE



The first half of 2022 was marked by the intensity of the electoral campaigns, both for the Congress of the Republic, the very first-time election of representatives to the Special Transitory Peace Circumscriptions (CI-TREP) and the presidential election, in a context of persistent human rights violations in the territories, widespread violence and deteriorating security in the cities.

The follow-up report to the electoral alert 004 of 2022 by the Early Warning System of the Ombudsman's Office, placed 84 municipalities at extreme risk and 206 at high risk for the presidential elections; being the most worrying the materialization of the murders of human rights defenders, leaders and social leaders that were perpetrated in 90% of the municipalities warned in the early warning¹. This behavior continued throughout the semester and left the regrettable balance of 99 murders in this period, according to the information verified by the Information System of the Somos Defensores Program, a situation which is described in this report.

The same early warning follow-up report identifies 4 threat factors in the context of the electoral scenario: i)

the continuity of the internal armed conflict and other violence associated with drug trafficking, ii) the social and territorial control exercised by illegal armed groups, iii) disputes between the different illegal groups for territorial control and over strategic corridors, and iv) threats to social leaders² in general.

In this context of persistent conflict, the humanitarian impact on populations and communities is worrisome and poses multiple challenges for the incoming government. According to the analysis of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), existing armed conflicts in the country increased during the four-year term of the government of Iván Duque and the organization currently identifies six: (i) between the Colombian State and the National Liberation Army -ELN- guerrilla, (ii) between the Colombian State and the Gaitanistas Self-Defense Forces of Colombia -AGC-, (iii) between the Colombian State and the different post-FARC structures, (iv) between the ELN and the AGC, (v) between two post-FARC currents: those not participating in the Final Peace Agreement and the Second Marquetalia, (vi) Between the post-FARC structures not participating in the Peace Agreement and the so-called Border Commandos - EB³.

¹ Ombudsman's Office. February 17, 2022. Early Alert 004, warning document to the 2022 electoral process. Available at: <https://alertasstg.blob.core.windows.net/alertas/004-22.pdf>

² Ibid.

³ CICR. Humanitarian Challenges 2022 Colombia, annual balance. Available at:



During the first semester of 2022, the humanitarian consequences produced by these 6 latent armed conflicts were intensified. Some data that illustrate this situation are: 29,729 people victims of massive displacements, of which 43% affected people in Nariño; 19,210 persons affected by situations of confinement, out of which 57% occurred in Chocó; 377 affected by explosive artifacts, among which 199 correspond to civilian population, being Cauca the region with the greatest impact and 61 cases of forced disappearance, including 15 minors⁴.

Armed strikes and the loss of territorial control by the state

The dynamics of violence in the electoral context were also marked by the atypical situation of two successive armed strikes. The first was carried out by the National Liberation Army - ELN - prior to the congressional elections and the second by the Gaitanistas Self-Defense Forces of Colombia -AGC-, prior to the presidential elections.

The ELN armed strike began on February 23 and lasted 72 hours. According to data provided by the JEP's Special Investigation Unit, 66 municipalities in 17 departments of the country were affected during the first

day of the strike, with actions such as burning of vehicles, destruction of infrastructure, disruption of mobility due to the suspension of activities in 23 transport terminals, confinement of the population and other actions that generated fear and anxiety in the affected territories⁵.

An important conclusion drawn from this offensive by the ELN is the military strengthening and territorial expansion it has undergone in the last four years, although, as noted by the Fundación Ideas para la Paz, this presence and expansion has differentiated characteristics: (i) in the east of the country (Catatumbo, Arauca and Casanare) it is considered a factor of order and structuring actor and determinant of violent trajectories; (ii) in the west (Cauca, Nariño and Chocó) generator of humanitarian consequences due to its military confrontation with other armed actors, (iii) in the center (Southern Bolívar, Bajo Cauca and Northeastern Antioquia) preservation of control and force oriented to the management of illegal rents⁶.

<https://www.icrc.org/es/document/balance-humanitario-colombia-2022-dih>

⁴ CICR. Colombia Humanitarian Situation Update, January-June 2022.

⁵ Infobae. February 23, 2022. ELN armed strike; bombings, blockades and shortages occur in some regions of the country. Available at:

<https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2022/02/23/asva-el-paro-armado-del-eln-atentados-con-explosivos-bloqueos-y-desabastecimiento-se-presentan-en-algunas-regiones>

⁶ Mantilla, J. February 26, 2022. ELN armed strike: a snapshot of the last four years. Available at:

<https://ideaspaz.org/publicaciones/opinion/2022-02/paro-armado-del-eln-una-foto-de-los-ultimos-cuatro-anos>



It is evident that the intention of this armed strike is to demonstrate their military capacity and territorial influence in the face of a new government; but beyond its political and symbolic significance, the truth is that the four-year period leaves some important reflections to be considered about the dynamics of this guerrilla group: i) a greater humanitarian impact derived from actions, which although they are the responsibility of the armed group, the lack of efficient presence of the State in their areas of influence is a determining factor to consider in the validity and strengthening of the ELN; ii) the variables in their territorial actions that lead some analysts to suggest a more federated than centralist structure of the ELN and, iii) the strengthening of their bi-national character, given their presence across the border with Venezuela⁷.

On the other hand, from May 5 to 8, prior to the first presidential round, the AGC promoted an armed strike that affected an estimated 170 municipalities in the country throughout eleven departments⁸. Although it is not the first time that this organization, successor of paramilitarism, resorts to this type of actions as a demonstration of its power, it is the first time that it takes place amid an electoral situation, which according to the JEP Investigation Unit left, 24

people dead⁹, several attempted homicides and numerous economic losses as a consequence of the paralysis of transport and commerce activities. Residents of the departments of Antioquia, Magdalena, Sucre, Córdoba, Chocó, Bolívar, Atlántico and La Guajira were the most affected¹⁰.

As with the ELN strike, the AGC strike allows us to draw several conclusions: i) the strengthening and territorial expansion of the AGC during the four-year term, ii) the failure of high-impact actions against their leaders¹¹ as the predominant strategy of the outgoing government, iii) their capacity for social control through fear and for paralyzing even capital cities, iv) the intention to demonstrate their strength in the face of the new government, vi) the demonstration of having a sophisticated political and military infrastructure, which according to analyst Sergio Guzmán of Colombia Risk Analysis, contrasts

⁷ Ibíd.

⁸ Public Reason. May 15, 2022. The armed strikes of the Gaitanistas Self-Defense Forces. Available at: <https://razonpublica.com/los-paros-armados-las-autodefensas-gaitanistas/>

⁹ AS. May 14, 2022. Armed Strike in Colombia: the Gulf Clan, the organization that holds the country in check. Available at: <https://colombia.as.com/actualidad/paro-armado-colombia-asi-es-el-clan-del-golfo-la-organizacion-criminal-que-tiene-en-jaque-al-pais-n/ian>

¹⁰ France24. May 8, 2022. Armed strike in Colombia: failure of the government's security policy, according to analysts. Available at: <https://www.france24.com/es/am%C3%A9rica-latina/20220508-colombia-paro-armado-clan-del-golfo-otoniel-elecciones-violencia>

¹¹ In his statements within the framework of the strike, Minister Diego Molano stated that to this date, 180 members of the AGC have been captured, neutralized and brought to justice. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-61385661>



with the inability of the government to react quickly and in a timely fashion¹².

Election results as a turning point

In addition to the violence that accompanied the elections during the first half of the year, which is not new in the Colombian context, the intensity and aggressiveness of the campaigns must be added to the electoral situation experienced during the first half of the year. Multiple electoral events took place: the election of senators and representatives to the Congress of the Republic, in addition to the election of representatives to the Transitory and Special Peace Circumscriptions (CITEP) for the first time, the different consultations carried out for the election of presidential candidates and the two presidential rounds.

Together with the above, it is important to highlight as characteristic elements of this electoral process: i) the predominance of the leftist presidential candidate Gustavo Petro in the polls during practically the entire process, ii) the emergence of the social leader Francia Márquez and the engineer Rodolfo Hernández as political phenomena and iii) the consolidation of the Historical Pact as a

political force bringing together leftist political expressions with sectors and figures of traditional politics and social, indigenous and Afro-descendant movements around the candidacy of Gustavo Petro as president and Francia Márquez as vice-president.

The electoral campaign was much longer than formally established in the electoral calendar and lasted, according to the Peace and Reconciliation Foundation (Pares), more than a year, in the framework of which only until May 13 there were 179 acts of political-electoral violence affecting 222 victims¹³. Despite this, the balance of the legislative elections showed the first signs of change in the political panorama.

For the first time a political force other than those of the establishment and with an important presence of the left, won 21 seats in the Senate and 20 seats in the House of Representatives, a resounding result of the Historical Pact list, which also opted for a zipper list to allow alternation between candidates.

This significant triumph contrasts with an important decrease of seats by political parties with a substantial presence in the past legislatures, including the loss of 6 Senate seats by the Democratic Center, 5 by Cambio Radical and 4 by the U party. On the

¹² BBC. May 9, 2022. Armed strike in Colombia: 5 keys to understanding the violent actions with which the Gulf Clan paralyzed part of Colombia. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-61385661>

¹³ Razón Pública. On the eve of the first round, political-electoral violence does not let up. Available at: <https://razonpublica.com/puertas-la-primera-vuelta-la-violencia-politico-electoral-no-da-tregua/>



other hand, the traditional parties, Liberal and Conservative, maintained practically the same number of seats (the Conservative won one more)¹⁴, thus demonstrating that their electoral machines remain well oiled.

One result that unfortunately is not so positive in terms of change was the election of the representatives to the Chamber of Deputies in the framework of the Special Transitory Peace Circumscriptions (CITREP).

Apart from all the difficulties that the process went through, including the lack of timely delivery of official resources to develop the campaigns, the instrumentalization of the traditional parties and the dynamics of violence faced by the communities in these constituencies, the electoral contest caused splits in the social movement in some territories and serious doubts and mistrust about whether some of the elected people genuinely represent the interests of the victims.

The most notorious case, but not the only one, is the election of Jorge Tovar son of the renowned paramilitary Jorge 40, corresponding to the constituency that covers several municipalities in the departments of Magdalena, Cesar and La Guajira. On the other hand, the representative elected for the department of Caquetá has been questioned for alleged links with parapoliticians and the representative

elected for the department of Chocó does not generate confidence in the communities either. In this regard, Elizabeth Moreno Barco, legal representative of the General Community Council of San Juan ACADESAN said: *"a sense of impotence since the election results because we had hoped that whoever would represent us would have the condition and conviction of the feelings of the victims... Of what we have lived through, what we have suffered; but precisely the loss of a sense of belonging and responsibility with democracy, re-victimizes us again. I am still not over it"*.

On the other hand, the elected candidate for the Urabá region, Karen Juliana López Salazar, was allegedly supported by well-known politicians and resorted to practices such as vote buying to obtain her victory¹⁵.

Continuing with the electoral events, undoubtedly the most significant fact of this electoral juncture was the triumph in the second round, and with an important number of votes, of Gustavo Petro as president of the Republic and Francia Márquez as his vice-president (11,281,013 votes).

The victory of the candidates for the Historical Pact implies an unprecedented change in the political scenario of the country and highlighted several issues that are worth emphasizing.

¹⁴ MOE. March 13, 2022. Electoral Results. Available at: <https://www.moe.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/KIT-RESULTADOS- OBS-2022.pptx.pdf>

¹⁵ Verdad Abierta. March 15, 2022. Victims feel they were robbed of their space. Available at: <https://verdadabierta.com/curules-de-paz-victimas-sienten-que-les-robaron-su-espacio/>



zing, given their relationship with the phenomena of violence that affect the work of human rights defenders and social leaders.

Breaking the silencing that causes violence

In the first place, the election results showed that the dynamics of violence experienced in a large part of the country during the period, which have led to the silencing of communities and organizations as a form of protection, did not manage to maintain the status quo. Through the vote, the cry of “enough is enough!” materialized along with the desire for renewal in the exercise of politics and for a change in the country’s course.

The political boundary between the center and the periphery of the country

Secondly, the results showed the existing gaps between the center and the periphery of the country. The resounding triumph of the Historic Pact in the Atlantic Coast, the Pacific, the south and southwest of the country demonstrates this. The current president Petro and his vice-presidential formula achieved an overwhelming vote in Chocó with 81.94% of the votes, in Nariño with 80.91%, in Cauca with 74.02%, in Putumayo with 79.67%, in Valle del Cauca with 63.85%, in Atlántico with 67.06%, in La Guajira with 64.56%, in Sucre 64.06%, in Vaupés 74.03%, among others¹⁶.

¹⁶ CNN. June 19, 2022. Distribution of the vote by department.

A vote for peace

Thirdly, if we superimpose this map on the one of the departments in which the peace plebiscite won at the time, we find that they coincide to a large extent; let’s consider some examples: Chocó, Nariño, Cauca, Putumayo and Valle del Cauca also won the plebiscite with a significant difference in votes, as well as Atlántico and Sucre¹⁷.

Such coincidence is not fortuitous and, therefore, it can be affirmed that the vote for the Historical Pact was also a vote for peace and an endorsement by the communities and organizations in these territories, of their commitment to a complete peace after 4 years in which they saw their expectations of peace fade away, while the spiral of violence intensified.

A defeat to the establishment

Fourthly, the triumph of the Historical Pact dealt an unprecedented defeat to the establishment and to the political leadership that has historically guided the destinies of the country. Colloquially speaking, the same old people lost, which to some extent means an action of punishment for their disconnection with the reality experienced by a large part of the country, especially in those territories abandoned by the State generation after generation.

¹⁷ Semana. Plebiscite Results by Regions. Available at:
<http://especiales.semana.com/mapa-resultados-plebiscito-por-departamentos/>



Although the desire for change achieved this important and unprecedented triumph at the polls, which allows the country to be placed in a new political scenario, the great challenge now is that the announced political change

entails substantial transformations in the realities of the territories and makes it possible for human rights defenders and social leaders to carry out their work with full guarantees.



CHAPTER 2

THE DARK SIDE



In Colombia, the assassinations of human rights defenders and social leaders do not stop. The constant warnings about the excessive increase in aggressions in recent years and the imminence of the intensification of attacks against them have been of little use. These people continue to work in the different territories of the country without guarantees and with the fear that they could be ripped off their lives at any moment.

99 human rights defenders were murdered in the first half of 2022, according to data verified by our Information System. The loss of a single life is by itself very serious for society, but the murder of a hundred people in 6 months is barbaric. It is a symptom of the serious situation that the communities in the different departments of the country are going through, which requires an urgent intervention of the Colombian State to prevent this bloodshed from continuing.

The first half of the year was marked by a complex context, as discussed in the previous chapter, and the different factors present in the territories triggered a considerable increase in the actions of illegal armed groups, which have grown stronger over the last two years. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights warned in its 2021 report of an increase in violence by the different armed actors, a trend that,

according to another report of the same organization, persisted during the first months of 2022¹⁸.

In context, with strengthened and growing armed groups, territorial disputes and armed actions that put the population at risk continue to occur. This is a consequence of the low and non-strategic implementation of the Peace Agreement signed in 2016, with which instead of dismantling criminal groups, as conceived in the Agreement, what was achieved was the atomization of old armed structures and the creation of new groups, which came to dispute and occupy territories formerly controlled by the FARC thanks to the absence of the State. As a result, the subsequent years have been difficult periods, especially for rural communities and human rights defenders in the country, as they have faced an unpredictable and threatening landscape.

This situation has worsened every year due to the absence of measures to curb violence and the omission of the different mechanisms set forth in the Peace Agreement, which explains

¹⁸ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. July 26, 2022. Territorial Violence in Colombia: Recommendations for the New Government. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/es/documents/country-reports/violencia-territorial-en-colombia>



the high level of aggressions against defenders. The first semester of 2022 presents the highest number of murders registered by the Somos Defensores Program, in relation to the same period of previous years. Only compared to the first semester of 2021 there is an increase of 71% in the number of cases and it even exceeded the figure recorded in the first semester of 2020, a time of great increase in aggressions during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, when we verified 95 murders.

Territorial concentration of murders

Thus, it is clear that selective violence against human rights defenders is strongly connected to the dynamics of the context, to conjunctural factors such as elections, government policies and social mobilizations, among others; also, to the actions of legal and illegal armed actors, which can be better appreciated when analyzing the territorial concentration of the killings.

For the first semester of 2022, the departments with the highest number of murders are Cauca (11 cases), Antioquia (10 cases) and Putumayo (10 cases). It is precisely in these three territories where there is significant action by different illegal armed actors and disputes over territory that have left the civilian population in the middle. In fact, during the first semester, the Ombudsman's Office published several Early Warnings that warn about risks in several municipalities of these departments, for Putumayo it is alert 002-22, for Antio-

quia 008-22 and 013-22 and for the case of the three departments (plus others) 004-22.

In Cauca, the presence of several structures of post-agreement groups (Jaime Martínez, Dagoberto Ramos, Segunda Marquetalia) and the ELN has been identified, which have engaged in confrontations to gain control of the territory, especially in municipalities in the north of the department¹⁹, which is precisely where the murders of human rights defenders are most concentrated. The situation in the other two departments is similar.

At the beginning of 2022, several armed actors had been identified in Antioquia, such as the AGC, the Capparrapos, eleven ELN fronts, three post-peace agreement groups and the Clan Isaza²⁰ group. In terms of killings of human rights defenders, these were concentrated in three subregions: Oriente, Norte and Urabá; although it is usual in recent years that the highest concentration of violence appears in areas such as the north of the department, it is striking that this situation is occurring in a subregion

¹⁹ Infobae. August 20, 2022. Indigenous and Afro communities of Cauca, on alert for clashes between illegal armed groups. Available at:

<https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2022/08/20/comunidades-indigenas-y-afro-del-cauca-en-alerta-por-enfrentamientos-entre-grupos-armados-ilegales/>

²⁰ El Colombiano (Newspaper). January 24, 2022. The factors of violence that Antioquia faces in 2022. Available at:

<https://www.elcolombiano.com/antioquia/seguridad/el-clan-del-golfo-y-las-mayores-amenazas-de-antioquia-en-2022-JD16408427>



such as Oriente Antioqueño, where half of the murders occurred in this territory took place, most perpetrated by unknown actors, which could refer to a particular interest of armed actors on this area, without being identified with a specific structure.

A similar situation occurs in Putumayo. Although in the last two years selective violence against defenders has increased in this department, it is unusual for it to appear in the top three places with such a high number as the one registered during this first semester. Violence here has been concentrated in two municipalities of Lower and Middle Putumayo, particularly in Puerto Leguizamó and Puerto Guzmán, which are precisely the territories where, according to our figures, the highest number of murders per municipality in the whole country has occurred, with 4 cases in each. In this department there is a strong presence of post-peace agreement groups, Carolina Ramírez First Front and the Bolivarian Commandos of the Border, structures that are in a fierce dispute for social and territorial control, essentially to control cocaine production and drug trafficking routes²¹, violence that has been exacerbated by the alliances of the first group with the Jorge Briceño Block and the Miller Perdomo Company, and of the second with the Second Marquetalia²².

²¹ Insight Crime. April 28, 2022. Peace fizzles and cocaine war escalates in Putumayo, Colombia. Available at: <https://es.insightcrime.org/noticias/paz-esfuma-guerra-cocaina-intensifica-putumayo-colombia/>

²² El Espectador (Newspaper). April 1, 2022. The conflict that overflowed in Putumayo. Available at:

These are the most critical territories, however, in the rest of the departments the situation is also worrying. In Arauca, 9 murders of human rights defenders and social leaders were confirmed, a high number that exceeds in one semester those registered in the same territory during the last two years (2021, 4 murders and 2020, 3 murders). In Arauca, social organizations are at high risk due to direct threats from armed actors who have declared them as military targets, in midst of confrontations between the ELN and the 10th and 28th fronts of the post-peace agreement groups²³. The situation in the department is critical for the civilian population, as it is estimated that since the events at the beginning of the year and during the whole semester, more than 300 people have suffered violent deaths²⁴.

It is also important to review two territories that during the semester broke the trend in relation to the number of murders compared to previous periods: Bolívar and Caquetá. In each, a figure of 6 murders was recorded,

<https://www.elespectador.com/colombia/mas-regiones/el-conflicto-que-se-des-bordo-en-putumayo/>

²³ Pares. September 3, 2022. In Arauca and Norte de Santander, firearms were not silenced. Available at:

<https://www.pares.com.co/post/en-arauca-y-norte-de-santander-no-se-silenciaron-los-fusiles>

²⁴ El Espectador. September 1, 2022. Transiting and inhabiting the border: violence in Norte de Santander and Arauca. Available at:

<https://www.elespectador.com/colombia/mas-regiones/transitar-y-habitar-la-frontera-la-violencia-en-norte-de-santander-y-arauca/>



a high number for a semester if one considers that during the whole year of 2021, 4 cases were confirmed in each of them. The increase in this violence would indicate that, as in previous cases, disputes over territorial control by armed groups directly affect the civilian population and particularly social leaders.

In Bolívar, most murders (5 cases) occurred in municipalities located in Magdalena Medio, a region that has been warned in 2022 of an escalation of violence due to the presence of different illegal armed groups such as the ELN, the AGC and post-peace agreement groups²⁵. In Caquetá, the presence of post-agreement groups such as the Carolina Ramírez First Front, the Jorge Briceño Block, the Miller Perdomo Company, the Second Marquetalia, the dissidents of Iván Mordisco and, more recently, it is known that there is an interest of the Border Commandos, with a strong presence in Putumayo, to expand into Caquetá²⁶, particularly towards the border municipalities between both departments on the Caquetá River, an area of interest as a drug trafficking route.

²⁵ El Colombiano (Newspaper). July 4, 2022. Micro-trafficking and homicides, the crisis in Magdalena Medio. Available at: <https://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/magdalena-medio-vive-crisis-por-homicidios-y-microtrafico-HL17946735>

²⁶ La Silla Vacía. 25 de agosto de 2022. Caquetá: un llamado urgente para el gobierno más allá de la agenda ambiental. Disponible en: <https://www.lasillavacia.com/historias/historias-silla-llena/caqueta-un-llamado-urgente-para-el-gobierno-mas-alla-de-la-agenda-ambiental/>

Other Patterns

In addition to the territorial factor, there are other issues surrounding the murders of human rights defenders that are relevant to identify patterns that determine them as systematic and selective violence. One is the way in which these crimes are committed, related to the contextual situation, and repeated year after year, with the aim of causing harm and affecting the social and community fabric.

During the first semester of 2022, most of the murders, 88%, were committed with firearms, being the most usual way to end the lives of these people. In the way in which the murders were committed during the period of time analyzed, three types of events were observed: i) a group of armed men (sometimes identified, but mostly unidentified) arrive at the homes of the defenders and kill them on the spot; sometimes they take them out by force and commit the crime in another space; ii) the second and most usual is hired assassination; the defenders are intercepted by one or two people on motorcycles and killed at the scene; iii) and the third is characterized by the fact that the bodies are found hours after the fact in their places of residence or work, making it more difficult to know the details of the homicide and who may have been responsible.

Most of the murders are committed in the homes of the defenders or in their surroundings, in their workplaces or usual transit areas. This shows that the acts are not random, they are premeditated and there is prior monitoring to determine how and when



the crime will be committed. This way of committing the murders often leads to other people in the vicinity being affected (injuries or murders); this situation occurred in 23 cases during the first six months of the year.

As is usually the case, in 69 of the 99 cases it is not known who was responsible for the act. In the remaining cases, armed groups such as post-peace agreement groups, paramilitaries, the ELN, criminal alliances and the security forces were identified.

Another fact is that 9 leaders were assassinated amid massacres, most of the cases were recorded in the department of Putumayo and Tolima. In fact, so far in 2022, according to the Institute of Studies for Development and Peace (INDEPAZ), 80 massacres have been registered²⁷. Six out of the nine people who died during these events held positions within the Community Action Boards of their villages.

Of the 99 cases confirmed during the first semester, 9 murders were preceded by forced disappearances. People were forcibly removed from their homes or disappeared in the middle of their daily activities and then their lifeless bodies were found.

Additionally, several people were victims of torture during the crime, 4 in total. The particularity is that all cases occurred against women, sexual and gender diversities; three were women, one of them a trans woman, and the fourth case was against a male activist of the LGBTIQ+ community. In addition, the murders of 3 of these people were gender-based, i.e., motivated by sexual identity (2 were femicides). This highlights the additional risks faced by women and diverse gender and sexual identities, who suffer more severely from violence among a machista culture that tries to eliminate difference.

It was also identified that some of the murdered defenders receive threats months before the crime, even repeatedly. For this semester, 10 cases with this particularity were recorded; however, this may be an underreporting, because fear may lead some people not to report or want to make public the fact when they receive a threat. However, it also happens that people bring this situation to the attention of the authorities, but little is done to generate effective protection measures.

Community leaders are the most affected by murders, 30 were against directors of Community Action Boards (JAC). This represents an increase of 200% compared to the same period last year, with 20 more cases.

This trend is repeated as in previous years, since the figures show community leaders as the main victims due to several factors: i) the territories in which they work are mainly rural, ii) the role of the JACs in their

²⁷ National Radio of Colombia. September 20, 2022. Massacres so far in 2022 have left 254 people dead: Indepaz. Available at: <https://www.radionacional.co/actualidad/masacres-en-colombia-2022-254-personas-muertas-reporte-de-indepaz>



territories is decisive in social, political and organizational life, and iii) in many places they are the main and only organization responsible for managing and solving the needs of the communities.

Hence, the respect and recognition of the inhabitants towards community leaders, especially in areas with the presence of armed groups and territorial disputes where they become targets of their actions. To this situation was added the electoral context during the first semester of 2022, which raised tensions and increased the risks for these people because they are the link with the communities. The department in which the highest number of murders of this type of leadership was documented was Arauca (5 cases), followed by Caquetá and Putumayo (4 cases in each); in all three territories there are currently strong disputes between illegal armed groups for territorial control.

In terms of the ethnicity of the murdered leaders, 20 indigenous and 3 Afro-descendants were recorded. Indigenous leadership continues to be one of the most targeted, but contrary to previous periods when the murders occurred mainly in the department of Cauca, during the first semester the murders of indigenous leaders were concentrated in Nariño (6 cases), half of them of the Awá people in the municipality of Tumaco, where they are also threatened by different armed actors who have interests in their ancestral territory²⁸.

²⁸ El País (Newspaper). September 1, 2022. More than 7,000 Awá indigenous people

In almost all sectors and ethnic groups affected by violence against their leaders, the number of these murders increased compared to the same period in 2021. In the same time frame, there were also 27 attacks, murder attempts in which fortunately the defender got out alive, but if they had not been so lucky, the number of homicides would have been much higher.

Six years after the signing of the Peace Agreement, with the different tools agreed to provide guarantees in the exercise of the right to defend human rights, the situation should be less violent in the different territories, but the turnaround has not been positive and while people continue to work for their processes and communities, at the same time armed groups and actors adverse to social processes strengthen and threaten the lives of human rights defenders and social leaders.

The first semester of 2022 is the period with the highest record of this type of violence in the many years that the Somos Defensores Program has been monitoring and recording aggressions against human rights defenders and social leaders.

With the arrival of the new National Government of the Historical Pact led by Gustavo Petro and Francia

are at risk due to disputes between FARC dissidents. Available at:
<https://www.elpais.com.co/judicial/mas-de-7-000-indigenas-awa-estan-en-riesgo-por-disputas-entre-las-disidencias-de-las-farc.html>



Márquez, whose central focus is to achieve peace with greater and comprehensive dimensions, with a human rights and human security approach in all public policies, there is still hope to

reverse this painful reality that affects thousands of families, destroys social fabric and organizational processes and negatively impacts Colombian democracy.



CHAPTER 3

PARADOXES



Since the emergence of the biannual and annual reports of the Somos Defensores Program, we have highlighted the support and accompaniment of the international community to Colombia in the search to overcome the humanitarian crises, the improvement in the human rights situation, the protection of social leaders and defenders, and the search for peace. There are many significant facts in so many years of international cooperation. Considering that this report coincides with the closing government of Iván Duque, we would like to dedicate this section to some considerations in this regard.

During the government of Juan Manuel Santos, international cooperation set very high standards with strong support to the Peace Process, both in terms of political support, technical and methodological contributions, and programmatic and financial accompaniment. All of this also with the post-agreement period in mind, which undoubtedly sought to generate more tranquility for rural communities located in conflict zones and the guarantee of security for peace signatories. Collaboration is also reflected in terms of protection in the face of the crisis of violence against human rights defenders and social leaders²⁹.

²⁹ Somos Defensores, 2020. Blindness. Annual Report 2019. P. 65. Available at:

Since the early stages of the electoral campaign of the then presidential candidate Iván Duque from the Democratic Center party, it was announced that they would not support the Peace Accord and that, on the contrary, it had to be revised. Once in power, the first actions of the government confirmed this³⁰. In view of this, the HRD platforms raised different alerts to the international community regarding the immediate outlook. The response of the embassies and multilateral organizations was that they would give the incoming government a waiting period to understand its policies in the fields of interest.

President Duque's speech and inauguration ceremony confirmed the shadows that were being drafted in the context and henceforth, the "Peace with legality" policy made clear the panorama of an artful attack against the Peace Agreement, specifically against the Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition and, particularly, against the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. Likewise, all policies related to human security guarantees for peace signatories, social leaders and

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jYXd8G-jrDjOERyTOJG5gDA4A55UEqYVN/view>

³⁰ Somos Defensores, 2021. The Evil Hour. Annual Report 2020. P. 63. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ze-GofhR6k0c23oUCVN-ZIWRMPH03JV/view>



the most vulnerable communities were disregarded³¹.

The four-year government of the Democratic Center party presented an exponential increase in violence, as reflected in the different figures related to massacres, forced displacements, confinements, forced disappearances, the murder of peace signatories and, above all, of human rights defenders and social leaders. All this, in the frame of a context marked by the resurgence of the armed conflict and the drug trafficking economy, situations also related to the lack of implementation of the Peace Agreement, the increase in government and State corruption in general, a phenomenon in which the public forces were also protagonists.

During the Duque administration, the international community continued to play their different roles; however, the demands and pressures were not up to the moment on many occasions, and the responses were not in tune with the gravity of the facts and the recommendations that the international human rights organizations themselves insistently made.

Increase in conflict noted by the ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is the international organization recognized and legitimized by most countries in the world for the treatment of humanitarian crises caused by international armed conflicts, but also internal conflicts, as well as the monitoring and support for the application of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their additional protocols.

The ICRC also conducts qualitative and quantitative analyses of contexts of violence, which allows governments and society in general to follow up on the issue. Since 2018 it has been publishing reports related to the increase in non-state armed groups and the different confrontations between various groups. On that path, by that date it considered that there were five non-international armed conflicts (CANIs) in the country, of which the government was facing four: with the ELN, with the EPL, with the Gaitanistas Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AGC) and with the former structures of the Eastern Block of the FARC-EP, and warned of a fifth conflict between the ELN and the EPL³².

Recently, the ICRC published another analysis where it warns of the existence of six armed conflicts in the coun-

³¹ Somos Defensores, 2019. Defenders: Endgame? Semiannual report January - June 2019. Available at: <https://somosdefensores.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/informe-Somos-defensores-ENERO-JUNIO-2019-oct-8-web-final.pdf.pdf>

³² ICRC. December 2018. Five conflicts in Colombia. What's going on? Available at: [Cinco conflictos armados en Colombia ¿qué está pasando? | Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja \(icrc.org\)](#)



try, where the State confronts the ELN, the AGC, the former FARC not recognized in the Peace Agreement; the ELN confronts the AGC; the former FARC not recognized in the Peace Agreement confronts the Second Marquetalia; and the former FARC recognized in the Peace Agreement confronts the Border Commandos³³. As a result of this reconfiguration of armed conflict, the ICRC warns of serious humanitarian crises and increased violence. However, these analyses and documentation of the critical situation in the country did not generate any kind of reaction from the national government, ignoring the internationally authorized voice of the ICRC, which precisely seeks to draw the attention of states to the crises and the need for adequate responses.

Rejection of international recommendations

One of the first signs of the resistance of President Duque and his government to international observation on HRDs, was the angered reaction against the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Michel Forst, who visited Colombia between November 20 and December 3, 2018³⁴.

Simultaneously, he also ignored and criticized the annual report of the Colombian Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights³⁵. But this dismissiveness towards international observations was present during the four years of government, and the same attitude was also reflected in the IACHR report resulting from its working visit between June 8 and 10, 2021, in the framework of the National Strike³⁶. In other words, it was a government that permanently showed its hostility to all recommendations and requests from international bodies, as was extensively analyzed in the *Resiste*³⁷ report, particularly in relation to the criminalization of social protest.

Paradoxically, in response to the requests and calls for attention from the international community, the then President Duque responded with two reforms: on the one hand, he asked the Congress of the Republic to modify the existing law on citizen security³⁸. With it, he further strengthened the repressive power of the police institution, by increasing the penalties against citizens who during social

³³ ICRC. March 2022. Humanitarian Challenges 2022, Colombia. Available at: file:///C:/Users/pc/Downloads/retos_humanitarios_cicr_colombia_2022.pdf

³⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. December 2019. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. Visit to Colombia. A/HRC/43/51/Add.1

³⁵ Somos Defensores, 2020. Ídem. P. 76.

³⁶ Somos Defensores, 2021. *Resiste*. Semiannual report January - June 2021. P. 81. Available at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EX8dsa-QoWO8xOv3OoAgixlYegNOigrh5/view>

³⁷ Somos Defensores, 2021. *Resiste*. Semiannual report January - June 2021. P. 81. Available at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EX8dsa-QoWO8xOv3OoAgixlYegNOigrh5/view>

³⁸ Law 2197 (January 25), 2022. "Whereby norms tending to the strengthening of citizen security and other provisions are issued".



protests commit acts such as obstruction of public roads (roadblocks) and transportation, damage to property belonging to others, aggression to police officers and other associates³⁹. The new law gives a free hand to such questioned figures as the preventive detention of persons and the transfer for protection of citizens; but it also creates new crimes, increases penalties for citizens, continues with the use of lethal force to control citizen mobilizations and legitimizes the use of lethal weapons by civilians, among other measures contrary to international standards related to the right to social protest⁴⁰.

In the words of Diana Sanchez, director of Asociación Minga: “Contrary to the recommendations made by the IACHR, the new law increases the stigmatization and criminalization against social protest, legalizes the principle of proportionality for the use of lethal and non-lethal force by the National Police against the civilian population, makes the monopoly of force by the Colombian State more flexible when it allows third parties and official agents themselves to use weapons under the understanding of ‘privileged legitimate defense and broad proportionality.’ legislates in favor of reactive policies and not pre-

ventive of citizen conflicts, and formalizes justice in private hands, among many other regressive measures in human rights and liberties”⁴¹.

On the other hand, it approved Law 2179 of December 31, 2021, which according to the same government, reformed the National Police to overcome weaknesses. However, it was a “cosmetic” reform that created the career of police patrolman and regulated the position, nothing more. This norm has nothing to do with the urgent changes and transformations required by the police institution, as advised by international human rights organizations.

In addition to the permanent rejection of the reports of international human rights organizations, the central government frequently argued that international recommendations are not binding, therefore, there was no obligation to accept them. Thus, former President Iván Duque ignored that the recommendations are made to remind the Colombian State of its obligations acquired through international treaties that are binding.

Responses from the international community

It is evident that the government of Iván Duque did not comply with sensitive issues for the international com-

³⁹ Hernández, Juan S. June 2022. The new Citizen Security Law creates more insecurity. Public Reason. Available at:

<https://razonpublica.com/la-nueva-ley-seguridad-ciudadana-nos-mas-inseguros/>

⁴⁰ Defending Freedom. February 2022. Demand of the Citizen Security Law. Available at:

<https://defenderlalibertad.com/demanda-de-ley-de-seguridad-ciudadana/>

⁴¹ Sánchez, Diana. February 2022. Colombia and the supremacy of military power. Sur Magazine. Available at:

<https://www.sur.org.co/colombia-y-la-supremacia-del-poder-militar/>



munity such as the Peace Agreement and the search for a complete peace; on the contrary, violence and humanitarian crises increased. Human rights violations by the security forces multiplied. But other problems such as deforestation also advanced, according to the Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development, the Colombian Amazon lost 113,572 hectares from April 2021 to March 2022, and in the entire national territory in 2021 174,103 hectares of forest were cut down, 1.5% more than the previous year⁴². To these figures must be added the attack against environmental leaderships in the country. According to the English organization Global Witness, in 2020 65 land defenders were victims of homicide and during 2019 64 cases were registered, this means that 30% of the environmentalists who lose their lives in a violent way around the planet⁴³, are murdered in Colombia.

Ironically, former president Iván Duque was successful in the eyes of the international community and other world actors. He was recognized with awards and accolades and few demands, despite having ignored the recommendations of human rights organizations and various calls for at-

tention. This is the case of the *Planetary Leadership Award 2022*, granted by National Geographic⁴⁴, as well as the *Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Public Service* in the United States⁴⁵. Duque also received the *World Peace and Freedom Award*, granted by the World Association of Jurists⁴⁶. Added to this list is the *International Conservation Award* presented by the ICCF Teddy Roosevelt Institute in New York⁴⁷.

However, the international accolades were not limited to these awards. At the political level, especially in human rights and peace, they were also important. The joint communication between the Colombian government and the European Union, in the framework of the XIII Human Rights

⁴² Environment and Society. July 2022. Deforestation increases in indigenous reserves and Natural Parks:

<https://www.ambienteysociedad.org.co/aumenta-la-deforestacion-en-resguardos-indigenas-y-parques-naturales/>

⁴³ Global Witness. 2021. The last line of defense. Industries causing the climate crisis and attacks on land and environmental defenders. Available at:

<https://www.globalwitness.org/es/last-line-defence-es/>

⁴⁴ La República. June 27, 2022. President Iván Duque received NatGeo's 2022 Planetary Leadership Award. Available at: <https://www.larepublica.co/economia/el-presidente-ivan-duque-recibio-el-premio-al-liderazgo-planetario-2022-de-natgeo-3392319>

⁴⁵ La República. June 15, 2022. President Iván Duque received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Public Service. Available at:

<https://www.larepublica.co/economia/el-presidente-ivan-duque-recibio-el-premio-woodrow-wilson-al-servicio-publico-global-3385189>

⁴⁶ El Colombiano. December 3, 2021. Duque received the World Peace and Freedom Prize for Colombia. Available at:

<https://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/colombia-recibio-premio-mundial-de-la-paz-y-la-libertad-de-felipe-vi-de-espana-GH16110363>

⁴⁷ El Tiempo. September 21, 2021. Duque receives international award for his environmental policies. Available at:

<https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/presidente-duque-recibe-premio-de-medio-ambiente-619790>



Dialogue, held on February 9, 2022, in Bogota, reads: *“he reiterated his full commitment and support for the full implementation of the Peace Agreement with the FARC. The dialogue highlighted the importance of protecting social leaders, environmentalists, human rights defenders, indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, as well as people in the process of reincorporation, and took note of the challenges and the legal and policy instruments in force in Colombia for the protection of life and recognized the progress made in terms of peace”*⁴⁸.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government, despite the countless complaints about the criminalization of social protest by the government of Iván Duque, widely analyzed in the pages of the *Resiste*⁴⁹ report, approved a support of 8 million dollars for the National Police earlier this year⁵⁰. In addition, the United States has also been supporting the police institution in human rights training; such cour-

ses were contracted with the Sergio Arboleda University, which has shown an approach contrary to human rights and has also been strongly questioned for its unsanctuous management and corruption practices⁵¹.

He received a similar recognition from the European Parliament and, particularly, from its president, during his visit in February of this year on the verge of leaving office, with all the very clear results in terms of peace⁵².

On the other hand, it is worth noting that as a result of the political advocacy of Iván Duque's government, the European Union did not continue funding Colombia 2020, despite its evident journalistic contribution on issues of peace, human rights and life in the country's territories. In 2016, El Espectador's Colombia 2020 news portal was launched, with the objective of monitoring, informing, analyzing, giving voice to the territories and all the country's protagonists, related to

⁴⁸ European Union Delegation. February 11, 2022. Joint Communication between Colombia and the European Union - XIII Human Rights Dialogue. Available at: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/colombia/comunicado-conjunto-de-colombia-y-la-uni%C3%B3n-europea-%E2%80%93-xiii-di%C3%A1logo-de-derechos_en?s=160

⁴⁹ Somos Defensores Program. *Resiste*. Semiannual Report January-June 2021. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EX8dsa-QoW08xOv3OoAgixIYegNOigrh5/view>

⁵⁰ El Espectador. February 8, 2022. U.S. announces \$8 million donation to Colombian Police. Available at: <https://www.elespectador.com/mundo/america/estados-unidos-donara-8-millon-de-dolares-a-la-policia-de-colombia/>

⁵¹ Infobae. February 1, 2022. Sergio Arboleda University scandal implicates state officials. Available at: <https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2022/02/01/escandalo-en-la-universidad-sergio-arboleda-vincula-a-funcionarios-del-estado/>.

El tiempo. January 12, 2021. Ministry of Education will visit Sergio Arboleda University due to alleged irregularities. Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/vida/educacion/u-sergio-arboleda-visitada-por-mi-neducacion-por-presuntas-irregularidades-644475>

⁵² DW. February 15, 2022. Colombia, Iván Duque and the EU: Just honey on top of flakes? Available at: <https://www.dw.com/es/colombia-iv%C3%A1n-duque-y-la-ue-solo-miel-sobre-hojuelas/a-60790693>



the search for peace, particularly the Peace Agreement signed between the government of Juan Manuel Santos and the former FARC guerrilla. This informative birth took place thanks to the financial and political support of the European Union, and it is undoubtedly a project that has reached media-forsaken territories, which for this reason are unaware of their problems and their life plans and search for alternatives in the absence of the State.

As a result, Colombia 2020 had to reduce its staff and thus its scope. Fortunately, other donors such as the embassies of the Netherlands, Germany and UNDP have given their support,

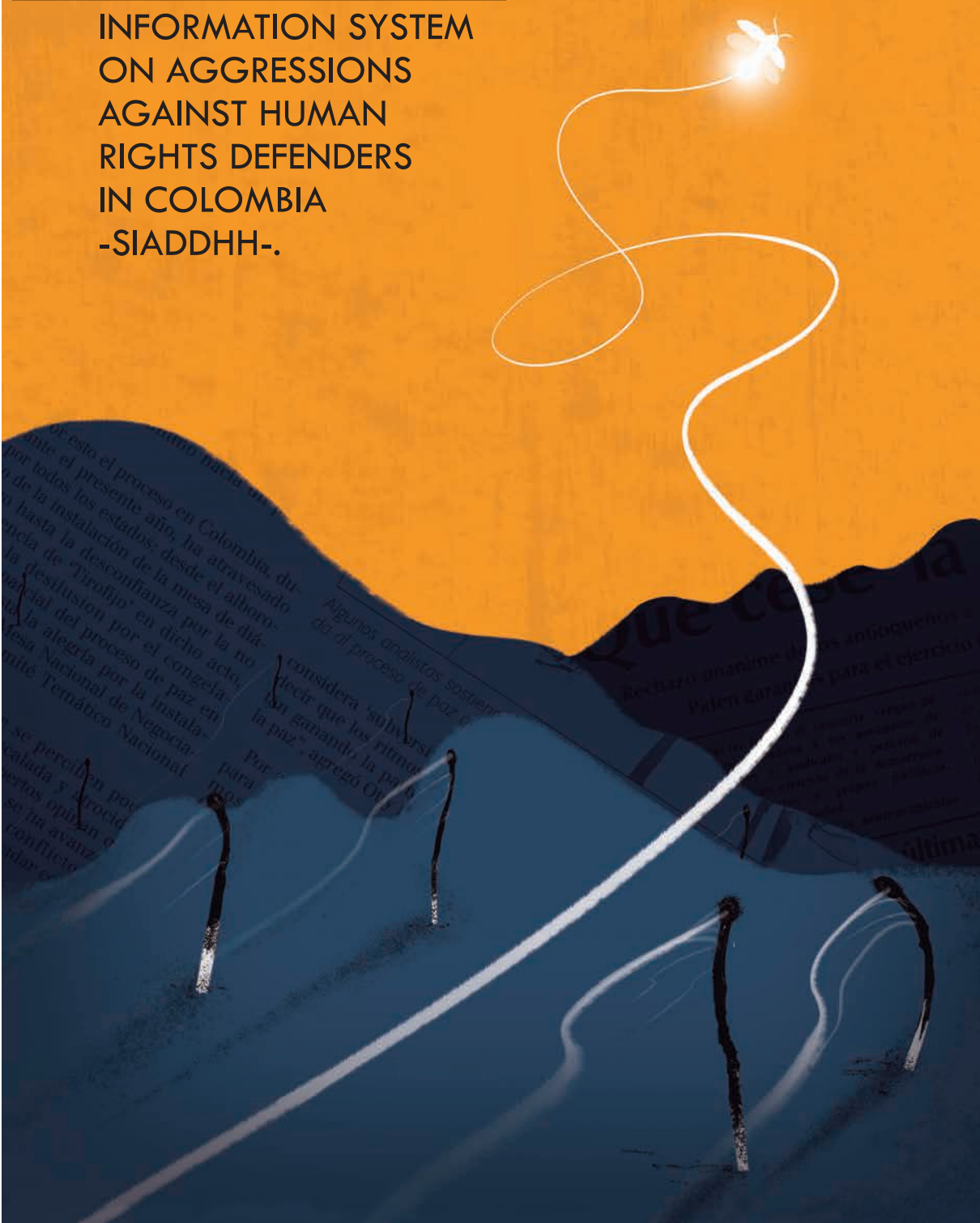
allowing the project to continue, currently under the name Colombia+20.

Finally, foreign policy relations and diplomacy are the ideal channels for international cooperation and harmony; however, international conventions and other instruments, as well as international organizations, were created precisely so that states comply with the commitments they assume. Disregarding them and treating them with contempt by any government is a cause for concern. Therefore, the human rights movement is disconcerted by the condescension and recognition given by important international actors to the government of Iván Duque.



CHAPTER 4

INFORMATION SYSTEM ON AGGRESSIONS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN COLOMBIA -SIADDHH-.



The first semester of 2022 was marked by the electoral situation. The elections for the Congress of the Republic were held, with the novelty of the 16 seats of the Special Transitory Peace Circumscriptions, the internal consultations of the parties to define the presidential candidates and the two rounds for the election of the new president. All this placed the country in a dynamic of polarization between the candidates who represented continuity and those who bet on change. In this context, violence against human rights defenders did not stop and, on the contrary, it increased, as shown in this chapter, which describes the different aggressions and affectations⁵³.

The Information System on Aggressions against Human Rights Defenders in Colombia - SIADDHH - of the Somos Defensores Program⁵⁴, re-

gistered a total of **439** aggressions against **419** people from January to June 2022, which is since some people were victims of more than one type of aggression in the same event.

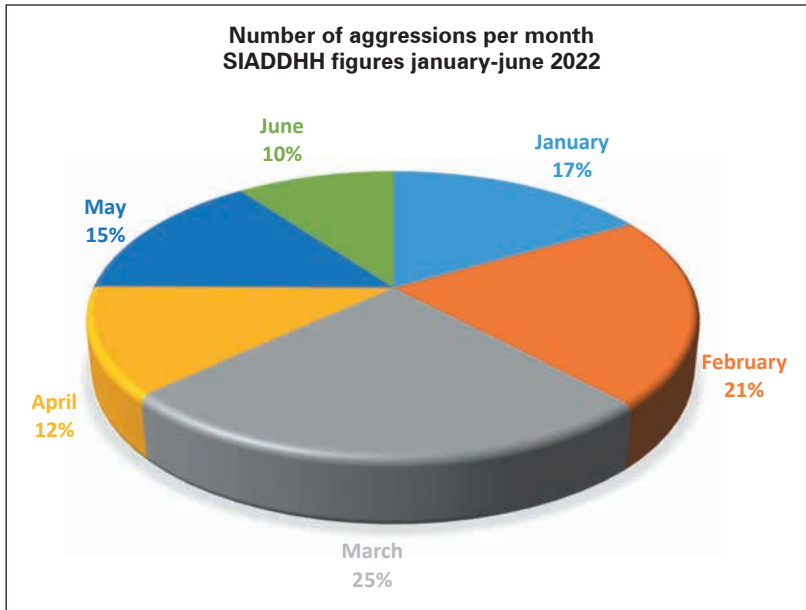
Compared to the same period of the previous year, there was a 16% decrease in the total number of aggressions (85 cases). However, it is very important to consider that the comparison is made against the first half of 2021, which was marked by the dynamics of mobilizations in the framework of the National Strike that lasted for several weeks and was defined by the excessive use of public force, which considerably increased the number of aggressions committed in this period against defenders and social leaders, because of the massive violence unleashed in the heat of the protests.

The month with the highest number of aggressions was March with 110, followed by February with 94, January with 73, May with 65, April with 53 and June with 44. In other words, the run-up to the congressional elections and the presidential consultations, the month of February and up to March 13, when both were held, as well as the two weeks following them, were the most violent for human rights defenders and social leaders.

⁵³ It is important to note that the analysis period was carried out based on the update of the methodological and conceptual framework of the Somos Defensores Program Information System. In it, the types of aggression are expanded and a variation in the alleged perpetrators is recorded. To see the changes in the categories, see the annex at the end of this chapter.

⁵⁴ This system registers information known by the Somos Defensores Program and by direct source with social organizations and non-governmental organizations that report cases to the Program. SIADDHH publishes only the cases it has directly confirmed.

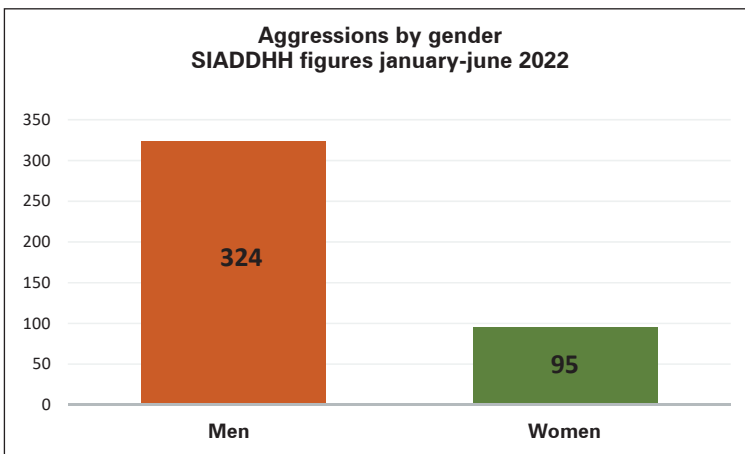




Aggressions by gender

The register of aggressions for the period January-June 2022 indicates that of the 419 social leaders affected by the different types of aggression, 95 (22%) correspond to women and 324 (78%) to men. Compared to the first semester of 2021, there is a decrease

of 34% (48 victims) in aggressions against women, who the previous year were victims in the framework of repressive actions against social protest. With respect to men as victims, the figure decreased by 5% (17 fewer victims).





Aggressions according to type of violence

In the semester January - June 2022, the following types of aggression were recorded: murders, threats, attacks, arbitrary detentions, judicializations, forced disappearances and forced displacements. The record marks an ostensible growth of murders with 71%, 41 cases more than in 2021, surpassing even the 95 murders of the first semester of 2020.

Threats (286 cases) showed a reduction of 23%, with 88 fewer incidents than the total number of incidents in the same period of 2021. In relation to other aggressions, attacks (27 events) presented a decrease of 41%, with 19 fewer events, which contrasts with the significant increase in murders. Arbitrary detentions (2 facts) also

show a reduction corresponding to 94% with 29 facts less and judicializations (3 facts) with a decrease of 25% with one fact less than the first half of 2021; this is largely because these last two aggressions were widely used during the National Strike to persecute human rights defenders, promoters, and participants of social protest.

On the other hand, forced disappearances (8 events) presented an increase of 14% with one more event and forced displacement, as a new type of aggression considered by our Information System, registered 14 events that occurred because of other previous aggressions, mainly due to threats, which forced human rights defenders to leave their territory in order to preserve their lives and those of their families.

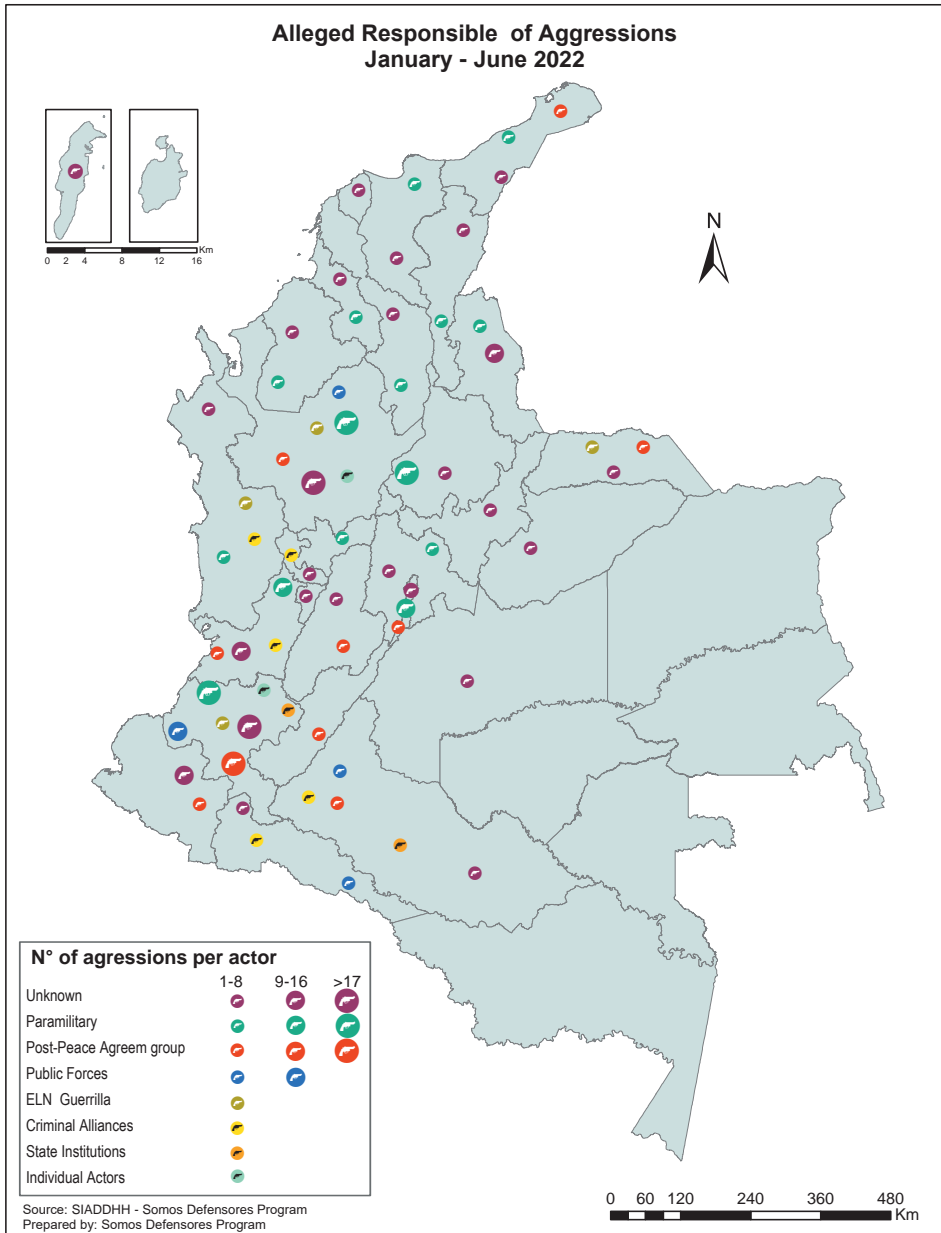
Types of individual aggressions	Aggressions January - June 2021	Aggressions January - June 2022
Threats	366	286
Murders	58	99
Attacks	46	27
Arbitrary detentions	31	2
Judicializations	4	3
Forced disappearances	7	8
Information thefts	10	0
Sexual violence	2	0
Forced displacements	No reference	14
Total aggressions	524	439



Alleged perpetrators

The categories considered for this period in relation to the alleged perpetrators are: **paramilitary members**,

criminal alliances, post-peace agreement groups, unknown persons, public forces, State institutions, individual perpetrators and ELN.





Thus, out of 439 aggressions registered during the first semester of 2022, 39% were committed by paramilitary groups, 38% by unknown perpetrators, 13% by post-peace agreement groups, 5% by the security forces, 3% by the ELN, 1% by criminal alliances, 0.6% by State institutions and 0.4% by individual perpetrators. The above shows that paramilitary groups are the main perpetrators with 172 incidents, followed by unknown perpetrators with 164 incidents, and the security forces came in 4th place as aggressors, a significant difference with the same period of the previous year, which, as mentioned above, was marked by the excessive use of force and multiple violations committed by the security forces in response to the protests.

In the aggressions where paramilitaries are allegedly responsible, 157 threats, 9 murders and 6 displacements were identified, with an increase in actions of 76% with respect to 2021 (74 more events). The departments with the highest number of aggressions were Cauca (60 events), Santander (34 events), Valle del Cauca (12 events) and the Capital District (10 events). The structures identified as responsible in these regions are the Gaitanistas Self-Defense Forces of Colombia -AGC- and the Black Eagles (Capital Block, Capital D.C. Block, South and North Cauca Blocks), the aggressions registered in this case cover at least 15 departments of the country. This shows how high-impact actions, among others against AGC leaders, have not had a direct impact on the reduction of their violent actions.

Regarding unknown perpetrators, a decrease of 3% was found with respect to the first half of 2021 and, unlike previous years, this time the most recurrent aggression was murder with 69 facts, representing an increase of 103% in relation to 2021 (35 more facts), followed by threats with 65 facts, attacks with 21 facts, forced disappearances with 6 facts and forced displacement with 3.

It was also identified for this report that the alleged perpetrators that were previously referred to in this report as dissidents and which today take the name of post-peace agreement groups, had an increase in their responsibility of 2 %, going from 58 events in 2021 to 59 in the same period of 2022. The department of Cauca continues to be the most affected by the actions of these groups, especially against indigenous leaders. The structures identified as responsible correspond to the Jaime Martínez Mobile Column, the Dagoberto Ramos Mobile Column, Carlos Patiño, the Jorge Briceño Suarez group Front 62 and the Diomer Cortés Front of the Second Marquetalia.

Regarding the alleged responsibility of the Public Force, there was a decrease of 89% with 164 fewer incidents. This compared to the same period of the previous year when, as explained above, the highest number of aggressions in 2021 attributed to the security forces occurred within the framework of the National Strike. However, their alleged responsibility in 5 murders, 13 threats and 2 arbitrary detentions is of concern.





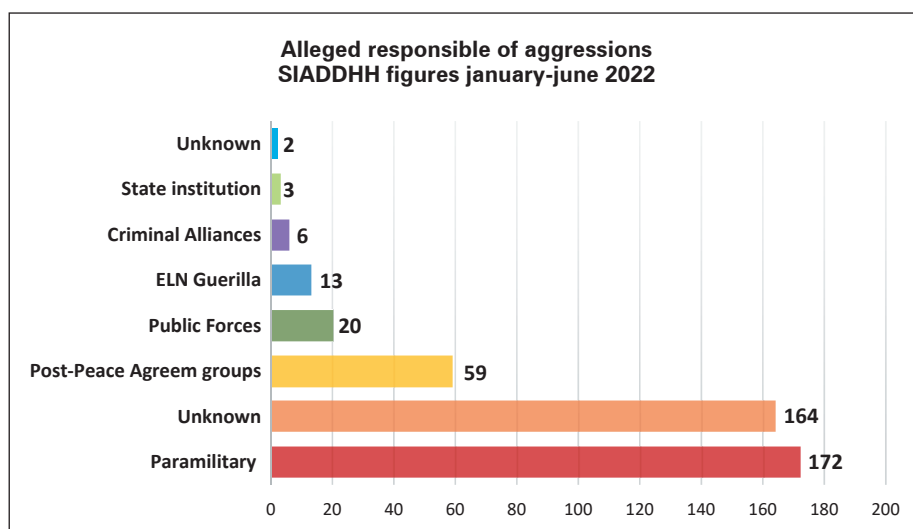
The ELN presented an increase in aggressions of 18%, from 11 events in 2021 to 13 in 2022, with actions on behalf of both the ELN in general and the Manuel Vásquez Castaño Eastern War Front in particular.

Criminal alliances are responsible for 2 murders, 2 threats and 2 attacks committed by the Mexican Revolutionary Armed Forces -FARM-, the Border Commandos, the Cordillera and the Committee for Justice for Cali and Valle del Cauca. These actions took

place in departments such as Chocó, Caquetá, Putumayo, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca.

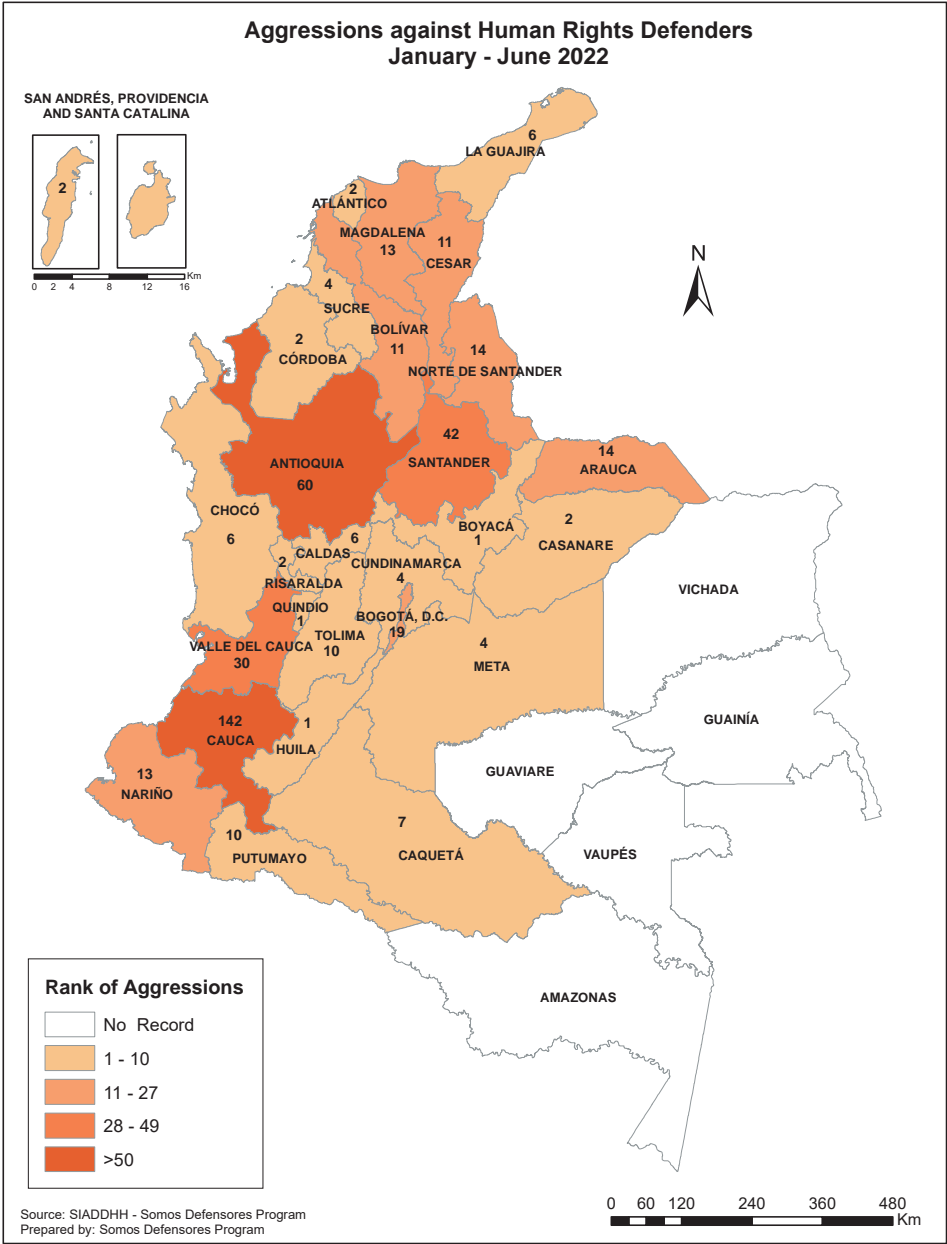
State institutions, through the Attorney General's Office, were responsible for 3 prosecutions, a 25% decrease compared to the previous year, when 4 cases were registered.

Finally, individual perpetrators, who in previous reports were referred to as "others", are responsible for 2 threats.





Aggressions by department



The aggressions occurred in 27 departments and in the Capital District, which means that in 85% of the national territory human rights defenders were attacked.

Cauca continues to be the department with the highest number of aggressions (142 incidents), followed by Antioquia (59 incidents), Santander (42 incidents), Valle del Cauca (30 incidents), the Capital District (19 incidents), Norte de Santander (14 incidents), Arauca (14 incidents), Magdalena (13 incidents) and Nariño (13 incidents).

The department of Cauca remains as the region with the highest number of aggressions and presents an increase of 7% with 9 more incidents compared to the same period in 2021. On the other hand, Antioquia, contrary to what happened in 2021, which presented a decrease in aggressions, ranks second with an increase of 51% (20 more incidents). Santander, which was in 7th place the previous year, this time shows an increase of 121% in aggressions and is now in third place, with 23 more incidents. Valle del Cauca moved from second to fourth place with a decrease of 62% with 49 fewer incidents. The Capital District also showed a decrease in aggressions equivalent to 62% with 31 fewer incidents.

Valle del Cauca and the Capital District show a significant decrease because in 2021 they registered a high rate of aggressions as a result of the human rights violations that occurred within the framework of the National Strike.

Norte de Santander presented an increase of 133% with 8 more incidents; Santander had an increase of 121% with 23 more incidents; in Magdalena, aggressions also increased by 18% with 2 incidents. Both Santander and Norte de Santander had an increase of more than 100% in aggressions.

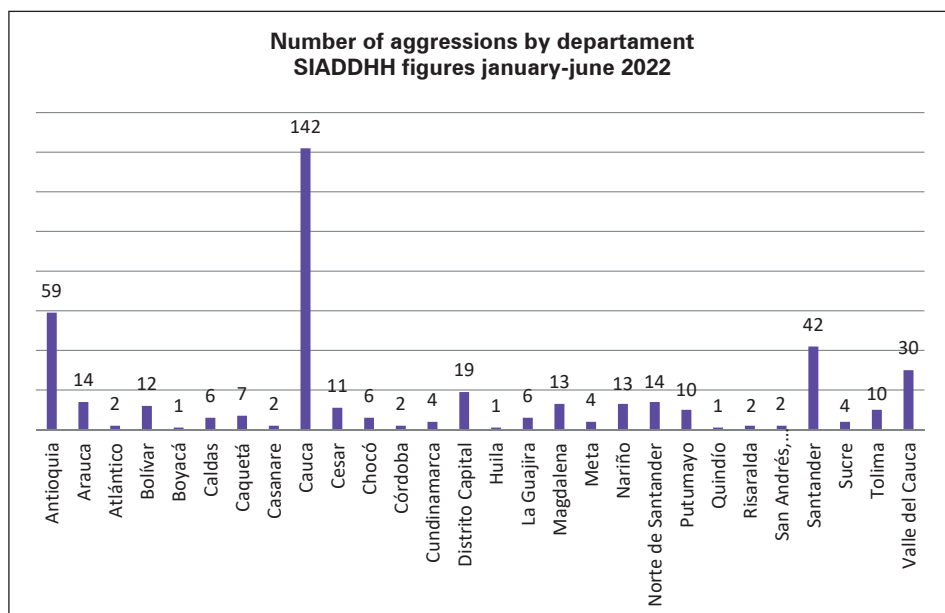
The high increase in aggressions in the department of Santander is directly related to the increase in aggressions in Barrancabermeja and Puerto Wilches, respectively, due to two situations that occurred during the semester in this area of Magdalena Medio Santander. The first has to do with its status as a strategic corridor in the context of the dispute between the AGC and the ELN in southern Bolívar and the AGC's attempt to gain control of this region. The second is related to the communities' struggle against Fraking, which has had an important epicenter in Puerto Wilches, due to opposition to the Kalé pilot project. On February 22 of this year, during the National Environmental Licensing Agency AMLA hearing in the municipality of Puerto de Wilches, a strong protest of national importance was held, which generated an increase in threats against the leaders who have been opposing the pilot project.

It is also important to highlight that in San Andres and Providencia at the end of 2021 there were threats, and in this period 2 murders were recorded, a situation that is unusual in the records of the Somos Defensores Program and that coincides with an



important activism in the archipelago due to complaints about the government's failure to comply with the re-

construction plan after the passage of Hurricane Iota.



According to the information recorded by SIADDHH, aggressions took place in 128 municipalities with the top ten reporting the highest occurrence being Popayán (39 events), Santander de Quilichao (38 events), Barrancabermeja (27 events), Capital District (19 events), Cali (17 events), Buenos Aires (16 events), Puerto Wilches (13 events), Santa Marta (11 events), Medellín (9 events), Puracé (10 events). The remaining municipalities present between 1 and 8 individual aggressions against human rights defenders.

Aggressions by type of leadership

During the first half of 2022, the aggressions had an impact on 13 types of leadership.

Contrary to what happened in 2021 where the most affected leadership was that of human rights defenders⁵⁵,

⁵⁵ This category refers to activists who, through their daily work in a human rights organization or independently, contribute to the promotion, respect, and protection of human rights.

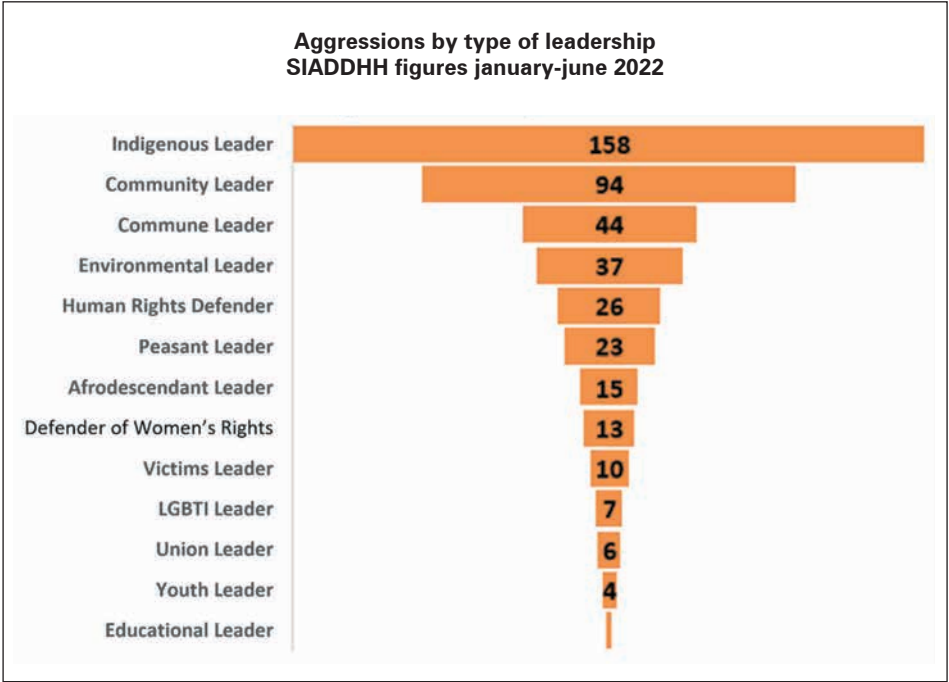




the first place during this period is taken by indigenous leadership, which went from 99 incidents in the first half of 2021 to 158 incidents in 2022. Community leaders occupy the second place, given the increase in the number of aggressions that went from 79 in 2021 to 94 in this period. They are followed by communal leaders with 44 events, environmentalists with 37, human rights defenders with 26, peasants with 23, Afro-descendants with 15, women's rights defenders with 13, victims' leadership

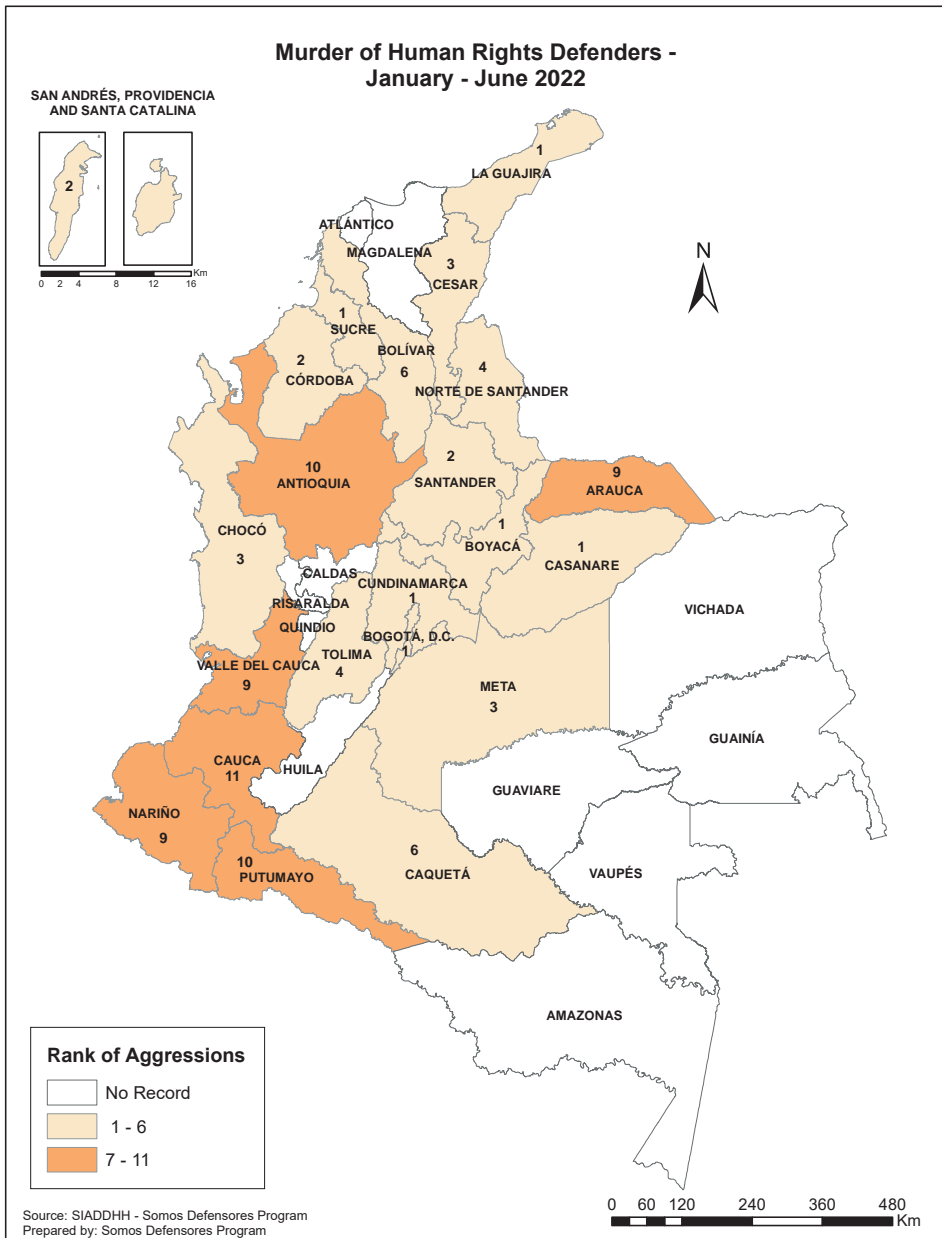
with 10, LGBTIQ+ with 7, union leadership with 6, youth leadership with 4 and student leadership with 2.

The decrease in aggressions against both human rights defenders and youth leaders is mainly because last year the record was influenced by the actions that took place during the National Strike, a context in which this type of leadership played an important role, and for this period the dynamics is different and is framed in the context of the electoral situation.





Murder of human rights defenders



The first semester of 2022 confirmed 99 murders, the highest figure collected in a semi-annual report of the

Somos Defensores Program, which means an increase of 71% with 41 more cases compared to the first



semester of 2021. This figure even exceeds that of 2020 when 95 cases were recorded. The events occurred in 21 departments and in the Capital District. February and March, with 19 cases each, were the months with the highest number of incidents; followed by April and May with 18 incidents each, January with 15 incidents and June with 10.

Of the 99 documented cases, 10 correspond to women (10%) and 89 to men (90%). When compared to the first semester of 2021, the homicide of women presented a slight decrease of 9% with one less case, while male leadership increased by 89% with 42 more cases than the previous year.

During the present period, 3 gender-related murders were registered, considering that the possible motive of the violent action is the gender identity of the victim. Two of the events were against LGBTIQ+ leaders and one against a community leader that occurred in the departments of Santander, Meta, and the Capital District. In one of them a knife was used, and the victim showed signs of torture, in another one a firearm was used, and the victim also showed signs of torture and the third one was executed with a firearm and signs of cruelty on execution.

As for the 10 murders committed against women defenders, 4 were community women, one LGBTIQ+, one indigenous, one communal, one Afro-descendant, one victim and one environmentalist. The events occurred as follows: 2 in Antioquia, 1 in Casanare, 1 in Cauca, 1 in Nariño, 1 in

Santander, 1 in Meta, 1 in Putumayo, 1 in Tolima and 1 in Valle del Cauca.

In eight of the cases, the alleged perpetrator is unknown, in one case the perpetrator belongs to criminal alliances (Border Commandos) and in one case, the perpetrator is paramilitary.

In 8 of the cases a firearm was used, in one case a knife was used and in one case the type of weapon used remains unidentified.

The attacks occurred on 27 occasions, 7 of them against women and 20 against men. In 21 incidents firearms were used, explosive material in 3, blunt objects in 1 and in 2 cases the type of weapon used is still uncertain. In one event, property was damaged during the attack. In 11 of the incidents physical injury was inflicted on the victims.

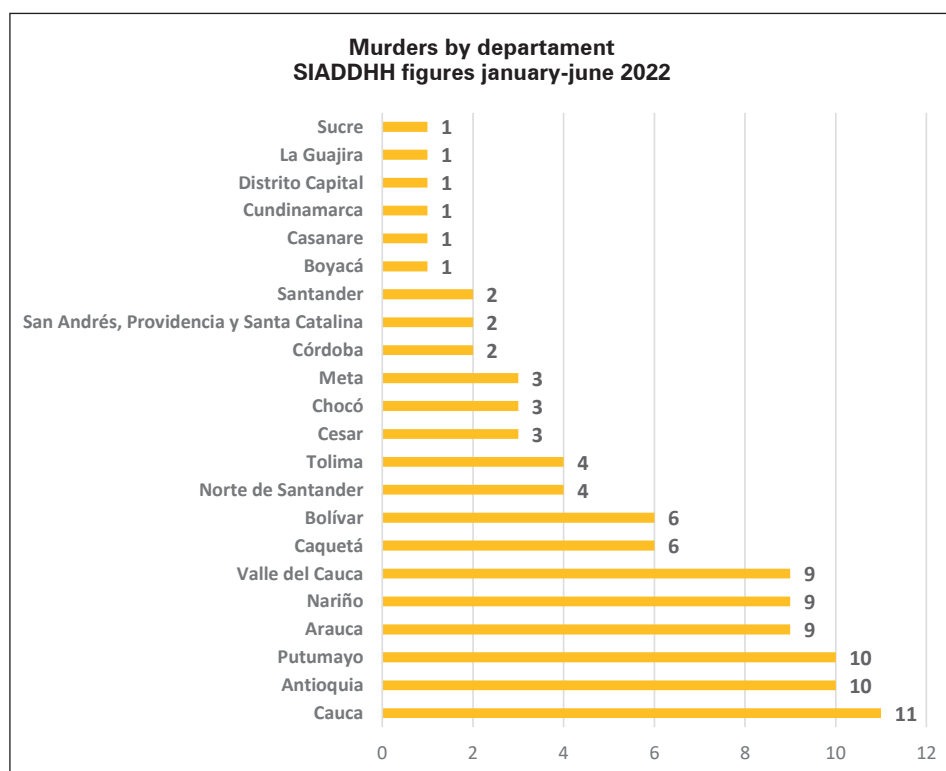
Murders by department

The murders of human rights defenders by region occurred in 67% of the national territory. Cauca ranks first with 11 incidents and Antioquia second with 10; followed by Putumayo (10 incidents); Arauca, Nariño and Valle del Cauca (9 incidents each); Bolívar and Caquetá (6 incidents each); Norte Santander and Tolima (4 incidents each); Cesar, Chocó and Meta (3 incidents each); Norte de Santander and Tolima (4 incidents each); Cesar, Choco and Meta (3 incidents each); Cordoba, San Andres and Santander (2 incidents each); and Boyaca, Casanare, Cundinamarca, the Capital District, la Guajira and Sucre (1 incident each).



In 87 cases a firearm was used, a knife in 2, explosive material in 1, and in 9 cases, the type of weapon used to commit the murder remains unclear. In 9 cases there were disappearances prior to the crime in events that occurred in Arauca (2), Caquetá (2), Casanare (1), Cauca (1), Nariño (1), Tolima (1) and Antioquia (1). In 4 ca-

ses torture was reported, in 5 cases they acted with cruelty, while in 24 cases others were affected. 9 cases occurred during massacres. In 10 cases the existence of previous threats was identified and, finally, there were no reports of cases where the victims were beneficiaries of protection measures.



Murders by municipality

The murders occurred in 73 municipalities. The most frequent were Puerto Guzmán and Puerto Leguizamo (4 cases each); Saravena, Tame, La Montañita, Buenos Aires, Tumaco, Chaparral and Cali (3 cases each); Rionegro,

San Vicente del Caguán, Argelia, San Martín, Cúcuta and San Andrés (2 cases each); and the remaining 58 with one case each.

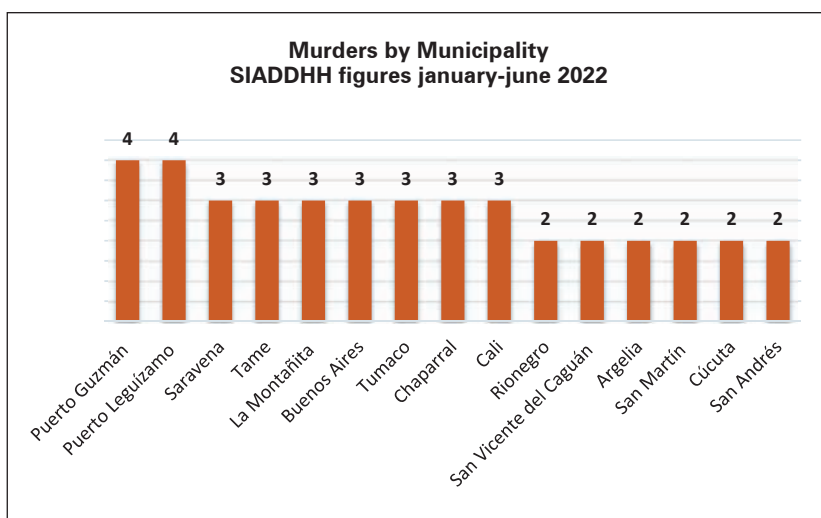
The municipalities with the highest number of murders, such as Putumayo and Arauca, coincide with those





where different criminal structures are fighting for territorial and social control. In the case of Putumayo, the Carolina Ramirez front with the Border Commandos. In Arauca, the 10th and 28th fronts, post-peace agreement structures, with the ELN. This shows that the illegal armed groups target social leaders, affecting social processes and contributing to their stigmatization.

But this dynamic is not only between illegal armed groups, in the massacre committed by the security forces against a community in the Alto Remanso de Puerto Leguizamo village in Putumayo, where 11 people were killed, two of them were recognized social leaders (one communal and one indigenous).



Leaderships affected in the murders

In the 99 documented cases, the most affected leaderships are the communal with 30 cases, 20 more than in 2021; the indigenous with 21 cases, 5 more than in the previous year; the community with 20, 12 more than in 2021; the peasant with 9, 3 more than in the previous year; the environmental with 5, 2 more than in the previous

year; human rights defenders with 4 cases, 2 more than in the previous year; trade union with 3, one more than the previous year; Afro-descendant with 3 and LGBTIQ+ with 2 cases, maintaining the same figure as the previous year; youth with 1 case is the only one showing a decrease, with 3 cases less than in 2021; and victim leadership with 1 case, maintaining the same figure as the previous year.





Murder of human rights defenders according to leadership type	
Community leadership	30
Indigenous leadership	21
Communitary leadership	20
Peasant leadership	9
Environmental leadership	5
Human Rights Defender	4
Afrodescendant leadership	3
Union leadership	3
LGBTIQ+ leadership	2
Youth leadership	1
Victims leadership	1
Grand total	99

Alleged perpetrators of the murders

Out of the 99 murders, 69 cases were allegedly committed by unknown persons, followed by 11 where the

alleged perpetrators were post-peace agreement groups, in 9 cases the alleged responsible parties were paramilitaries, 5 were allegedly committed by the security forces, 3 by ELN guerrillas and 2 by criminal alliances.

Alleged responsible	January – June 2021	January – June 2022
Unknown	34	2022
Post-peace agreement Groups	6	11
Paramilitary groups	12	9
Public Force	4	5
ELN	2	3
Criminal Alliances	No reference	2
Grand total	58	99

Individual threats

During the period of January-June 2022, a total of 286 individual threats

were confirmed, prevailing over other types of aggression with 65% of the total, which ratifies it as the most used way to frighten and hinder the





work of human rights defenders or those who exercise social leadership in the country, fulfilling the objective of affecting the social or organizational processes of which they are part.

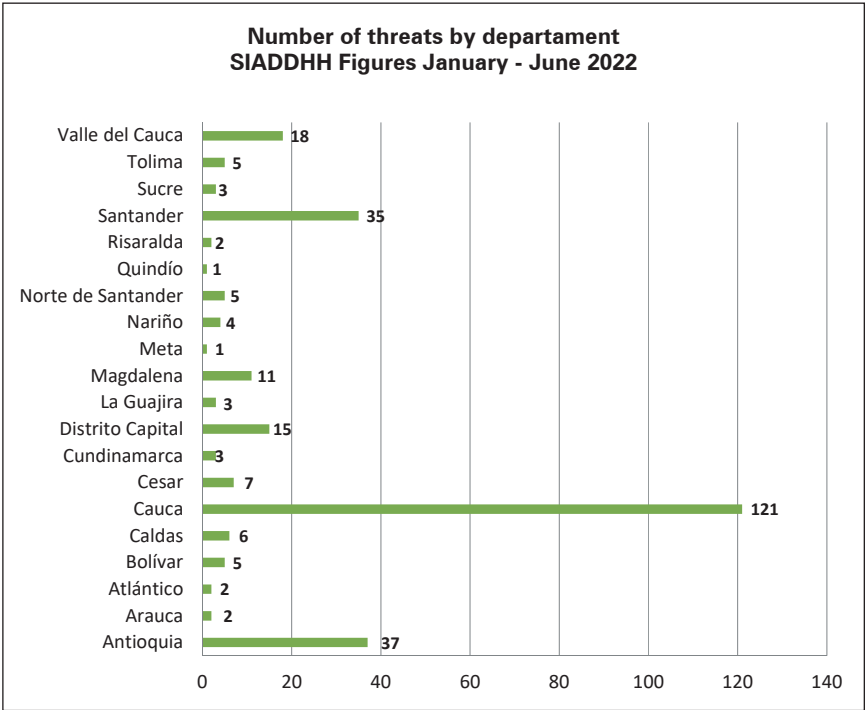
The percentage decrease of threats compared to the same period of the previous year is 22% (80 fewer cases), which can be explained, in some way, within the context of the National Strike that was a feature during the first half of 2021.

Threats by department

Threats occurred in 19 departments and in the Capital District. The five regions with the highest concentra-

tion of incidents are the department of Cauca with 121 threats, followed by Antioquia with 37, Santander with 35, Valle del Cauca with 18 and the Capital District with 15. The other departments recorded a lower number of threats: Magdalena 11 incidents; Cesar 7; Caldas 6; Tolima, Norte de Santander and Bolivar 5 incidents each; Nariño 4 incidents; Sucre, La Guajira and Cundinamarca 3 incidents each; Risaralda, Atlántico and Arauca 2 incidents each; and finally, Quindío and Meta with 1 incident each.

The figures coincide with the general record of aggressions that places Cauca, Antioquia and Santander as the departments where human rights defenders are most vulnerable.



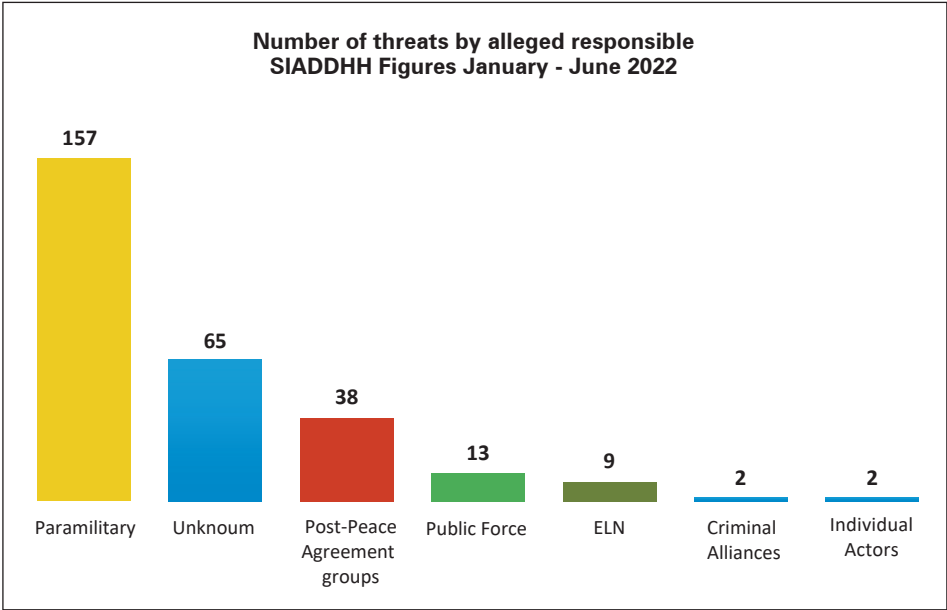


Alleged perpetrators
of the threats

Of the 286 threats, in 157 cases (55%) paramilitary groups are allegedly responsible, in 65 cases (23%) they are unidentified, in 38 cases (13%) they are post-peace agreement groups, in 13 cases (5%) the Public Forces, in 9 cases (3%) the ELN guerrillas, in 2 cases (1%) criminal alliances and in 2 cases (1%) the alleged responsibility would fall on individual perpetrators.

In the previous year, the events related to the National Strike placed the security forces as the alleged perpetrators with the highest number of

incidents. For this period of analysis, paramilitary groups are now in first place with an increase of 94%, with 76 more incidents; unknown perpetrators, who are in second place as the alleged perpetrators of threats, showed a decrease of 37% with 38 fewer incidents; as for post-peace agreement groups, the decrease was 24% with 12 fewer incidents than the previous year; for their part, threats from the ELN showed an increase of 29% with 2 more incidents than the first half of 2021. On this occasion, there is a variation due to the inclusion of the category of criminal alliances, who were responsible for 2 threatening acts, as well as the so-called individual perpetrators.



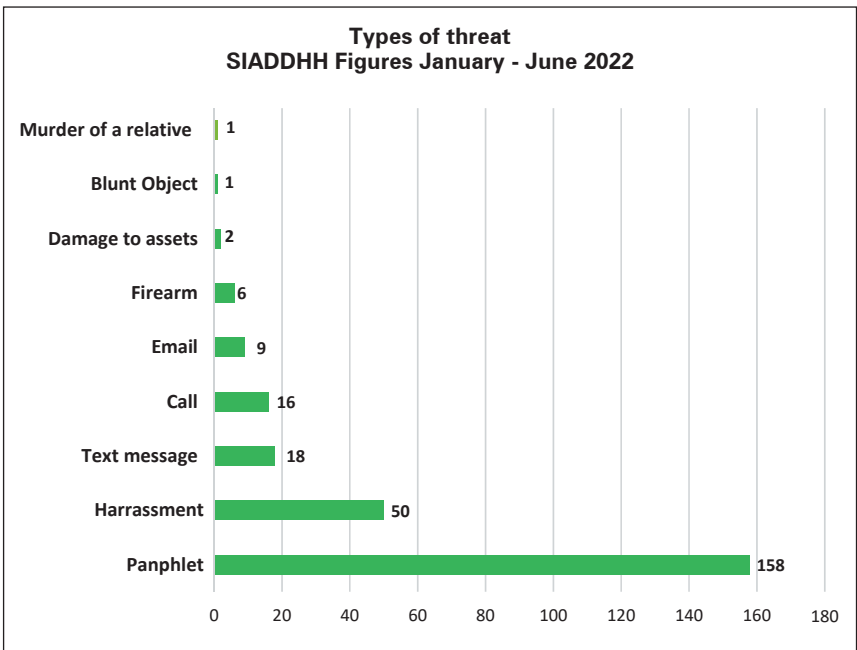


Types of threat

In several cases of threats documented during the period January-June 2022, cases were recorded in which various forms were employed to threaten leaders, in order to intimidate them and thus affect the normal performance of their work in the processes and organizations. The types of threats used do not coincide with the number of threats recorded, since in the same event several of them were used

and in others the mechanism used to threaten continues to be unknown.

Threats by means of pamphlets continue to be the most frequent modality (158 cases), followed by harassment (50 cases), text messages (18 cases), calls to landlines or cell phones (16 cases), e-mails (9 cases), use of firearms (6 cases), damage to property (2 cases), use of blunt objects (one case) and murder of a family member (one case).



With the different elements of analysis, it can be concluded that the first half of 2022 continued to be a period of high risk for human rights defenders, whose vulnerability is evident,

even more so in a period of closure of a government that did not have within its priorities to provide guarantees for the free exercise of the defense of human rights.



ANEX

Categories of the SIADDHH methodological framework

For 2022, the SIADDHH of the Somos Defensores Program updated its conceptual framework. Below, we present the categories of alleged perpetrators, as this is one of the major changes in the framework and for a better understanding of the analysis conducted in this report.

- **Paramilitary:** groups that act in complicity, acquiescence or tolerance of the State, either for economic and/or political interests, some of them incorporating the counterinsurgency doctrine.
- **Pos-peace Agreement groups:** organized armed structures originating from the FARC-EP guerrillas that have developed after the Peace Agreement.
- **Unknown:** when membership is not identified as belonging to a criminal organization or state institution.
- **Public Force:** refers to alleged perpetrators belonging to the different branches that make up the military and Police forces.
- **State institutions:** alleged aggressors with the profile of civilian officers who work in State institutions.
- **Individual actors:** refers to alleged civilian aggressors who are not part of armed or state structures and act on their own.
- **ELN:** alleged aggressors who are part of the structures of this insurgent group.
- **Criminal alliances:** these are the combination of different illegal armed structures that agree to work together for tactical or strategic reasons based on their common objectives of territorial control, strategic corridors, interests in illegal economies such as drug trafficking, arms trafficking, illegal mining, etc.



CONCLUSIONS

The increase in murders against human rights defenders and social leaders during the first half of 2022 confirms once again that electoral situations in the country can generate significant risks for the defense of human rights.

The 99 murders verified by the Program's Information System indicate that on average every two days a person committed to the defense of rights lost his or her life in a violent manner.

The departments of Cauca (11 cases) and Antioquia (10 cases) were once again the regions where most murders were committed against defenders and social leaders; during the last four-year period, both regions have consistently occupied the first places in terms of murders, according to the records of the Somos Defensores Program. In 2021, 23 murders were recorded in Antioquia and 22 in Cauca; in 2020, 52 in Cauca and 23 in Antioquia; 2019, 34 in Cauca and 16 in Antioquia; and in 2018, 28 in Cauca and 26 in Antioquia.

The increase in murders in Arauca, which went from 4 cases in 2021 to 9 cases during the first half of 2022, shows how disputes over territorial and social control between armed actors exacerbate expressions of violence against defenders and social leaders and contribute to their stigmatization, as a result of the accusations

that these actors in dispute make by pointing them out as sympathetic to the opposing side.

Putumayo and Nariño also remain in the trend of departments with the highest number of registered murders. During the first half of the year, 10 murders were confirmed in Putumayo and 9 in Nariño; during the whole of 2021, 11 cases were confirmed in Nariño and 9 in Putumayo; in 2020, 22 in Nariño and 15 in Putumayo. But it is as of 2020 onwards that the number of murders in Putumayo increases significantly.

The concentration of killings in departments such as Cauca, Antioquia, Nariño, and Putumayo during much of the previous government's term is indicative of the negative impact of the lack of adequate implementation of the Peace Agreement with a territorial approach, the reconfiguration of the dynamics of armed conflict and the emergence and strengthening of illegal armed organizations in these territories, as well as the absence of a robust institutional presence, beyond public forces.

This also demonstrates that the strengthening of the military presence in these territories during the last 4 years, framed in the defense and security policy of the Duque government, failed to reverse the trend of murders against human rights defenders and social leaders.





As for the profile of social leaders and defenders murdered during the first half of 2022, this report indicates that the main victims were communal leaders with 30 murders, indigenous leaders with 21 and community leaders with 20.

In this aspect, a trend is also observed throughout the four-year period, taking into account that for 2021 the Program's records indicate 33 murders respectively to communal and indigenous leaders and 21 to community leaders; in 2020, 50 murders to communal leaders and 41 to community and indigenous leaders respectively; in 2019, 33 murders to communal leaders, 32 to indigenous and 29 to community leaders; while in 2018 they recorded 63 murders to communal leaders and 24 to indigenous and community leaders, respectively.

These profiles of the leaderships most affected by the assassinations, crossed with their territorial concentration, show the crucial importance that these people have for the communities in territories plagued by constant violence, facing their dynamics and the complex web of interests that underlie them.

To this extent, the dimension of the loss of these leaders should challenge the country, because its impact, beyond its consequences for the inhabitants of these marginalized and invisible territories, affects society as a whole, due to the weakening of democratic participation and the civic space that is proper to it.

We hope to break through the edge of darkness, we know it will not be easy and that it will take time, but with hope, we face the challenge of contributing to it.



Human Rights defenders murdered between January and June 2022 -SIADDHH-

Registry	DATE	DEPARTMENT WHERE FACTS TOOK PLACE	MUNICIPALITY WHERE FACTS TOOK PLACE	VICTIM	ORGANIZATION	TYPE OF LEADERSHIP	ALLEGED RESPONSIBLE
1	07/01/2022	Santander	Floridablanca	Pablo Alfonso Ortiz Tarazona	JAC Prosecutor, La Judia village, Floridablanca.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
2	14/01/2022	Cauca	Buenos Aires	Guillermo Chicame Ipiá	Member of Las Delicias reservation's Indigenous Guard.	Indigenous Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups
3	14/01/2022	Cauca	Buenos Aires	Breiner David Cucuítame López	Member of the student Indigenous Guard of the Las Delicias reservation.	Environmental Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups
4	17/01/2022	Arauca	Araucuita	Miguel Alex Amado Carrillo	Cultural manager in the Araucuita House of Culture. Member of JAC, Campo Alegre and affiliated to ASONALCA.	Community Leadership	Unknown
5	17/01/2022	Casanare	Orocúé	Luz Marina Arteaga Henao	Land claimant of the Mataratón and El Porvenir process. Puerto Gaitán (Meta).	Victims Leadership	Unknown
6	17/01/2022	Antioquia	Carmen de Viboral	Mario Johnathan Palomino Salcedo	Educator, environmental defender.	Environmental Leadership	Unknown
7	17/01/2022	Putumayo	Puerto Guzmán	Wilson Cortés Molano	Presidente de JAC, vereda El Paraíso.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
8	19/01/2022	Arauca	Arauca	José Abelino Pérez Ortiz	Member of the Joel Sierra Human Rights Foundation, Tame branch.	Human Rights Activist	Unknown
9	19/01/2022	Arauca	Saravena	Simeón Delgado Ruiz	JAC Vice President, Villa de Aranjuez neighborhood.	Communal Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups
10	20/01/2022	Nariño	Barbacoas	Lihardo Castillo Ortiz	Leader of the Alejandro Rincón Community Council in the San Miguel de Nambi village.	Community Leadership	Unknown
11	24/01/2022	Cauca	Buenos Aires	José Albeiro Camayo Gúetio	Former regional coordinator of Las Delicias Indigenous Guard.	Indigenous Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups
12	24/01/2022	Putumayo	Puerto Guzmán	Pedro Nel Sánchez Gallego	Community Leader	Community Leadership	Unknown
13	25/01/2022	Arauca	Tame	Álvaro Peña Barragán	JAC President, La Unión, Saravena.	Communal Leadership	Unknown



14	29/01/2022	Cauca	Argelia	Deisy Sotelo Anacona	Community Leader	Community Leadership	Unknown
15	31/01/2022	Cauca	Caloto	José Euclides González Marín	Vice President of ASTRAZONACAL and active member of PUPSOC.	Peasant Leadership	Unknown
16	1/02/2022	Nariño	Córdoba	Julio César Bravo	Indigenous leader of the Males reservation, president of the Córdoba Council in Nariño. Member of AICO.	Indigenous Leadership	Unknown
17	2/02/2022	Meta	Caluyaro	Juan Carlos Nieto Calvario	JAC President, San Miguel de Guarupay.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
18	2/02/2022	Putumayo	Puerto Leguizamón	Efrén Ramos	JAC Prosecutor, El Basal.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
19	4/02/2022	Arauca	Fortul	Victor Manuel Pacheco	JAC President, Bruselas village, Fortul.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
20	6/02/2022	Nariño	Tumaco	Segundo Cortés Nastuacúas	Mayor of the Pianulpí community of the Piguambi Palangala Reservation, Awá community, Nariño.	Indigenous Leadership	Unknown
21	9/02/2022	Chocó	Medio San Juan	Luis Chamapuro Quiro	Wounaan indigenous leader, Puerto Chamapuro community.	Indigenous Leadership	ELN
22	10/02/2022	Cesar	Rio de Oro	Uldemiro Vega García	JAC President, Cimarrón township.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
23	10/02/2022	Valle del Cauca	Guacarí	Juan Carlos Jaramillo	Community leader in Guabas, Guacarí.	Human Rights Activist	Unknown
24	13/02/2022	Bolívar	Cartagena	Michael Steven Pérez Salcedo	Community Overseer	Community Leadership	Unknown
25	13/02/2022	Nariño	Leiva	Elsy Erazo	Community Leader	Community Leadership	Unknown
26	18/02/2022	Valle del Cauca	Buenaventura	Steven Loatza Córdoba	National Strike Committee. Buenaventura Merchants Association and activist.	Human Rights Activist	Unknown
27	19/02/2022	Nariño	Guachucal	Saulo Moreno	Muellamues indigenous reservation in the Cristo Bajo village.	Indigenous Leadership	Unknown
28	22/02/2022	Nariño	Tumaco	Bolívar Lavin Delgado Guevara	Indigenous Guard of the Piguambi Palangala reservation.	Indigenous Leadership	Unknown
29	22/02/2022	Cesar	San Martín	Jorge Alberto Tafur	Spokesperson of the CIBSO Commission. Member of the CNA and the Peoples Congress.	Peasant Leadership	Unknown



30	22/02/2022	Cesar	San Martín	Teofilo Acuña	President of the Federación Agronómica del Sur de Bolívar. Member of the CNA and the Peoples' Congress.	Peasant Leadership	Unknown
31	23/02/2022	Chocó	Litoral de San Juan	Julio Victoria Cardenas	President of the Minor Council of ACADESAN Barrios Unidos in Litoral San Juan. Member of the Cimarrona Guard.	Afrodescendant Leadership	ELN
32	24/02/2022	Putumayo	Puerto Guzmán	Jorge Santofimio Yepes	Legal representative of the COMUCCON cooperative. PNIS Putumayo delegate.	Environmental Leadership	Unknown
33	25/02/2022	Antioquia	Turbo	Dilson Arbey Borja Roldán	Indigenous guard of the Río León community.	Indigenous Leadership	Paramilitary
34	26/02/2022	Norte de Santander	Tibú	Gustavo Antonio Torres	Legal representative of the Productive Caño Indio Association.	Peasant Leadership	Unknown
35	5/03/2022	Norte de Santander	Bucarasica	Arquimedes Rivera Remolina	JAC Treasurer, La Curva township.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
36	6/03/2022	Tolima	Planadas	Luciano Alvino Ortiz Pineda	JAC President, La Armenia village.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
37	6/03/2022	Bolívar	Barranco de Loba	Eduardo Emilio Vanegas Mendoza	President of the Mining Community Action Board.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
38	6/03/2022	Caquetá	San Vicente del Caguán	Julían Andrés Suárez	He was leading an illicit crop substitution project.	Peasant Leadership	Public Force
39	9/03/2022	Caquetá	La Montañita	Marcus Morales	JAC President, Miramar village.	Communal Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups
40	9/03/2022	Putumayo	Villa Garzón	Gustavo Guerrero Ramirez	JAC President, Villa Colombia village.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
41	10/03/2022	Norte de Santander	Cúcuta	Santiago Riveros	Pastor of the church, JAC president of the Banco de Arena township.	Community Leadership	Paramilitary
42	10/03/2022	Santander	Bucaramanga	Andrea Roza Rolón	Member of the Victims' Participation Board and several LGBTIQ+ collectives.	LGBTIQ+ Leadership	Individual actors
43	14/03/2022	Archipiélago de San Andrés, Providencia y Santa Catalina	San Andrés	Fabían Pérez Hooker	Member of the Hety and Zambo group and ambassador of the Raizal culture.	Community Leadership	Unknown

44	14/03/2022	Cauca	Popayán	José Miller Correa Vásquez	Traditional authority of Tacueyó and coordinator of the Nasa THUTHEMAS project life plan (advisor).	Indigenous Leadership	Unknown
45	17/03/2022	Archipiélago de San Andrés, Providencia y Santa Catalina	San Andrés	Luis Carlos Bustamante Fernández	Dancer, cultural manager, activist of the LGBTQI+ community.	Community Leadership	Unknown
46	20/03/2022	Cauca	Argelia	Richard Nilson Betancourth	JAC President, Santa Clara village.	Communal Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups
47	24/03/2022	Norte de Santander	Cúcuta	Freddy Enrique Pallares Amaya	Founding member of the Cúcuta Mobility Overseeing Committee.	Community Leadership	Unknown
48	24/03/2022	Boyacá	Muzo	Alcibiades Moreno Moreno	Spokesperson for the communities and guaqueros of western Boyacá. Member of the Intermunicipal Guaqueros Committee Association of Muzo.	Community Leadership	Unknown
49	28/03/2022	Chocó	Medio Atrato	Sarcelino Lana	Indigenous governor of the Tamandó community.	Indigenous Leadership	Paramilitary
50	29/03/2022	Putumayo	Puerto Leguízamo	Didier Hernandez Rojas	JAC President, El Remanso village.	Communal Leadership	Public Force
51	29/03/2022	Putumayo	Puerto Leguízamo	Pablo Panduro Coquinche	Indigenous governor of the Kichwa Bajo Remanso Chapter.	Indigenous Leadership	Public Force
52	31/03/2022	Córdoba	Montelíbano	Cristián Camilo Guevara	Youth leader of San José de Uré, former JAC president.	Liderazgo juvenil	Unknown
53	31/03/2022	Caquetá	La Montañita	Alexander Pastrana Losada	JAC conciliator, Puerto Gaitán, Unión Peneya inspection.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
54	1/04/2022	Nariño	Mallama	Carlos Antonio Marcillo Guanga	Indigenous guard of the Gran Mallama reservation.	Indigenous Leadership	Unknown
55	1/04/2022	Valle del Cauca	Toro	Luis Alfredo Castaño Gómez	Representative of the Municipal Committee of Toro Coffee Growers and former Asomercaturo president.	Peasant Leadership	Unknown
56	2/04/2022	La Guajira	Manaure	Alexander Fonseca Peñaranda	Wayúu indigenous leader	Indigenous Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups

57	3/04/2022	Meta	Puerto Concordia	José Pascual Quevedo Velásquez	Member of CODAGROGUAVIARE, ASCATRAGUA and Coagro Guaviare in Puerto Concordia, south of Meta.	Peasant Leadership	Unknown
58	7/04/2022	Cundinamarca	Soacha	Alexander Tequia Cangrejo	JAC President, Panama village, municipality of Soacha.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
60	11/04/2022	Putumayo	Puerto Caicedo	Pablo Emilio Baquero Cárdenas	Former JAC member, La Independencia village.	Peasant Leadership	Unknown
59	14/04/2022	Caquetá	La Montañita	Fabinson Ducuara Barreto	JAC President, Horizonte village.	Communal Leadership	Criminal alliances
61	14/04/2022	Nariño	Tumaco	Luis Alberto Nastacuas Taicus	Indigenous Guard of the Piguambi Palangala reservation.	Indigenous Leadership	Unknown
62	17/04/2022	Antioquia	Rionegro	Victor Alfonso Giraldo Valencia	Líder comunitario. Comité de jóvenes de JAC, barrio La Inmaculada.	Community Leadership	Unknown
63	18/04/2022	Meta	Mesetas	Francenet Yolima Pérez Olaya	Peace signatory, member of the Women's Overseeing Committee against Violence and Chocolates among Friends.	Community Leadership	Individual actors
64	18/04/2022	Arauca	Saravena	John Jairo Esquivel	Member of ASONALCA, Salem de Fortul and member of the Peasant Inter-ethnic and popular Guard of the East Central region.	Peasant Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups
65	18/04/2022	Arauca	Tame	Wilmer Hernández Ormazá	Member of the Coexistence Committee of JAC, Puerto Miranda, CPDH and SINDEAGRO Tame, Arauca.	Communal Leadership	ELN
66	19/04/2022	Antioquia	Rionegro	Camilo Andrés Cruz Gómez	A member of the Boy Scouts, he led activities with children and adolescents.	Community Leadership	Unknown
67	25/04/2022	Bolívar	Cantagallo	Erminson Rivera	JAC President, La Esperanza village.	Communal Leadership	Paramilitary
68	25/04/2022	Bolívar	Cantagallo	José Obdulio Sánchez	Community leader. Worked in crop substitution projects in Cantagallo, member of JAC.	Community Leadership	Paramilitary
69	29/04/2022	Antioquia	El Peñol	María Elvia Gómez Alzate	JAC member, La Magdalena. Community leader.	Community Leadership	Unknown
70	30/04/2022	Cauca	Caldono	Yesid Cata	Artisan, former indigenous authority and member of CRIC.	Indigenous Leadership	Unknown

71	30/04/2022	Putumayo	Puerto Leguizamón	Maria José Arciniegas Salinas	Member of the El Hacha indigenous reservation.	Indigenous Leadership	Criminal alliances
72	1/05/2022	Nariño	Olaya Herrera	Henry Olivero	Member of the Olaya Herrera Community Council in Sanquianga.	Afrodescendant Leadership	Unknown
73	1/05/2022	Valle del Cauca	Cali	Misael Fernando Ávila Solarte	Member of Sintraunicol.	Union Leadership	Unknown
74	1/05/2022	Cauca	Miranda	Luis Antonio Tombe Menza	Indigenous guard of the Nasa people.	Indigenous Leadership	Public Force
75	3/05/2022	Valle del Cauca	Cali	Mauricio Fory Balanta	Member of SINTRAEMPVALLE Union, member of the Human Rights Committee.	Union Leadership	Unknown
76	5/05/2022	Sucre	San Pedro	Rafael Rodríguez Barrios	JAC President, La Gloria village.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
77	6/05/2022	Bolívar	Norosi	Ever Ortega Monroy	JAC President, Santa Helena township.	Communal Leadership	Paramilitary
79	7/05/2022	Caquetá	San Vicente del Caguán	Aldemar Urquina Cruz	JAC President, Morrocoy del Doncello village.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
78	10/05/2022	Putumayo	Puerto Guzmán	Adin Cerquera Huaca	Community leader. Former president of the Paujil JAC.	Community Leadership	Criminal alliances
80	13/05/2022	Antioquia	Dabeiba	Socio Fernando Domicó	Teacher and public server of the Antioquia Secretariat of Education, in charge of the implementation of the Indigenous and Intercultural Education System (SEIP). Indigenous leader, Choromandó reservation.	Indigenous Leadership	Unknown
81	15/05/2022	Valle del Cauca	Tuluá	José Alexander Espinoza Valencia	JAC President, El Retiro village.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
82	15/05/2022	Cauca	Santander de Quilichao	Edgar Quintero	JAC President. Led processes of implementation of the Peace Agreement. Member of the Cimarrona Guard.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
83	18/05/2022	Bolívar	Simití	Pedro Nel Sánchez Sanabria	He worked for the rights of peasants in the Sabanas de San Luis township	Community Leadership	Unknown
84	24/05/2022	Toima	Chaparral	Fabian Ricardo Berjan	Member of the coexistence committee of JAC, Calarcá Tetuán village.	Community Leadership	Unknown

85	24/05/2022	Toima	Chaparral	Elizabeth Mendoza	JAC President, Calarcá Tetuán village.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
86	24/05/2022	Toima	Chaparral	Marco Tulio Molina	JAC Vice-president, Calarcá Tetuán village.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
87	24/05/2022	Antioquia	Vegachi	Alconides Vallejo Álvarez	Vice-president of La Clarita village JAC. Former councilman of the municipality.	Communal Leadership	Public Force
88	29/05/2022	Arauca	Tame	Jhon Jerson Camacho Barrera	JAC delegate from La Meseta village to the Boards Association ASDUNTAS in the municipality of Tame.	Communal Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups
89	31/05/2022	Caquetá	Solano	Edison Gómez Ortiz	Leader of the Murui indigenous people of the Puerto Sábalo and Los Monos - Coemani reservation, and defender of the right to differential education. Teacher.	Indigenous Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups
90	2/06/2022	Córdoba	Planeta Rica	Harold Vicente Herazo Castaño	JAC President, 'Tapa Sola' village.	Communal Leadership	Paramilitary
91	6/06/2022	Valle del cauca	Florida	José Ernesto Cueta Yajue	Traditional doctor and member of Asprozonac and representative of the foundation Smiles Lives Without Borders.	Indigenous Leadership	Unknown
92	7/06/2022	Valle del Cauca	Cali	Jesusita Moreno Mosquera	Defender of Afro-descendant communities in Bajo San Juan, Chocó.	Afrodescendant Leadership	Unknown
93	8/06/2022	Antioquia	Tarazá	Danilo de Jesús Madrid López	JAC Vice-president, Doradas Altas village.	Human Rights Activist	Unknown
94	8/06/2022	Distrito Capital	Bogotá	Óscar Parada Torres	Representative of bisexual people within the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Council.	LGBTIQ+ Leadership	Unknown
95	10/06/2022	Antioquia	Yarumal	Kelly Urrego	Member of the Yarumal Environmental Board.	Environmental Leadership	Paramilitary
96	10/06/2022	Valle del Cauca	Restrepo	Julio Cesar Ojeda Jara	Human Rights Secretary of the Valle Union of Education Workers' Union.	Union Leadership	Unknown
97	19/06/2022	Cauca	Guapi	Roberto Carlos Rivas	JAC President, San Martín neighborhood.	Communal Leadership	Unknown
98	27/06/2022	Antioquia	Granada	Julían David Ochoa	Environmental and youth leader	Environmental Leadership	Paramilitary
99	27/06/2022	Arauca	Saravena	Leonardo Mora Calderón	Vice-president of the Arauca Welders Association (Asa). Labor rights activist.	Community Leadership	Post-Peace agreement groups



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