

THE NOBODIES



**PROGRAMA
SOMOS DEFENSORES**

PROGRAMA NO GUBERNAMENTAL DE PROTECCIÓN A
DEFENSORES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

**JANUARY TO JUNE 2015 REPORT INFORMATION SYSTEM ON
ATTACKS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS - ISAAHRD**



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The nongovernmental program for the protection of human rights defenders - Somos defensores - is a protection area that seeks to develop a comprehensive proposal for the prevention of attacks and to protect the lives of people who are at risk due to their work as human rights defenders, namely when they are safeguarding the interests of social groups and communities that are affected by violence in Colombia. The program “Somos Defensores” is comprised of:



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Yes, that is indeed how we wanted to call this edition of the half-yearly report, January to June 2015, of the We Are Defenders Program (Programa Somos Defensores). We decided on this name in memory of the writer Eduardo Galeano, but most of all, because of the pertinence of his renowned poem "The Nobodies". This poem's relevance is in describing what the murdered human rights defenders really signify, both for the Colombian government and for the legal authorities of the Nation, as well as for an indolent country that does not seem to be perturbed by the perverse daily sacrifice of these men and women who, despite being anonymous to the public, were valued deeply by their organizations, communities, and families.

We do not tire of saying that in the middle of such an important and historic political situation like that is the current one, where the search for peace is prioritized, the worth of the social leadership and of the defenders in the territories still is not comprehended for the construction of a true democracy.

From the peace talks in la Habana, the different actors in the conflict as a whole have insisted that the construction of peace must be made both from and for the regions, and with the social organizations and communities. True; that is how it must be done. Nonetheless, the regional leaders are of very little value to these same actors, as they do not protect them, do not respect them, and even less do they understand that it is precisely these men and women who will contribute greatly in

facilitating and channeling the pacts and peace agreements in the regions.

The current government, right from their first mandate, has been inclined to seek dialogue and find agreements, and it is from here that the first negotiation tables with various sectors originated (peasant farmers, indigenous, afro-Colombians, women, workers, etc.). Furthermore, they have paid attention to the National Process of Guarantees with human rights platforms that rightly have the protection of defenders and leaders as their main objective, as well as the construction of guarantees for the carrying out of their duties. However, the reality and figures inform us otherwise: during the terms of Juan Manuel Santos, approximately 320 cases of homicides of defenders have been documented, as well as 200 attempted murders, and 1400 threats, among other aggressions. Added to these lamentable and expressive statistics is the total impunity in which they are found.

Situations like these lead one to doubt the true value of the word of the government of Juan Manuel Santos in terms of peace and human rights, in addition to doubting his intentions of living up to his pledges at the negotiation tables. Hence the importance from now on of obtaining evidence certain of putting a stop to this crime wave against the leaders and defenders of the social movement. But just as important is that this government leads by example and puts pressure on the Attorney General's Office to investigate the hundreds of crimes against this population, and to investigate and punish those responsible.

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Regarding this, the current Ministry of Justice has an enormous outstanding debt to the defenders of human rights in Colombia.

The national government is also making mistakes in their policies for protecting vulnerable sectors. They are making mistakes right from the beginning, as the Program Somos Defensores rightly pointed out in their reports, when the then Minister of the Interior Germán Vargas Lleras, in his absolute arrogance and next to his pupil Andrés Villamizar based the policy for protection on a national, militarist, privatized, and individual model of security, devoid of a focus on human rights and citizenship safety.

But as well as an erroneous and economically unsustainable model, they handed the National Unit of Protection over to corruption, mismanagement, and administrative wastefulness, as is evinced by the investigations being carried out by the Prosecutor's Office and the Comptroller's Office, and which we reiterate in this report.

Because of this, to speak of peace, this government must employ a meaning beyond that of the demobilization of insurgents and a few cosmetic reforms. If the governing political class does not remove its myopia and incapacity to see the country clearly, this whole context and effort for peace will be in vain. Consequently, the government must understand once and for all that the Colombian social movement is fundamental for the establishment of agreements, reforms, and other policies that

flourish in these years of rupture from the paradigm of internal armed conflict, and which will be reflected in the territories. Therefore, other ways of investing in peace are to invest in protecting, defending, and preventing attacks on social leaders and human rights defenders. The guaranteeing, from now on, of the life and freedom of the Colombian social movement would be a good down payment on sustainability in a post-armed conflict period, and importantly for the construction of peace.

But this will happen only if the government and State in general stop "seeing" defenders as The Nobodies of the regions, of whom it is the same to have dead or alive. **A community without leaders has no horizon, and Colombia without organized communities has no way of building and maintaining peace.**

We are grateful for the technical support of the SIADDHH provided by the CINEP, as well as the support of the human rights, peace, and development platforms such as CCEEU, in addition to other organizations and networks of human rights like MOVICE, Colombia Diversa, and CPDH amongst others, all of whom provide information that nourishes our report. We also are grateful for the financial support of the Royal Embassy of Norway in Colombia and the international cooperation agencies DIAKONIA, MISEREOR, Terre des Hommes – Schweiz, Terre des Hommes – Switzerland, Oxfam Intermon, and the European Union, as their support is vital for the production of this report.

Confident that the wish of these 34 human rights defenders that were murdered during the first half of 2015 was also that of having a country representing peace and equality, we shall hereby remember their names and make a short summary of the events that led to their deaths.

Rest in peace and may their murderers be brought to justice.

IN MEMORY OF THE MURDERED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



January 7, 2015

Senén Namundia

Indigenous people of Embera Chamí – Risaralda.
Risaralda - Pueblo Rico

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social process and/or human rights affected: Indigenous People of Emberá Chamí de Risaralda

Senén Namundia, Jaibaná (spiritual leader and traditional medicine doctor) of the Emberá Chamí community was murdered by gunshot. The incident occurred in the Sinaí rural division, where the doctor had arrived a few days earlier to lend his support to the community. The jabaná resided in the Santa Marta rural division, where other indigenous communities also live.

According to the versions of the inhabitants of the area, Senén finished his traditional rituals of spiritual accompaniment at 11:30pm and he went to his room to sleep. These versions affirm that two unknown men entered the house and shot him, causing his death. The whereabouts of the two murderers is unknown.

Martín Siágama, an indigenous leader, said that Namundia had not received any prior threats. Nonetheless, in 2014 his daughter – a teacher by the name of Liz Menia Namundia Querágama – was murdered at the age of 31. Liz was murdered together with her 38-year-old partner, Juvenal Osorio Bigama. Unidentified men attacked them with machetes when they were on their way to their home in the town center of Pueblo Rico in Risaralda.

The homicide of the traditional doctor Namundia is added to the cases of Arnuel de Jesús Mazo Vasco, a 54-year-old miner, and Sigifredo Guatiquí Gutiérrez, a 54-year-old teacher. All three cases occurred in the indigenous territories in the rural area of Pueblo Rico and Mistrató, and all three cases occurred in the same week.

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January 9, 2015

Camila Flores

Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) / The Global Fund to Fight AIDS
Sucre - San Marcos

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social process and/or human rights affected: LGBTI Community in Sucre, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS
- Source: <http://caribeafirmativo.lgbt/2015/01/09/asesinan-golpes-mujer-trans-en-san-marcos-sucre/>

On the morning of January 9 2015, the corporation Caribe Afirmativo reported the violent murder of the transsexual leader Camila Flores, 35 years of age, in the municipality of San Marcos in Sucre.

Camila was found dead in the early hours of the morning in the rural area of the municipality, suffering from multiple impact wounds from a blunt object. She had been the victim of an attempted murder by firearm one year previously, on the 9th of March 2014, in the same municipality. The incident occurred when she was travelling on her motorcycle, and she received the shot in her left clavicle. Local residents took her to the Regional Hospital of San Marcos.

Camila Flores served as leader of a project for the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) and Global Fund to Fight AIDS in the municipality. She was responsible for leading other transsexual women in promotional campaigns to reduce the stigmatizing and discrimination of LGBTI people.

According to information provided by staff members of the project, on the morning of Friday January 9, 2015, her body was found naked and lifeless in the outskirts of the municipality. Her corpse had signs of multiple impact wounds from a short, sharp object, as well as traces of blows and deep wounds that indicate that she was exposed to excessive cruelty and torture.



January 21, 2015

Carlos Alberto Pedraza Salcedo

'Nunca Más' Project, Movement of Victims of State Crimes (Movimiento de Víctimas de crímenes de Estado)
Bogotá D.C.

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social process and/or human rights affected: Nunca Más Project; Movement of Victims of State Crimes; Regional Coordination Unit of the Social and Popular Masses Political Movement of the Colombian Central East; People's Congress that forms part of the National Agricultural, Farmer's, Ethnic, and Popular Summit.

Carlos Alberto was a graduate from the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional (National Pedagogical University), a civic popular leader of teachers (líder cívico-popular del magisterio), as well as being a member of the Nunca Más project, the Movement of Victims of State Crimes, the Regional Coordination Unit of the Social and Popular Masses Political Movement of the Colombian Central East, and of the People's Congress that forms part of the National Agricultural, Farmer's, Ethnic, and Popular Summit.

On Monday 19 January 2015 at 3pm, Carlos Alberto travelled from his house in the barrio Molinos II, which is situated in the locality of Rafael Uribe Uribe in Bogotá, to the locality of Teusaquillo. Here he was supposed to have a meeting related to the economic project of the Agriculture and Livestock Marketing Enterprise "El Zipa", of the abovementioned Movement. Carlos communicated with a family member for the last time, informing them of his day's schedule, and of when he would be home in the evening. It is from this moment in the day that his whereabouts became unknown.

On Wednesday the 21st of January 2015, in the early hours of the morning, members of the National Police Force – SIJIN de Gachancipá (Cundinamarca state) – apparently made phone calls to the contact num-

bers of the "El Zipa" Enterprise in order to locate some of Carlos' family members.

In the first call, they mentioned that they had found a person who fit Carlos' profile, with several of the Enterprise's business cards in his possession. In the second call, they indicated that Carlos had been in a motorcycle accident and that they needed to locate the family. In the third call, they declared that: "he was found dead amongst the pine trees with signs of a blow to the head".

On Wednesday, 21 January 2015, at around 9 o'clock in the morning, members of the Judicial Police found the lifeless body of Carlos Pedraza in an unpopulated sector of the San Bartolomé rural district, called "Las Marraneras". Pedro Morales, the deputy-director of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, explained that the body was found with a single gunshot wound to the head, and that his death had occurred between 24 and 36 hours before the autopsy.

Carlos Pedraza had no personal, professional, social, or political relationship in Gachancipá, a municipality located approximately 60 kilometres from the capital, and he was not carrying any money or items of value; he was only carrying a low-end mobile phone that was not found at the crime scene.



January 25, 2015

José Joaquín Herrera Utria

The LGBT Brigade

Cesar - Valledupar

- Had Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social process and/or human rights affected: LGBTI population of Valledupar – Cesar.

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José Joaquín Herrera Utria, a 55-year-old stylist, was murdered on the night of the 25th of January. José Joaquín was known for his work with transsexual people in Valledupar.

At the time, the commander of the First District of the National Police Force – Major Juan Carlos Torres – said the following about the homicide: “they are being investigated (the incidents related to the homicide)...this is a case of intolerance...it may even be a crime of passion”. Commander Torres’ statement draws attention, given the cruelty of the crime and the fact that Herrera had only returned to Colombia 2 months prior to his murder. He had previously fled the country due to threats he received two years earlier via telephone and pamphlets.

Herrera worked as a stylist and he was a leader in a group known as “The LGBT Brigade”,

which organized cultural events with transsexual people in the region. According to the information provided by the Caribe Afirmativo Corporation, **the activist was receiving special protection from the Valledupar Police, which was clearly insufficient to prevent his murder in his own home.**

Herrera was found tied, half-naked, and with multiple stab wounds. He was a friend of Roberto Antonio Martínez Mojica, known as Tony Grecco, who was another stylist brutally murdered in the same way in August 2014 in the same city of Valledupar.

These men’s deaths, according to LGBTI people’s rights organizations, are generally the product of systematic persecution by individuals, or by illegal groups who seek to control the behavior and private lives of the people in the region, amongst other things.



January 26, 2015

Nicasio Sánchez Guanay

Rural District Community of Puerto Gaitán - Tame
Arauca - Tame

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: ELN Guerrillas
- Social process and/or human rights affected: The Puerto Gaitán Rural District community in Tame.

Nicasio Sánchez Guanay was a community leader in the rural district of Puerto Gaitán, which is under the jurisdiction of the Tame municipality. He was allegedly murdered by guerrillas belonging to the Ejército de Liberación Nacional ELN (National Liberation Army) on the morning of Monday, January 26.

According to the testimony of neighboring farmers, armed men arrived at the cabildo¹ and having captured the leader, they murdered him in cold blood by firearm.

Sánchez Guanay was of indigenous origin, and furthermore he was a community leader who worked with the vulnerable population in the Puerto Gaitán rural district.

¹In Spanish speaking countries – a town council or local government council (Oxford English Dictionary).



Antioquia - Yondó

- At the time of the incident, Andrés Avila was at the school in the La Punta rural district working with other peasant farmers to repair the structure. Children and young peasant farmers belonging to the surrounding rural districts, to which El Porvenir belongs, attend this school.

Weeks earlier, various threats had been made to social leaders of organizations in the zone, such as; Marcha Patriótica the USO, the People's Congress, and the Agricultural, Ethnic, and Popular Summit, amongst others. Even though Jaminton did not directly participate in any of these organizations, his role as part of the Community Action Committee makes this case a homicide of a human rights defender.

Ex – Representative to the Social Policy Council
Magdalena - Fundación

- Had Reported Threats: No ■ Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
■ Social Process and/or human rights affected: LGBTI Community in Fundación - Magdalena, Social Policy Council in the municipality.

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Jesús Alberto Trillos Roján was found in his house with various firearm wounds to the neck and chest. He had arrived the previous night accompanied by several people, at which time an argument was heard. According to press reports, at the time of discovery, his body showed signs of torture and abuse.

In 2013 he was elected LGBT representative to the Social Policy Council in the municipality of Fundación in state of Magdalena. Af-

ter leaving his position, he continued with his work as leader in this group, focusing on cultural activities that included transsexual people. Any possible progress in the criminal investigation into his death is unknown. While Jesús was a leader who had recently worked with the LGBTI population, it is clear in this and other cases of aggression toward this group and its leaders that a strong interest exists to not allow social processes for the LGBTI population to prosper or advance.



February 4, 2015

Heriberto Narváez Hoyos

AGROPEMCA

Cauca - Patía

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Peasant farmers associated with and close to the processes of AGROPEMCA.

Just after one in the afternoon on Thursday February 5th, Heriberto Narváez was murdered in the Cauca community of El Bordo. He was a peasant leader for AGROPEMCA, and leader of the Alternative Democratic Pole (Polo Democrático Alternativo) party in the same municipality.

Narváez Hoyos, 57 years old, was attacked by hit men on motorbikes who intercepted him in a local shop in the Olaya Herrera barrio in the municipality. The political leader managed to make it to the hospital in Popayán alive, but he died before doctors could try to treat him.

Narváez Hoyos was a former candidate for the Bordo Town Council on behalf of the

Polo party. He died from various gunshot wounds in the Calle Nueva, two blocks from the police post in the Cuaca community.

This leader stood out for his defence of local peasant farmers' fundamental rights, as well as for his call for agricultural self-governance and food safety.

On the 27th of December 2013, the councilor for the Sucre municipality Gilberto Daza Vegas was also murdered in el Cauca, just a few meters from the police and in the presence of the Army. At the time of writing, it is not known what the Public Prosecutor's Office has done to explain the crime.



February 8, 2015

Emiliano Silva
Gerardo Velasco

Indigenous Community of Nasa
Cauca - Guachené

- Had Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Nasa Indigenous Community, Toez Reserve.

On a path close to the Guachené (Cauca) municipality, the bodies of two indigenous people belonging to the Toez reserve were found in Caloto, to the north of Cauca. The bodies of the two victims were found with signs of torture, and the victims were identified as Emiliano Silva and Gerardo Velasco, both of whom worked as sugar cane cutters.

These two indigenous men were last seen in a bar in Santander de Quilichao, where they had gone after finishing their day's work. The

Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca (CRIC) has alleged that this reserve is currently being threatened by the "Águilas Negras" gang.

These indigenous men worked in agriculture, and as such, belonged to the processes of training, integration, and protection provided by the Town Hall; processes such as the training of the Indigenous Guard and the providing of logistical support. Indigenous authorities in the region affirm that these men's link to the abovementioned processes goes back more than a year.



February 10, 2015

Héctor William Cabrera Suárez

Board of Small Landholders Brisas de San Pedro
Caquetá - Florencia

- Had Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: 'Parceleros Brisas de San Pedro' Board; Florencia - Caquetá

On the 10th of February, the 46-year-old Héctor William Cabrera Suárez was murdered by a hit man in the barrio Villa Mileidy

de Florencia. The incident was summarized as such by the newspaper El Líder; "according to witnesses of the crime, the victim

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had arrived in a shop located in the street 2C and 12, in the barrio Villa Mileidy, where he ordered a beer. Whilst consuming his second beer, an unknown man approached him and shot him with a firearm in the neck and head". The hit man escaped.

The family of the leader had reported threats that he had received to the Public Prosecutor's Office. Cabrera was the first president of the Small Landholders group of the said settlement (Parceleros Brisas de San Pedro), who had first occupied land in the Santa Bárbara hacienda on the La Montañita road five months ago. The leader had left the settlement due to fear of being murdered, having already been harassed by armed subjects in 2014. Héctor William Cabrera was the lea-

der of the 'Parceleros Brisas de San Pedro' Housing Board, and supported the organizational processes to remain on the Hacienda Santa Bárbara land right from the beginning.

According to the president of the 'Parceleros Brisas de San Pedro' Board, Willinton Murcia, they are claiming these blocks of land as they will be expropriated from the current owners by the authorities. Today there are 76 families that occupy the 800 hectares that comprise these lands. In previous months, violent acts against this vulnerable population were recorded, such as the burning of houses and constant harassment of the occupants. The major worry of the families and Willintón Murcia himself is that the death threats against Héctor William Cabrera Suárez were acted upon.



February 14, 2015

Luis Peralta Cuellar

Emisora Linda Estereo

Caquetá - El Doncello

- Had Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Linda Stereo Radio Station

Luis Peralta Cuellar, a 63-year-old journalist, was murdered on February 14, 2015, at 5:30pm on the sidewalk in front of his house. This is the same place he ran his radio station Linda Estereo, an affiliate of Caracol. The homicide occurred in the municipality of El Doncello. At the time of the attack, Luis was with his wife who was wounded and taken to a hospital in Florencia. Days earlier, Peralta had told his colleague and radio announcer that they had been threat-

ened, although he did not give more details, and neither did he report the threats to the authorities. Peralta was known for his investigative journalism and his voice was heard in five municipalities in the north of the state.

On their journalistic program, they had recently discussed issues about the extraction of oil and related administrative corruption, more specifically the cost overruns in the

acquisition of land compactors. He was also insistent in his reporting of corruption scandals in public businesses in Caquetá, and their affect on the communities in the area of El Doncello as well as on public funds.

Because of his citizen journalism and constant denouncing in favor of the communities, he was considered a defender of human rights.

In August 2010 the Foundation for the Freedom of the Press (FLIP) documented that the police had deactivated an explosive device left in front of the station's building. The package, containing 25 kg of explosives, was found by an employee, who hours before the first broadcast noticed the presence of a rubbish bin

full of sand and with cables coming out of it. The explosive device was programmed to be detonated by means of a mobile phone.

The day before his murder, Friday the 13th of February, Luis Peralta made official his candidacy for the Mayor's Office. It was the first time that Peralta had aspired to win a public election position, and he had never previously occupied any public position.

Throughout his long career as a journalist he founded various media companies and he was a benchmark for journalism in the entire state. The authorities are reviewing the security cameras that are present at the scene of the crime.



February 27, 2015

Gersaín Fernández

Nasa Resguardo Pitayó Indigenous Community
Cauca - Silvia

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: National Army
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Nasa Reserve Pitayó Indigenous Community

The Pitayó reserve community in the rural area of Silvia in the north of Cauca reiterated their call for clarification regarding the death of the indigenous leader identified as Gersaín Fernández. The incident occurred between the limits of the indigenous reserves Jámbalo (La Campiña) and Pitayó (Caparrosa rural district).

According to the first versions provided by the authorities, a soldier had accidentally engaged his weapon, causing the death of

the leader. The victim was a father of four children and was a recognized community leader in the region, and he had been president of the Community Action Committee in the Caparrosa rural district. Towards the end of 2014 he had also acted as head public prosecutor in the cabildo in question.

The Pitayó cabildo stated that the death of Fernández, "is added to similar incidents such as the murder of the pastor Jus-

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tiniano Tunubalá in the year 2008, and the murder of José Reinel Dagua Quinto in 2009, both comunards of the reserve”.

For his part, the commander of the Apolo Task Force, General Wilson Cabra Correa, affirmed that, “an incident under investigation involves a professional soldier, from the 29th Mobile Brigade, a military unit that undertakes military operations in this area of the country”. The Army says that the incident was the result of an accidental discharge of a weapon.

The Pitayó Indigenous Guard took the soldier who discharged the weapon and killed the leader under custody. In a public meeting, the community decided that the soldier would only be handed in to the representative of the Public Prosecutor’s Office or the regional human rights defender. These events took place when members of the military patrol approached the village to buy fish. To date, the Public Prosecutor, the Ombudsman’s Office, and the National Army have not provided any details regarding progress in the investigation.



March 2, 2015

Édgar Quintero

Radio Luna

Valle - Palmira

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Radio Luna, affiliate of Todelar and the Palmira Community - Valle

On the 2nd of March 2015, the journalist Édgar Quintero, also known as ‘Quintín’, was murdered. The events took place at 7:30 pm in a bakery located in the center of Palmira, Valle del Cauca. Quintero was a journalist on the program “Noticias y Algo Más” (News and Something More), broadcast on Radio Luna, an affiliate of the radio station Todelar. On his program he covered various local news topics, including politics.

Quintero was 57 years old at the time of his death. He was shot down when he was in a bakery accompanied by colleagues, supposedly by a hit man who shot him at least seven times. According to colleagues con-

sulted by the FLIP, Quintero was a polemical person because he spoke openly and candidly about the topics he covered.

‘Quintín’ was the director of the program “Noticias y Algo Más”, and he had been working at the station Radio Luna for more than 20 years; he had been practicing journalism for almost 30 years in Palmira. He had also worked in Florencia (Caquetá).

Moreover, his journalistic work was characterized by the strong criticisms he made of the local administration related to acts of corruption and in defence of public funds; for this reason, he is considered to have been a defender of human rights.

The Police Coronel William López stated that the possible perpetrators of the homicide are as yet unknown. As well as this, he indicated that the investigation was being carried out by the CTI (Public Prosecutor's Office) and that he had no knowledge that 'Quintín' had received any threats.

The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (CIDH in Spanish) condemned Quintero's killer in a statement:

"The Office of the Rapporteur expresses its concern, and urges the Colombian authorities to act promptly and effectively in order to clarify the motives of the crime". Furthermore, they called for "the putting into practice of all available legal instruments to identify the persons responsible and to determine if the attack is associated with the exercising of the journalistic profession". They reiterated that Quintero "criticized and denounced the local government" on his radio program.



March 5, 2015

Ever López

Independent Agricultural Workers Union of Meta /
Caño Lindo Rural District
Meta - El Castillo

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: National Army
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Residents of the Caño Lindo rural district; the Independent Agricultural Workers Union of Meta

The Movement of Victims of State Crimes (Movimiento de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado MOVICE) formally reported the disappearance and murder of the peasant leader Éver López to the national authorities. López resided in the rural district of Caño Lindo in the municipality of El Castillo, in the state of Meta.

According to the Independent Agricultural Workers Union of Meta, on the 5th of March of the current year, the resident Alcira Briñez – who resides in the higher parts of the district – informed the mentioned organization that she heard strong bursts of gunfire and that the National Army had been surrounding the area since the early hours of the morning.

At about 10 in the morning the community realized that Éver López had disappeared, so they set out for López's house to check if he was there. However, the National Army denied the villagers passage to the area where his house was located, which was the same place from which the bursts of gunfire were heard.

At midday, the community verified that López was not at his workplace and that his 10-year-old stepchild, Leandro Beltrán, had also disappeared. Facing increasing pressure from the residents of the rural district, they corroborated that Leandro was in the hands of the Army and that the child would only be handed over to Bienestar Familiar (Family

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Welfare Office), as there was a deceased person in the house that needed to be removed.

Finally, the community confirmed that the removal of the body was indeed the peasant leader, Éver López. In response to this case, the Natio-

nal Army has not made any official announcements, and neither has the Public Prosecutor nor the Forensic Institute provided any information related to this homicide. Éver, in addition to working in agriculture, was a well-known peasant leader in the Caño Lindo rural district.



March 17, 2015

Luis de Jesús Rodríguez Parada

Community of La Española – Peasant Farmer's Reserve 'Perla Amazónica'
Putumayo - Puerto Asís

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Community of La Española – Community of La Cabaña, Corregimiento La Carmelita, Municipality of Puerto Asís.

In the evening of Tuesday, March 17, in the Community of La Cabaña, Corregimiento² La Carmelita, Municipality Puerto Asís, in the state of Putumayo, the leader Luis de Jesús Rodríguez Parada and his partner Adenis Jiménez Gutiérrez were murdered in their home.

Two unknown subjects entered their home carrying machetes and a firearm. First they attacked Luis with a machete, cutting his left arm and causing other wounds. Then, they shot him dead. Whilst this was happening, Adenis Jiménez managed to get out and run, screaming for help. At that moment, she received several blows by machete to the head that destroyed her cranium, and after she too was shot dead with a 9mm pistol.

Members of the La Cabaña community saw a motorcycle leave the place of residence

and flee to an unknown destination. Moments after, the members of the community arrived at the scene of the crime and found the lifeless bodies. An employee of a funeral parlor, who claimed to be authorized by the National Police to remove the corpse, did so without taking the necessary precautions to safeguard important pieces of evidence that would have clarified the event.

From the moment the crimes occurred, members of the community informed the appropriate authorities, yet none of them arrived.

In the area there is a strong presence of troops belonging to the Brigada 27 de Selva (27th Jungle Brigade), guarding buildings and oil infrastructure belonging to the Colombia Energy Consortium. In fact, the house of the murdered couple is less than 10 mi-

²'Corregimiento' is a Spanish term used for country subdivisions for administrative purposes. An equivalent does not exist in English.

nutes from the military base in Porvenir. This community is a part of the Puerto Vega corridor in Teteyé, whose communities have historically been fiercely opposed to the expansion of the oil industry due to environmental damage and the social conflicts that it generates.

Luis de Jesús Rodríguez was affiliated to the La Española community, belonging to the Peasant Farmer's Reserve 'Perla Amazónica', and for approximately one year he had been living in

the Community of La Cabaña where he worked along with his partner in a brickworks company, of which he was also a partner.

According to Wilson Medina Guerrero, the president of the CAC (Community Action Committee) "La Española", he held the position of prosecutor for the Community Action Committee - JAL. He is remembered by the president of the JAL as a person who is "...held in highest esteem by the community because of his peace work".



March 24, 2015

Elizabeth Méndez Sánchez

Community of barrio Egipto
Bogotá D.C.

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Community of the barrio Egipto in Bogotá
- Source: <http://www.lacarinosa.com/noticias/asesinan-a-lider-comunitaria-del-barrio-egipto-en-bogota/>

The community leader Elizabeth Méndez Sánchez, from the Egipto barrio in the central east of Bogotá, was found hung and stabbed in her home.

According to the initial investigation carried out by the authorities that took on the case, unknown subjects entered the woman's house to supposedly rob items of value (two mobile phones, a tablet, cash) and they then proceeded to murder the 50-year-old Elizabeth. The criminals, having already robbed the community representative, then tortured her, after which they fled to an unknown destination. It was claimed to have been a robbery, but an act of vengeance has not been ruled out.

The son of the murdered woman, Adrian, has blamed the gangs "Los Plumeros" and "Los Pochos" as being responsible for the death of his mother, because of her having reported robbery and micro-trafficking that these subjects had been carrying out in the area. The son of Elizabeth indicated that these same subjects, weeks earlier, had threatened him when he was playing a game of football in the barrio La Concordia, and that they had followed him several blocks in order to physically harm him.

On June 16 in Bogotá the man who goes by the alias "El Diablo" was captured. He is allegedly the murderer of the leader, and he confessed to having stolen belongings from

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Elizabeth's house to disguise the homicide as a mere robbery. Coronel Rafael Jiménez of the Bogotá Police recognized the leadership of Eli-

zabeth and indicated that an investigation is already well underway to process the alleged perpetrator, who has a prior criminal record.



March 30, 2015

José Joaquín Pinzón

Indigenous Reserve Triunfo Cristal Páez
Valle - Florida

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Indigenous Reserve Triunfo Cristal Páez

The murder of José Joaquín Pinzón, the founder of the indigenous reserve Triunfo Cristal Páez, occurred in the mountainous area of the municipality of Florida, in the Valle del Cauca, on Monday the 30th of March. The homicide happened at night, when José was caught unawares by armed people, who ultimately ended his life. Pinzón received eight bullets in his face, chest, and back.

The Public Prosecutor and the Police reported that at the time José Pinzón had not made any formal report of threats against him. However, some people close to the victim indica-

ted that only a few months ago illegal groups that operate in the area had threatened him. According to Luis Horacio from the Regional Indigenous Organization of el Valle (ORIVAC in Spanish), José was "a well-known leader in the community, as well as the reserve, because of his leadership of organizational processes. These people are at considerable risk."

It is worth recalling that in the year 2003, the mayor of the indigenous community of Villa Pinzón - José María Pinzón Mestizo – who was the brother of José Joaquín, was also shot down and murdered at 61 years of age whilst on his way to his home in rural Florida.



April 5, 2015

Herlen de Jesús Barriosnuevo Posso

Wallis del Carmen Barriosnuevo Posso

Community Action Committee El Corcovado
Bolívar - Achí

- Had Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Paramilitary groups
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: The Community associated to the Community Action Committee El Corcobavo.

On Sunday the 5th of April, on the side of a road in the corregimiento Tacuya Alta, the bodies of the siblings Herlen de Jesús, 42 years of age, and Wallis del Carmen, 36 years of age, were found. The cadavers presented multiple gunshot impact wounds and the investigation being carried out by the authorities points to members of the criminal gang 'Clan Úsuga'. The siblings belonged to one of the Community Action Committees in Achí.

Everything indicates that the siblings were murdered because of their reporting of cases of extortion and violence carried out by members of the gang, and the power they exercise over the region. Or at least this is how Arturo Zea Solano, the director of the Unit for Victims, painted the picture when he confirmed that the leaders had reported threats and that they did not receive any protection. The employee also confirmed that both were outstanding leaders in the area known as El Corcobado, and that they handled land restitution cases for families stripped of their land during the period of paramilitary violence.

According to the Victims Board of the Unit for Attention and Comprehensive Reparation of Victims (Mesa de Víctimas de la Unidad de Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas) in Achí, Bolívar, the victims' leaders had received threats. In Achí, in the south of Bolívar, a difficult situation exists arising from the presence of illegal gangs that fight for the illegal exploitation of gold deposits.

In spite of the statements made by the director of the Unit for Victims, the Police in Bolívar indicated that the murdered brother and sister had not reported any threats to them, and that neither had they reported the presence of the 'Clan Úsuga' in the area. According to the coronel David Navia, the commander of the 4th Infantry Battalion, in the area of Achí, Montecristo, and Tiquisio, the Autodefensas Gaitanistas (self-defence force) in the block Héroes del Sur (Heroes of the South) of the Clan Úsuga operate in the area, led by the man who goes by the alias 'Jonathan'.

Wallis del Carmen lived in the rural district of Bellavista in Achí and was a victim of displacement as well as a health promoter. One version of events, provided by the Police in Bolívar, asserts that she had received death threats the previous Saturday on behalf of the criminal gang, and that because of this she fled toward the municipality of Sucre. It is said that a member of the illegal group contacted her and told her to go to the Tacuya Alta corregimiento in Achí in order to resolve the problem via dialogue. Her brother Herlen, who was also a leader of displaced victims and an operator of heavy machinery, accompanied her to the place indicated by the gang member.

Wallis received three bullets to the chest and another in her right arm, whilst her brother received three in the back and two in the left side of his chest. Their bodies were dumped on a paved road. The murder occurred close to 7pm on Sunday.

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April 7, 2015

Fernando Salazar Calvo

Miners' Association of the 'Cañamomo y Lomapieta del Riosucio y Supía' Indigenous Reserve – ASOMI-CAR - Miners' Association of La Unión
Caldas – Supía

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Indigenous Community of Embera Chamí, Río Sucio Caldas, Miners' Association of the 'Cañamomo y Lomapieta del Riosucio y Supía' Indigenous Reserve.

On the night of Tuesday April 7 at 8pm, an armed man arrived at the residence of the indigenous community leader of 'Embera Chamí' – Fernando Salazar Calvo. His home was located in the Tumba Barreto community in the Cañamomo Lomapieta Reserve, and the armed man proceeded to open fire on him, ultimately killing the leader.

Salazar was 52 years old. He was an indigenous leader who also acted as president of the Miners' Association of La Unión and was a member of the Miners' Association in the 'Cañamomo y Lomapieta' Indigenous Reser-

ve in Riosucia and Supia (ASOMICAR in Spanish). The community leaders brought to the attention of the National Unit of Protection the high-risk situation that the community and traditional miners face, just as the management of human rights CRIDEC manifested to the IACHR (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights).

The Embera Chamí community from the Cañamomo Lomapieta reserve has suffered constant and systematic violations of their human rights, as well as the murder, harassment, and persecution of their leaders.



April 8, 2015

Edward Alexis Granados Flores

Cúcuta Branch of the Penitentiary Workers' Union (UTP)
Norte de Santander - Cúcuta

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Cúcuta Branch of the Penitentiary Workers' Union (UTP)

The CGT (General Confederation of Labor) condemned the murder of Edward Alexis Granados Flores. The murder occurred on the 8th day of April 2015 at 6:00am, whilst Granados Flores was leaving his place of residence to carry out his job as warden for INPEC (Instituto Nacional Penitenciario y Carcelero – National Penitentiary and Prison Institute). He was intercepted on his commute by hit men who shot him two times in the head.

Granados acted as treasurer in the Cúcuta branch of the Penitentiary Workers' Union

(UTP), and recently he had reported acts of corruption inside the jail 'Modelo de Cúcuta'. Since 2013 possible acts of corruption committed by the Director of the Jail had been reported, and at the beginning of 2015 the deaths of at least 20 inmates at the prison were denounced.

It ought to be noted that the UTP is one of the syndicate organizations that has been most victimized. So far this year, various leaders and activists belonging to the union have been threatened and have been the objects of attempted murders.



April 10, 2015

Siberton Guillermo Pavi Ramos

López Adentro Reserve – Píamo Rural District
Cauca - Caloto

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: National Police / ESMAD
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: López Adentro Reserve - el Píamo Caloto Rural District – Cauca, Juvenile Movement Álvaro Ulcué Chocué.

The Association of Indigenous Cabildos in Cauca condemned the attacks, threats, warnings, and homicide of Siberton Guillermo Pavi Ramos who, at the hands of the public forces, died by gunshot wound during the process of the Liberation of the mother earth in the property la Emperatriz, Corinto in Cauca.

Guillermo Pavi Ramos was a young leader who died at just 19 years of age, and he was the son of another leader assassinated by the FARC in December 2000, Guillermo Pavi. Siberton Guillermo Pavi Ramos was a member of the indigenous guard and recently he had been

participating in the Juvenile Movement Álvaro Ulcué Chocué. In his free time he played football. The death of this young man left behind an orphan, namely his 9-month-old daughter.

Weeks before the homicide, on the 5th of March 2015, the Huellas, Tóez y López Adentro Reserve community exercised their control over the indigenous territory and developed a plan for the Liberation of the mother earth. As a response, the national government violently attacked the indigenous people, leaving 45 people wounded, of which 23 were in a serious condition.

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In the hours of the afternoon of the 10th day of April 2015, at around 2:15pm, the community found itself trying to resist the attacks of the ESMAD (Anti-Riot Squad). This is when Guillermo was injured by a bullet fired from within the trenches organized by the public

forces both within and outside of the farm. The comunard was immediately taken to a health center but due to the instability of his vital signs he was sent to Caloto. However, due to the seriousness of his injury, he passed away and was not able to be attended to.



April 27, 2015

Luis Fernando Wolff Isaza

Broad Front for Peace, Antioquia

Antioquia - Medellín

■ Had Reported Threats: No

■ Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown

■ Social Process and/or human rights affected: Broad Front for Peace Antioquia – Medellín

The Broad Front for Peace from Antioquia reported the murder of the teacher Luis Fernando Wolff Isaza, which occurred on the 27th of April in Medellín. Four bullets terminated the life of this 64-year-old university teacher whilst he was travelling in his vehicle through the La Iguañá barrio near the Universidad Nacional in the capital of Antioquia. The victim was the cousin of the senator Antonio Navarro Wolff. According to versions of events collected by the Police, two men who were travelling by motorcycle attacked him at a set of traffic lights.

Wolff was retired from the school of Physics at the Faculty of Sciences at the Universidad Nacional in 2010. He worked for 35 years as a teacher and he still belonged to the teacher's association at the institution.

Luis Fernando Wolff was a social critic, a unionist, an intellectual and a political dissident who was well known in the city. He dedicated his life to the defense of freedom, human rights, peace, and social justice, for which the popular sectors in Colombia have been fighting for decades. He defended the dialogue in La Habana in open discussion spaces, and he was a driving force behind the Broad Front for Peace and Democracy in Medellín. During his life as a social and political fighter, he actively participated in different organizations and popular processes. He was a teacher, researcher, unionist, and founder of the National Union School, activist of the Patriotic Union, and of the Alternative Democratic Pole.



May 3, 2015

Nelson de Jesús Ríos Santamaría

Restitution Process in the Property el Carpintero
in the Municipality of Cabuyaro
Meta - Cumaral

- Had Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Process for the Restitution of the Property el Carpintero in the Municipality of Cabuyaro – Meta

The legal Corporation Yira Castro and the Claretian Corporation NPB denounced the grave situation of persecution that the leaders of the Restitution process are facing in the Property el Carpintero in the Municipality of Cabuyaro, Meta. In addition, they condemned the murder of the lawyer Nelson de Jesús Ríos Santamaría, the legal representative of several of the victims in the process of restitution.

The homicide occurred on the 3rd of May 2015, apparently in the city of Villavicencio on the road to the rural district of Santa Bárbara. His body was found in the Municipality of Cumaral, Meta. The legal authorities report that the lawyer Nelson de Jesús Ríos Santamaría, 60 years old at the time of death, was murdered by hit men who shot him twice in the head.

Within the Restitution process of the Property el Carpintero in the Municipality of Cabu-

yaro, Meta, that is being brought forward in the Civil Court for the Restitution of Land, the lawyers that are currently supporting and legally representing the claimants have denounced discrete acts of pressuring, harassment, and intimidation. The murdered lawyer was representing the peasant farmers who are occupying the property in question.

This murder can be added to the intimidations supposedly made by men from the Frente 48 of the FARC against the lawyer for the restitution of lands, Ruth Delfina, who received five telephone calls, as well as the lawyer Víctor Alejandro Morales, who reported unknown men following both him and his family on the 1st and 2nd of May this year. These dates of intimidations coincide with the homicide of the lawyer Ríos Santamaría.

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May 7, 2015

Viviana Agudelo Zapata

Local Administration Board of the San Antonio de Prado corregimiento³
Antioquia - Medellín

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Local Administration Board of the San Antonio de Prado corregimiento, Medellín, Antioquia

A hit man attacked and murdered the councilor Viviana Agudelo Zapata by firearm, between the barrios Limonar I and II. She was a 34-year-old leader belonging to the Local Administration Board of the San Antonio de Prado corregimiento, south of Medellín.

According to information provided by residents of the sector, the mother of two children was in charge of the area of sports in the Local Administration Board of this corregimiento. It was the first time that she had worked as a councilor for this corregimiento, representing the barrio El Limonar. Apparently, Viviana was out accompanied by some officials that were attending to the emergency situation due to the strong rain that

had battered the south of the Valle de Aburrá on the afternoon of Thursday May 7.

Arnulfo Sánchez, member of the Local Administration Board of San Antonio de Prado, praised the councilor's work and lamented the awful act that, according to him, "makes one want to stop working for the community".

The secretary of Security of Medellín, Sergio Vargas Colmenares, reported that an Army patrol was close to the area of the crime and, during a confrontation with the criminal, managed to capture him. To date, there is no information regarding progress in the investigation nor the motives for the murder of this recognized leader.



May 9, 2015

Gustavo Bañol Rodríguez

Edwin Bañol Álvarez

Indigenous Community Emberá Chamí
Caldas - Anserma

³"Corregimiento" is a Spanish term used for country subdivisions for administrative purposes

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Indigenous Community of Emberá Chamí in Anserma - Caldas

The Organization for the Indigenous Communities of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC in Spanish) and the Cabildo of the Indigenous Reserve of San Lorenzo of the Emberá Chamí, reported the murder of two traditional leaders in the community in acts that occurred on the 9th of May 2015 in the rural district of El Carmelo, in the municipality of Anserma, Caldas.

The events reported indicate that the two community leaders – Gustavo Bañol Rodríguez and his son Edwin Bañol Álvarez – were murdered by firearm. The first man was a traditional medicine doctor, and at the same time father of the governor of the San Lorenzo Reserve (Norman David), who was also his apprentice of traditional indigenous medicine. His son was accompanying him whilst he was carrying out his duties, and they were both murdered after a ceremonial act with one of the families of the community.

According to the official communication from Opiac, the two murdered indige-

nous men, Gustavo Bañol Rodríguez and his son Edwin Bañol Álvarez, died on the 9th of May after having been shot several times in the rural area of the Anserma municipality, located at about 70 kilometers from Manizales, the capital of Caldas.

The indigenous Cabildo of San Lorenzo highlight the fact that this reserve and territory is characterized by having a structure of leadership and spiritual guides who strengthen the territories and communities by means of ancestral medicine. This is part of the culture collected from the uses and customs of the Emberá community in the state of Caldas. They reiterate that in the last decade they have had to face and report serious violations of their human rights, and that there has been an innumerable number of assassinations, massacres, forced displacement, threats, disappearances, territorial conflicts and political and legal persecutions.



May 27, 2015

Juan David Quintana Duque

Human Rights Board of Valle de Aburrá
Antioquia - Medellín

- Had Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Human Rights Board of Valle de Aburrá

Juan David Quintana Duque was murdered by multiple bullet wounds on the mor-

ning of Wednesday May 27 on the 43rd avenue A with 119th street, a street in the

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barrio Popular II which borders with Santo Domingo in the 'comuna 1' of Medellín⁴.

The attack by gunshot occurred just minutes before 9:00 in the morning. According to versions collected by the authorities, more than 20 shots were heard in the area. Juan David Quintana Duque was a young leader who formed part of the Human Rights Board in the Valle de Aburrá, and who was a human rights activist in the comuna 6, working

with the group called "Núcleo del pensamiento" (Nucleus of thought). He also worked in the network of libraries in Medellín.

During his work reporting crimes he received several death threats. On the morning of Wednesday 27th of May, the threats were acted upon. It is thought that during the attack against Quintana, the aggressors used a submachine gun.



May 31, 2015

Alex Fabián Espinosa Carvajalino

National Association of Employees and Civil Servants of the Judicial Branch (Asonal) and MOVICE – Norte de Santander
Norte de Santander - Cúcuta

- HHad Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Asociación Nacional de Empleados y Funcionarios de la Rama Judicial (Asonal) – MOVICE Capítulo Norte de Santander
- Source: <http://www.colectivodeabogados.org/alertas-de-accion-206/denuncias-publicas/articulo/asesinado-alex-fabian-espinosa>

The National Movement for Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) denounced the murder of the union leader and defender of human rights, Alex Fabián Espinosa Carvajalino, who was a member of the Norte de Santander chapter of the Movement. According to available public information, the defender was murdered on the 31 of May 2015 in his home in the city of Cúcuta.

Fabián Espinosa, born in Ocaña, was the treasurer of the National Association of Employees and Civil Servants of the Judicial Branch (Asonal) in Cúcuta for more than 8 years. It is

worth mentioning that Alex Fabián Espinosa Carvajalino had been reporting death threats against him since the year 2011, for which reason he requested to be transferred from Cúcuta to the municipality of Los Patios in 2013.

However, despite his high-risk situation, he never was able to rely on an adequate protection scheme from the UNP (National Unit of Protection). It ought to be remembered that on the 13th of April, the 23-year-old Alexis Lizarazo Carvajal was murdered, who was affiliated to Sintragasolina and member of the General Labor

⁴ The city of Medellín is divided into 16 communes.

Confederation (CGT), an organization that is part of MOVICE in Norte de Santander. The leader was shot twice by hit men. According to figures handed over at that time by CGT, in the last four

years, 17 members of the union organization Sintragasolina had been the victims of violence perpetrated by the criminal group "Los Rastrojos", along with other criminal organizations.



31 May, 2015

María Luz Lucero Figueroa

Social Investment Board

Putumayo - Valle del Guamuéz / La Hormiga

- Had Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Social Investment Board

Unknown people shot the community leader Maryluz Lucero Figueroa, a woman who had been reporting various acts of corruption in her municipality.

All it took was two gun shots by firearm to terminate the life of the community leader, with the event occurring at around 11 pm on the night of Sunday 31st of May whilst she was arriving at her place of residence in the barrio Amistad. As per versions provided by family members, she was arriving at that time after having been at a meeting with community leaders of the municipality.

Lucero Figueroa had been reporting alleged acts of corruption for months to the Public Prosecutor that were supposedly occurring in the municipal Town Hall. She had also denounced several irregularities in various educational establishments in the municipality,

as well as other denouncements against local politicians, denouncements which were in the process of being investigated by the Public Prosecutor and other authority organizations.

Furthermore, she had stood out thanks to her participating in various social processes, leading to her generating a solid reputation not just within her community of the Valle del Guamuéz but also within the entire state.

On various occasions the leader had reported death threats that she had received by unknown people, threats that she reported on her social media accounts according to friends and family.

For their part, neither the police nor any other authority have made any statement regarding this homicide despite these same authorities being aware of the threats. The leader left behind three children.

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June 5, 2015

Ernesto Pejendino Pejendino

Cabildo of La Laguna Pejendino – Indigenous
Community Quillacinga
Nariño - Yacuanquer

- Had Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: Cabildo of La Laguna Pejendino – Indigenous Community Quillacinga

Indigenous Authorities of Colombia – AICO – reported the murder of the Indigenous Leader Ernesto Pejendino Pejendino in an official statement. On Friday the 5th of June 2015 in the Quillasinga Territorio in Minda Rural District, roughly 45 minutes from the urban perimeter of the municipality of Yacuanquer, the Indigenous Authority Indígena Ernesto Pejendino Pejendino was murdered. He was the Governor of the Cabildo of La Laguna Pejendino from the Quillacinga village in the Municipality of Pasto, a member of the Regional Board, Treasurer of the Movement of Indigenous Authorities of Colombia nationally, and a Taita (Traditional indigenous authority) in the municipality.

Preliminary versions indicate that Pejendino was on his way home when, apparently, unknown

men changed his route by tricking him. He was found with two gunshot wounds to the head.

So far the perpetrators of this crime are unknown. His family affirms that the governor Pejendino, who was a metal worker in conjunction with his leadership activities, went out on the day of his murder to deliver a job and then he met with an engineer (whose identity remains withheld). The leader and the engineer then traveled towards the rural area of Yacuanquer to take measurements for preparing metal windows and doors. The Taita had been threatened in a pamphlet for his work in the Cabildo only a few months earlier.



June 17, 2015

Eder Manuel Mielles Tejada

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS
Sucre - San Marcos

- Had Reported Threats: Yes
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: LGBTI Community of San Marcos, Sucre, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS
- Source: Gustavo Adolfo Pérez Rodríguez – Area of Human Rights at Colombia Diversa

Paloma (**Eder Manuel Miele Tejada**) was a LGBTI leader and 28-year-old transsexual woman. She was at a park after midnight on the 17th of June when unknown people shot her in the face with a firearm. According to Caribe Afirmativo, Paloma was a member of the same Project of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, the same one to which Camila Flores belonged (the woman who was murdered in the same municipality in the month of January). She had pre-

viously received threats. There is no information pertaining to alleged perpetrators, nor is there any information regarding motives for the crime.

Whilst Eder was a leader recently working for the LGBTI community, there is a clear pattern in this case and others of aggression against this community and their leaders, with a clear intent to not let them prosper or advance in their social processes.



June 25, 2015

Sandro Arley González

Victim's Association of Alto de las Brisas and LGBTI representative
Antioquia - El Bagre

- Had Reported Threats: No
- Alleged Perpetrator/s: Unknown
- Social Process and/or human rights affected: LGBTI community of El Bagre, Antioquia, Victim's Association of Alto de las Brisas
- Source: Gustavo Adolfo Pérez Rodríguez – Area of Human Rights at Colombia Diversa

The organization Colombia Diversa denounced the homicide of Sandro Arley González, who was murdered by firearm in the barrio Las Brisas in the municipality of El Bagre—Antioquia. The leader was a LGBT representative of victims in the municipality and of the Victim's Association of Alto de las Brisas. He also belonged to the election and setup of the State Board of Victims. It is not known if he had received threats.

In some of these cases, the victims presented signs of torture and cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment. Moreover, the majority

of them took place in municipalities where the processes of visibility and enforceability of rights for LGBT people are still emerging. All this, added to the increase in the number of cases in comparison to the previous year, mean that the situation is becoming extremely serious. Sandro belonged to an emerging group of young LGBTI leaders in the Atlantic coast, and his homicide denotes in this and other cases a high amount of aggression against this community and its leaders - an interest from violent actors to not let them prosper in their social processes.

POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

It is unusual that, in the bi-annual report for January to June of the SIADDHH, political topics and their impact on the exercising of the defense of human rights in Colombia are studied. Nonetheless, due to the complex context for these leaders and activists in 2015, three key topics have been chosen for their damaging results in the first six months of the year, and as such they must be mentioned and analyzed.

1. OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL: CONVENIENT INVESTIGATIONS

In previous reports, the Program Somos Defensores has highlighted the diverse troublesome situations regarding the action of the Office of Attorney General in relation to the lack of investigation and results in the face of the threats against human rights defenders, which now exceed 800 in 5 years from just one armed illegal actor: paramilitary groups. This contrasts with the swift response and capture of those responsible for electronic threats against other types of citizens⁵, when the Attorney General dealt with the responsible party of threats against young female students in just 8 days.

Another situation highlighted in the special report⁶ is how 219 homicides of human rights defenders that occurred between January 2009 and June 2013 are being treated with total impunity, with 95% of the cases never passing the preliminary investigation stage by the Attorney General, with just one case reaching a sentence against the murderers. It is very possible that the impunity figure for these cases is now at 100%, accompanied by an

inexplicable institutional silence at the Office of the Attorney General.

Is there an institutional resistance by the Attorney General to investigate these threats? Why has the Attorney General not achieved a single result in these cases in at least 5 years? Is it possible that the Attorney General has already dealt with those responsible and is omitting this information for some reason? The homicide of more than 400 human rights defenders in the past 5 years is not of any importance to democracy and the building of peace?

With time having passed and by using the Attorney General's actions as a reference, in the last few years it is possible to conclude that there does indeed exist a lack of political and administrative willingness on behalf of the Office of Attorney General to hand out justice to those responsible for the aggressions against human rights defenders in Colombia. Yet in contrast, a clear and decided swiftness and effectiveness is evident at the Office of Attorney General and their investigative bodies when they wish to PROSECUTE and CRI-

⁵Like the case evinced in our report "La Divina Comedia". See at <http://www.somosdefensores.org/index.php/publicaciones/informes-siaddhh/132-la-divina-comedia>

⁶See "Protección Al Tablero" at <http://www.somosdefensores.org/index.php/publicaciones/informes-siaddhh/88-informe-especial-proteccion-al-tablero>

MINIMIZE the defenders of human rights and their actions when they are accused of various crimes.

The above is backed up in that in the first six months of the year, 332 human rights defenders were victims of threats made using 27 pamphlets to threaten their lives and their activities, and the Attorney General showed no sign of progress, NOT EVEN IN A SINGLE CASE. However, the investigative entity has accelerated and acted with unbelievable efficiency to prosecute 15 people in July 2015⁷ (at the time of preparing this report) who were captured for allegedly participating in a series of attacks in Bogotá and disturbances within the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in May this year. Many of these men and women are social leaders and students affiliated to the Peoples' Congress, or activist lawyers who fight for human rights, who were carrying out their actions in defense of human rights in the capital of the Republic.

At the time of writing of this edition, the same national media outlets, who quickly jumped to accuse these youngsters and leaders as being responsible for the attacks in the city, spurred on by the Attorney General and the National Police, have begun to reflect (based on the evolution of the justice proceedings) that the main argument of the principal investigative entity in Colombia has fissures and is beginning to crack⁸.

With things as they are, human rights defenders in Colombia now not only have the FARC, the ELN, the BACRIM, the PARA-

MILITARY GROUPS, and the FFMM as possible aggressors and persecutors of their actions; to this nefarious list we may now add the OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL, who chooses to treat with complete impunity the homicides and threats against defenders, whilst on the contrary accelerating the processes to take them to jail, without just procedural guarantees.

The abovementioned substantiates, unfortunately, the title of this report. For the Attorney General, the human rights defenders are "the Nobodies", faceless, people without enough importance to be protected, but more than enough to be prosecuted.

2. UNP (National Unit of Protection): Broken Promises

During 2014, the country became aware of a series of denouncements of corruption, the detention of public servants, the fleeing abroad of some of these before being captured, and other actions against those involved in the corruption ring that Mr. Andrés Villamizar, the ex-director of the UNP, brought forward to the Attorney General by informing the media in 2014. To date, some of these public servants continue to be inexplicably affiliated to this organization – the UNP.

Now, with the first six months of 2015 having passed, and after the Programa Somos Defensores having published via reports ("Protección al Tablero" - 2013 and "La Divina Comedia" - 2014) the figures and details of

⁷<http://www.eltiempo.com/bogota/explosiones-en-bogota-pistas-para-dar-con-los-responsables/16066545>

⁸<http://pacifista.co/ya-no-son-guerrilleros-los-capturados-por-atentados-en-bogota/>

<http://www.wradio.com.co/noticias/actualidad/errores-de-la-fiscalia-en-capturas-de-presuntos-responsables-de-los-atentados-en-bogota/20150709/nota/2843826.aspx>

the administration of the UNP and their imbalances in terms of budget and protection, the story of the errors does not stop here.

In the month of September 2014, Mr. Andrés Villamizar publically promised⁹ the hiring of the 3000 men working in protection who, to date, are still employed by private companies. This measure of hiring them directly to the Unit was to supposedly avoid corruption. In a public statement Dr. Villamizar indicated that “The Unit will begin directly contracting the 3000 bodyguards that it needs”, as it was “a decision that has been taken and will be carried out in March of April 2015”. Moreover, he said, “this cannot be done from one day to the next”, emphatically mentioning that, “ending the outsourcing does not cost us any money (referring to the State)”.

Yet to date things continue just as before the interview in question: the bodyguards continue to be hired by private security firms, there is no project for the affiliation of these 3000 men to work for the UNP, and the contracts with the private firms were extended and or awarded to other firms.

What is clear, however, is that the outsourcing of protection has not been, is not, and nor will it be a guarantee of employment for the contractors – it is normal to hear that the private security firms do not pay the bodyguards their salaries on time, putting at risk the good provision of the service. Nor is it a guarantee of protection for those under protection, as the procedures at the UNP to award protection

measures continue to be slow and dependent on the ability of the private firms contracted.

In addition to the above, there are other issues as well. According to recent revelations in the press, the UNP and its system of contracting under the shadow of the powerful businessman of private security at the UNP, Mr. Jorge Moreno, is under the microscope. In denouncements made via the news portal Las2Orillas, it is evinced how Jorge Moreno controls an urban army of more than one thousand men, manages the security of those people most threatened in the country, and is identified as being the brains behind the private security cartel in Colombia¹⁰.

With things as they stand, and with the aim of evincing that the denouncements made by the Programa Somos Defensores in their previous reports are not just a part of “magical realism”, the following is a comparison of some public documents to put things into perspective:

Interview with the ex-director, Andrés Villamizar – September 2014¹¹

EL TIEMPO (ET): “What is going to happen with the private contracts?”

Andrés Villamizar (AV): While we make the transition to the new framework, we will sign new contracts with the same companies we have already been working with and we will liquidate the old ones that are being investigated by the Attorney General in the case of corruption in

⁹<http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/unidad-nacional-de-proteccion-cambios-en-sistema-de-contratacion/14539555>

¹⁰“La sombra del poderoso empresario de la seguridad privada en la UNP” <http://www.las2orillas.co/cartel-de-la-seguridad/>

¹¹<http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/unidad-nacional-de-proteccion-cambios-en-sistema-de-contratacion/14539555>

the UNP. I am going to personally keep this under observation. At the present there is no criminal nor fiscal responsibility that prevents us contracting **Protección 33**, Blinsecurity, **Siglo XXI** and Sevicol, all of whom are firms that provide the service of protection.

(AV): 'I respond for the contracts that were allocated'

(ET): What causes the corruption detected in the UNP?

(AV): The internal control audit in the UNP shows that there are 35.000 million pesos of associated costs, not fixed, that are generated each day, such as the daily allowance. In those expenses, which vary from day to day, such as tickets, temporary contracts for cars, etc., is where there may be corruption.

(ET): Has the UNP awarded contracts?

(AV): There has been no corruption in the awarding of contracts, but this is for the Attorney General to determine. I respond for those contracts because I personally awarded them.

(ET): Why weren't irregularities detected?

(AV): It was very difficult to foresee. They created a very sophisticated form of corruption".

Report "La Divina Comedia" – March 2015¹²

"Another worrying issue is the corruption scandal related to the participation of various private security firms that provide protection services to the UNP, which at the time of publication of this report, is subject to investigation by the Attorney General's Office.

"Three of the four firms (Expertos en Seguridad Ltda., Guardianes compañía líder de Seguridad Ltda. and Cobasec Ltda.) of the Temporary Consortium "PROTECCIÓN 33" (a consortium which receives more than 50% of the Protection Program budget of the UNP) were pointed out by the Attorney General's Office as being part of the "Private Security Merry-Go-Round". According to the Attorney General's Office, these firms "made agreements (collusion) to ensure that one of the firms belonging to the consortium would end up being the beneficiary of the job tenders they participated in, thus affecting the other companies presenting tenders who did not form part of the agreement or the State, and for which reason caused the increment in the cost of contracted services, in turn creating unbalance in public expenditure."

...

"The investigators of the Office of Attorney General are analyzing what link Jorge Arturo Ojeda – who is considered as the head of the cartel (of private security) and who has dedicated himself to embezzling the state on several contracts – has with three leading politicians that he referen-

¹²<http://somosdefensores.org/index.php/en/publicaciones/informes-siaddhh/132-la-divina-comedia>

ced in his resume. They include the President of the Senate, José David Name, the current Vice Minister of the Interior and ex-senator Carlos Ferro, as well as the ex-senators Dilian Francisca Toro and Efraín Torrado, all of whom belong to the Social Party of National Unity.”

Article in *las2orillas* – July 2015¹³

*“Jorge Moreno had been through some tough years, but paradoxically it was during this time that he emerged as a businessman... his security emporium consists of the control of various firms such as **Guardianes**, **Starrcop**, and **Temporary Consortiums** such as **Protección 33** and **Siglo 2**, among others. Of the eight firms under investigation, the three biggest ones have a direct link to Jorge Moreno: the main one, his center of operations in the barrio La Castellana, is the firm **Guardianes**”.*

The above evinces important signs that the so-called “Private Security Cartel”, discovered by the Attorney General in 2014, was quite close to the operation of the UNP and merits investigation and concrete results, by establishing that the administration and the public servants were responsible. These same employees who had the duty to monitor the correct and transparent execution of the funds that with such strenuous effort Mr. Villamizar complained about to the Tax Office. **Faced with this situation, the current director of the UNP, Diego Mora, continues to remain silent.**

Lost Contracts?

One of the people who towards the end of 2014 were removed from the public eye was

Mr. Alonso Miranda Montenegro, who served in the UNP as deputy director, secretary general, and director of protection. Three positions that to any unsuspecting outside observer, would indicate his having a significant amount of power within the institution. Alternating between these positions allowed him, with the endorsement of the ex-director, to have control of 80% of contracting at the UNP, which is controlled by the deputy-management of protection and which is distributed among conventional cars, armored cars, bodyguards, cellphones, travel tickets, and so on.

This alliance between Andrés Villamizar and Alonso Miranda began to crumble when they were removed from their positions, one by Presidential order, and the other by dismissal.

This being the case, on the 2nd of July 2015, a press release evinced that many things happened towards the end of the Villamizar – Miranda administration at the UNP, which must be revised in detail. The piece of news is reproduced in its entirety below, published by the newspaper *El Diario*, on the date mentioned. This shall make the analysis much more explicit:

The Strange Loss of a Contract at the National Unit of Protection.

“The issue refers specifically to a contract valued at \$900 million pesos that was signed on the 19th of December 2014, and which is valid until the 31st of the same month (a daily cost of 75 million pesos), with the objective or supervising the security systems being managed by the UNP.

*This same contract, as *EL TIEMPO* was able to find out from official sources, was exten-*

¹³<http://www.las2orillas.co/cartel-de-la-seguridad/>

ded in January and made valid until the last days of February. What's more, they added another 450 million pesos which, added to the initial cost specified in the contract, makes a total of 1.350 million pesos.

The mere fact that this contract was signed for such an elevated amount of money for such a short period of time raised concern in the upper levels of the UNP, for which reason an investigation was requested. But what caused most concern was the fact that the original documents cannot even be found in the entity's archives. There is no trace of them whatsoever.

EL TIEMPO was also able to establish that this contract was signed by Alonso Miranda, the deputy-director of Protection, who was also entrusted at the date of subscription with the position of Secretary General of the entity. These roles he carried out under the management of Andrés Villamizar, who was later replaced by Diego Mora, the current director of the UNP"¹⁴.

The current director of the UNP, Diego Mora, had an inkling that the last Secretary General named by Villamizar (Alonso Miranda) had directly awarded a contract in October 2014 to one of the firms owned by Jorge Moreno with a value of \$650 million pesos (approx. \$260.000 USD). This contract corresponded to the renting of vehicles that one of Moreno's other firms was already providing. That is to say that the UNP paid the contractor twice for the same service.

This same public servant, Alonso Miranda, with the consent of the previous director, had accepted an administrative complaint made

by Moreno Ojeda along with other consortiums, in which they were asking for close to \$300 million pesos as compensation for economic losses made due to one of the contracts allegedly being incorrectly liquidated. Strangely though, the case went straight past the State Council and to the Court of Arbitration, where the State has more chance of losing to private individuals.

Something VERY fishy is going on

All this dramatic staging of kickbacks and perks (which don't stop being discovered) was a clear symptom that something was truly wrong in the National Unit of Protection, and that this very issue should have been a priority in the President's, the Attorney General's, and the Public Prosecutor's agendas. It is their responsibility and constitutional obligation to demand the probity of the public servants both before and after naming them in Management or Ministerial positions.

The fact is that after revising the situation at the UNP mentioned in the report "La Divina Comedia" (The Divine Comedy) in 2014, it is possible to determine that the said report did not go far enough in terms of the infinite irregularities and mismanagement that in time have begun to float to the surface. Everything points toward the confirmation of the theory that the UNP continues to be engulfed by a profound 'inferno', even worse than that of Dante's work.

At the time of publication of this current edition of the report, the General Comptroller of the Republic made a sad but revealing denouncement that confirmed what the Programa Somos Defensores had been saying all along.

¹⁴<http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/unidad-de-proteccion-pide-investigar-perdida-de-originales-de-contrato/16033455>

THE NOBODIES

The UNP and in turn the protection of people at risk in Colombia has been the victim of a premeditated and shameless attack on its finances by the past administration of the entity. The report provided by the Comptroller (hereon after CGR), found profound irregularities in the finances and management of public money that was bestowed upon the previous administrations¹⁵. Through an explicit press statement, the CGR revealed how almost 15.000 million pesos had been mislaid (USD \$6.000.000). Unnecessary weapons were bought, contracts infringing the law were renewed, and basically they left the UNP with a deficit of more than 32 billion pesos (USD \$12.800.000). Due to the importance of the issue and with the aim of credibly transmitting the concepts provided by the CGR, we shall transcribe their conclusions below:

- *"Financial damage suspected to be in the vicinity of \$14.790 million pesos was established, by means of payments without proof and various "reimbursable expenses" (plane tickets, tolls, gasoline).*

- *The UNP acquired 1.669 pistols, yet the number of contracted guards does not exceed 400.*

- *Outsourcing has generated high costs for the UNP and that, joined with the deficiencies in the control and monitoring of contracted services, has resulted in a present fiscal deficit of \$33 billion pesos for 2015.*

- *In an example of wasteful management, the entity rented bulletproof vests when previously they had acquired similar items without them being provided to the security systems.*

- *The rent of these bulletproof vests continued to be paid, even when in their storage facility at the UNP they had a monthly average of 5.795 of these items.*

- *The CGR also questions the validity of the entity being allowed to rent vehicles, with many not having any assigned beneficiary and others would have been found available.*

- *The Comptroller issued an unfavorable opinion regarding management and results of the UNP for the year 2014. The entity's account did not conclude there, and their opinion about their countable states was negative.*

- *The UNP violated the budgetary principals of acquiring commitments without having the necessary availability and money. Also, contracts were shown which exceeded their respective validity.*

...

- *Contractors and operators of the security systems were owed by the UNP around \$41.454 million pesos in 2014, and in light of the budgetary commitments for 2015 the entity has been obliged to pay \$21.012*

¹⁵PRESS RELEASE No. 135. "Graves anomalías administrativas detectó la Contraloría General en la Unidad Nacional de Protección (UNP)" http://www.contraloriagen.gov.co/web/guest/boletinpresna/-/asset_publisher/mQ19/content/graves-anomalias-administrativas-detecto-la-contraloria-general-en-la-unidad-nacional-de-proteccion-unp-?redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.contraloriagen.gov.co%2Fweb%2Fguest%2Fboletinpresna%3Fp_id%3D101_INSTANCE_mQ19%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-2%26p_p_col_pos%3D2%26p_p_col_count%3D3

million. These contracts did not have the respective certificates for budgetary availability for the continuation of their execution, which affects the availability and execution for the fiscal 2015.

- *Financial component – countable from the UNP: “The errors or inconsistencies, exceptions, and limitations found affect the reasonability of these said countable states that rise to “\$42.357,2 million”.*

- *Based on a declaration of Manifest Urgency¹⁶ on the 15th of September 2014, contracts that had been approved more than 100 days earlier were underwritten, which constitutes a breach of the principle of immediacy that is required for the adoption of this measure.*

- *The CGR considers that there is no certainty regarding the real necessity that the UNP had to contract a private firm for the supervision of the contractors that provide security systems, if during 5 months and 19 days 6 contracts were implemented, without there being any intermediation by any third party for auditing purposes.*

- *According to information recorded in their databases, in March 2015 the UNP has a total of 9.646 beneficiaries of the Protection Program. According to the Comptroller, the information is outdated and presents several inconsistencies.*

- *Since the inception of the Entity, the staff has not been able to rely on enough necessary vehicles to directly provide the service of protection that they were established to do, for which reason they have had to resort to the outsourcing of these services.*

- *Outsourcing has generated high costs for the UNP, which coupled with deficiencies in controlling, tracking, monitoring, and the supervision of the provision of these services (protective systems, leasing of vehicles, supply of gasoline, etc.), has resulted in the Entity having a deficit of approximately \$40 billion pesos.*

- *The Entity is facing a high risk of legal and financial damage because of administrative and contractual complaints of more than \$140 billion pesos, which have manifested themselves to the protection system contractors as asset damages by force majeure, increases in benefits and parafiscal charges, delays in the payment of bills, the increase in the cost of labor, and remunerated leave and adjustments for inflation, amongst other factors.*

- *The UNP is not being coherent in their assigning of protection measures to the beneficiaries in compliance with the level of risk that they present, and they are cancelling protection system resources when the situation does not warrant it.*

- *The Entity has assigned vehicles to people who are not under the Protection Program¹⁷.*

But justice is far from coming down on the responsible parties of this administrative and financial disarray. The three most important public servants of the UNP in the past administration, who were responsible for the managing of finances at the entity, have since taken diverse paths and justice still has not shown itself regarding their situation:

¹⁶A legal situation in which in cases of emergency which require immediate action, the State can contract people to avoid present or imminent future problems.

¹⁷Idem

THE NOBODIES

Public Servant	Current Situation	Response by Justice
Andrés Villamizar: Director	Manager of the political campaign of Enrique Peñalosa, candidate for the Mayor of Bogotá (2016-2020): ¹⁸	No investigation.
Alonso Miranda: Ex-Deputy Director of protection, Ex-Secretary General in charge, Ex-Director in charge	Left the country in 2015 ¹⁹	No investigation.
Julián Marulanda: Ex-Secretary General	Left the country in 2014 ²⁰	Investigation.

All that remains is to posit one last disheartening question, when faced with so many warnings made in the past about errors at the UNP that El Tiempo and the controlling authorities will confirm: Mr. President, Mr. Minister of the Interior – who is going to answer for the monumental theft of the protection of people at risk in Colombia?

3. INTELLIGENCE OFFENSIVE: NOBODY'S LAND

Nobody's land; this is the best classification for the control of the use of intelligence, its organisms, and resources in Colombia. Since 2013 the institutional magazine of the Programa Somos Defensores²¹ has been pointed out how the intelligence offensive continued to be a weapon against leaders, legalized in part by the implementation of a large packet of laws and decrees, headed by the Law of Intelligence and Counterintelligence No. 1621 of 2013. This law, with its considerable legal loopholes,

permitted the operation of intelligence with less control and greater freedom. A part of this disorder continues today, since the President himself of the Senate Intelligence Commission, Mr. Carlos Fernando Galán, has accepted that the said commission entrusted with the monitoring, control, and tracking of intelligence in Colombia established by the Law 1621, has been inactive now for several months²².

In 2014 in the report "The Divine Comedy"²³, emphasis was made on the increase in sensitive information theft from defenders and social leaders, and how these thefts coincided with the acts of aggression against them²⁴, as well as the decontrol in the use of intelligence devices which, judging on the incidents of last year, were at the disposition of whoever had enough money and contacts to use State intelligence in favor of their interests. This was evinced by the scandals revealed in 2014, such as the hacker Sepúlveda and the presidential campaign of Oscar Iván Zuluaga (from the right-wing political party of the Ex-President and current senator Álvaro Uribe, "Centro Democrático), as well as the illegal interceptions of information from the representatives of the national government at the Peace Talks Roundtable in La Habana and the email account of the President Santos himself, and the misuse of the so-called "Sala Gris" (grey room) of the National Army to trace journalist's and opposition emails, to name but a few cases.

¹⁸<http://lasillavacia.com/quienesquien/perfilquien/andres-villamizar-pachon>

¹⁹<http://www.las2orillas.co/el-hombre-se-volo-dejando-hueco-fiscal-en-la-unidad-de-proteccion/> y <http://www.radiosantafe.com/2015/08/03/subdirector-de-la-unp-se-volo-con-documentos-oficiales/>

²⁰<http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/julian-marulanda-investigado-por-corrupcion-en-la-unp-se-fugo-a-miami/14494735>

²¹Magazine Revelando No. 4. Atricle "La Vida de Nosotros" Pág. 54. <http://somosdefensores.org/index.php/en/publicaciones/revista-revelando/82-revista-revelando-recargada>

²²<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/investigacion/al-das-tambien-le-ofrecieron-el-cuestionado-software-es-articulo-573581>

²³2014 Report "La Divina Comedia". p. 63. <http://www.somosdefensores.org/index.php/publicaciones/informes-siaddhh/132-la-divina-comedia>

²⁴<http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/actualidad/roban-equipos-informaticos-a-ong-de-antanas-mockus/20150120/nota/2596560.aspx>

These scandals related to the misuse of State Intelligence were accompanied by other cases in the first half of 2015 that are even more worrying. To begin with, the ex-private secretary of the President and the ex-director of DAS (Administrative Department of Security) in the period of Álvaro Uribe was found guilty of illegally intercepting human rights defenders, government opponents, and members of the high court. These ex-public servants were sentenced to 8 and 14 years prison respectively²⁵. Other members of the government of the mentioned presidential period were also investigated for the same acts and results are expected soon. This demonstrates that the denouncements made in previous years by defenders and members of the opposition in Colombia were in fact true, and state intelligence was used to spy on them illegally and harm them afterwards.

An alarming event recorded in 2015 was the capture of members of the National Police related to the use of state interception mechanisms, in the aid of the denominated paramilitary and drug-trafficking group a" La Oficina de Envigado" (The Office of Envigado). According to official sources, the policemen involved intercepted telephone calls and emails from the facilities of the Judicial Police Department (DIJIN), and later on they would sell the intercepted information to the abovementioned criminal group²⁶. This last fact and the misuse of national intelligence by the National Police are deeply concerning.

Since 2013, the National Police Force of Colombia has been able to boast one of the most

modern mechanisms in all of Latin America to intercept communications, called "P.U.M.A." (Plataforma Única de Monitoreo y Análisis). This platform offers the ability to intercept and analyze in real time more than 20.000 communications, and cost more than 100 billion pesos (approx.. \$40.000.000 USD)²⁷. In 2014, the Attorney General himself expressed his concern about this platform, its reach, and the regulation of a mechanism so powerful being in the hands of the National Police²⁸, to the point that he decided to suspend its being brought into operation until it is standardized both politically and technologically as the only digital interception platform accepted by our legislation. This is in the power of the Attorney General: "Hope (Esperanza)". During 2015, the Police and the Attorney General have worked together in the adaptation of P.U.M.A. and according to the director of Police, General Rodolfo Palomino, it will be brought into service in October 2015.

But the "icing on the cake" was, without doubt, the discovery of the relationship that has existed for several years between the National Police and their intelligence department with the Italian technology form of interception "Hacking Team"²⁹. This firm advises the Colombian institution on the application and use of a powerful spying tool called "Remote Control System", known as "Galileo"³⁰. This firm has been lauded internationally for their technological progress but at the same time criticized for creating mechanisms which are incredibly invasive and which are aimed at spying on citizens, as well as their questionable clients like the "Rapid

²⁵<http://www.fiscalia.gov.co/colombia/noticias/destacada/sentenciados-maria-del-pilar-hurtado-y-bernardo-moreno-las-cabezas-visibles-de-intercepciones-ilegales-en-el-das/>

²⁶<http://www.elheraldo.co/nacional/destapan-nuevo-escandalo-por-intercepciones-ilegales-203601>

²⁷<http://www.enter.co/chips-bits/seguiridad/detras-de-las-huellas-del-puma-de-la-policia/>

²⁸<http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/sistema-de-intercepcion-de-la-policia-puma/14462092>

²⁹<http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/los-lios-de-hacking-team-por-informacion-hackeada/434391-3>

³⁰<http://derechosdigitales.tumblr.com/post/123376291201/chile-mexico-colombia-ecuador-panama-y>

Action Battalion from Bangladesh, who were pointed out four years ago by Human Rights Watch as being a death squadron”³¹.

“Galileo” is offered as a very special information package capable of “Listening and even recording Skype calls. Accessing emails and chat applications like Whatsapp, Viber, Hangout, or Telegram. Activating the microphone and camera of cellphones. Detecting the location of a telephone. Recording all the movements that are made on a keyboard (of a telephone or computer), which can include passwords”³². All this, among many other actions, which are clear invasions of privacy.

At the time of publication of this report, neither the Police nor the National Government of Colombia has made any statement regarding this delicate issue. According to revelations uncovered by a filtration of information by the “Hacking Team” online, the relationship between the National Police of Colombia and the firm has been confirmed until October 30, 2016³³. The existence of this relationship was rejected by the Police who, in a brief press release, said that they had no commercial relationship with the Italian firm. This much is true, given that the business of buying the “Galileo” system was done using an intermediary company ROBOTEC, an associate of “Hacking Team” in this country³⁴.

And inside this dark panorama appear elements from the past that allow one to prove

these situations as being a chain of linked events and not merely isolated occurrences. William Merchán López, the ex-DAS agent and member of the G3 – a group responsible for spying on “political targets” during the administration of the president Álvaro Uribe – and who today is a key employee of the Technical Body of Investigations (CTI) which is a branch of the Office of Attorney General, was revealed in an information leak from the Hacking Team online, as being the public servant who put the Italian firm and the Police and the Attorney General in contact. And in passing, they confirmed the existence of the “Galileo” system in these Colombian institutions³⁵. All of these discoveries have been accompanied by a mysterious institutional silence, which to the minds of the human rights defenders does not bode well.

As is apparent, the issue of the use of the intelligence offensive to “monitor” and keep an eye on all Colombian citizens is not a mere science fiction story but indeed a terrible reality. Now it would suffice to posit the question that if with this capacity of interception of information, is it now possible to deal with those responsible for the threats made to human rights defenders? Or on the contrary - what possible connection exists between the technological “muscle” for spying, and the loss and theft of sensitive information of the human rights defenders in Colombia?

³¹<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/investigacion/al-das-tambien-le-ofrecieron-el-cuestionado-software-es-articulo-573581>

³²idem

³³<http://www.csoonline.com/article/2944333/data-breach/hacking-team-responds-to-data-breach-issues-public-threats-and-denials.html>

³⁴idem

³⁵idem



PROGRAMA SOMOS DEFENSORES

PROGRAMA NO GUBERNAMENTAL DE PROTECCIÓN A
DEFENSORES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

REPORT FOR JANUARY – JUNE 2015 INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR ATTACKS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN COLOMBIA - SIADDHH

According to records in the Information System for Attacks against Human Rights Defenders -SIADDHH- gathered by the Non-Governmental Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders - Somos Defensores³⁶, during the first 6 months of 2015, **399 men and women defenders** were the victims of some type of attack that put their lives and integrity at risk, and which hampered their legitimate and legal work in the defense of human rights in Colombia.

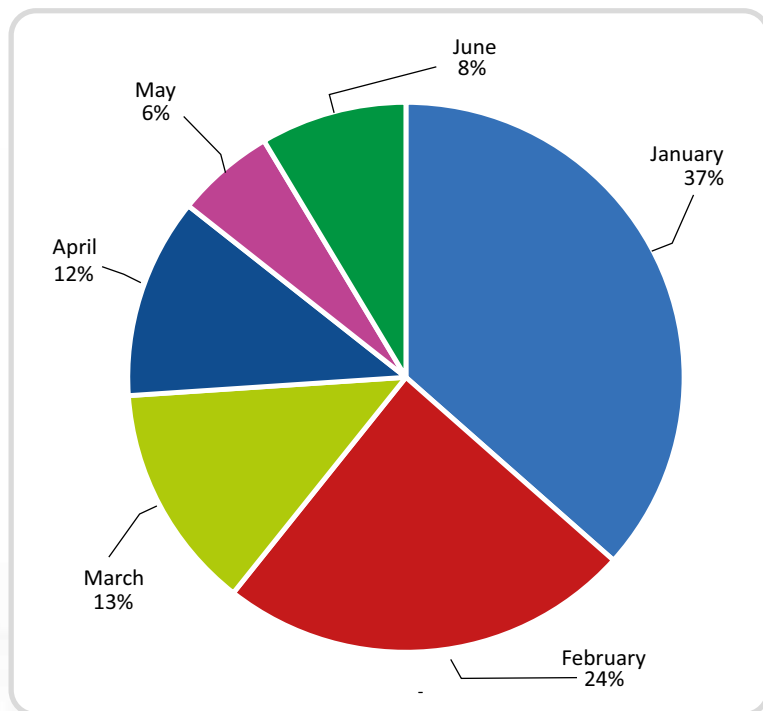
INDIVIDUAL ATTACKS

In the first half of the year, **an increase of approximately 105% in individual attacks against defenders** was recorded, in relation to the same period of 2014. Between January and June 2014, the Information System recorded 194 defenders having been attacked; in 2015, in the same time period, there were 299 cases.

Upon referring to the occurrence of these attacks by month, we see that the greater number of recorded cases was in the month of January 2015, with a total of 146 attacks, followed by February with 96, March with 53, April with 47, June with 34 and finally May with 23 attacks.

³⁶This System records information that the Programa Somos Defensores has direct knowledge of, and information provided by first-hand sources, like the Social and Non-Governmental Organizations that report cases to the Program.

Number of Individual attacks by month Figures SIADDHH
January - June 2015



Source: SIADDHH- Programa Somos Defensores 2015

In relation to the attacks by sex, it is seen that, of the 399 defenders attacked during January and June 2015, 65% were men and 35% women. This represents an increase in the attacks against women defenders of human rights in comparison to their percentage in 2014 of 19%.

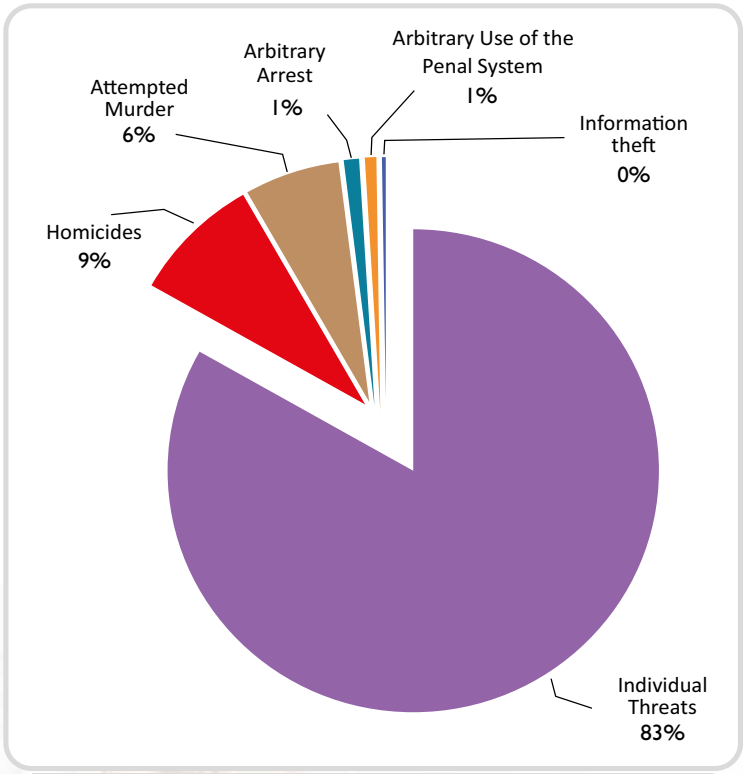
"The indigenous, peasant, LGBTI, and community leaders were the common target of attacks in the first half of 2015"

ATTACKS ACCORDING OT TYPE OF VIOLENCE

In the period of time that this report includes, information was gathered which evidences **six types of attacks against human rights defenders in Colombia**: murders, attempted murders, threats, arbitrary arrests, arbitrary use of the penal system, and information theft.

Attacks by Sex	Number
Women	141
Men	258
Total Individual Attacks	399

Types of Individual Attacks Figures SIADDHH
January - June 2015



Source: SIADDHH - Programa Somos Defensores 2015

Type of Individual Attacks	Number of Attacks Jan - jun 2014	Number of Attacks jan - Jun 2015
Threats	105	332
Murders	30	34
Attempted Murders	29	25
Arbitrary Arrests	18	4
Arbitrary Use of Penal System	7	3
Information Theft	4	1
Disappearance	1	No Record
Individual Attacks	194	399

“On average, between January and June 2015, 2 defenders were assaulted each day, and every 5 days one of them was murdered”

The Murder of Defenders

In this first half of the year, the figures for homicides increased: between 2014 and 2015, we have seen an **increase of 15% in homicides**. In this first half of this year, it has surpassed the 30 reported cases in the first half of 2014, reaching **34 men and women defenders and social leaders who have been murdered in the first six months of 2015**. Below we shall summarize their names as a recognition of their work, and so that they are not forgotten and that justice is served.

Tabla De Homicidios A

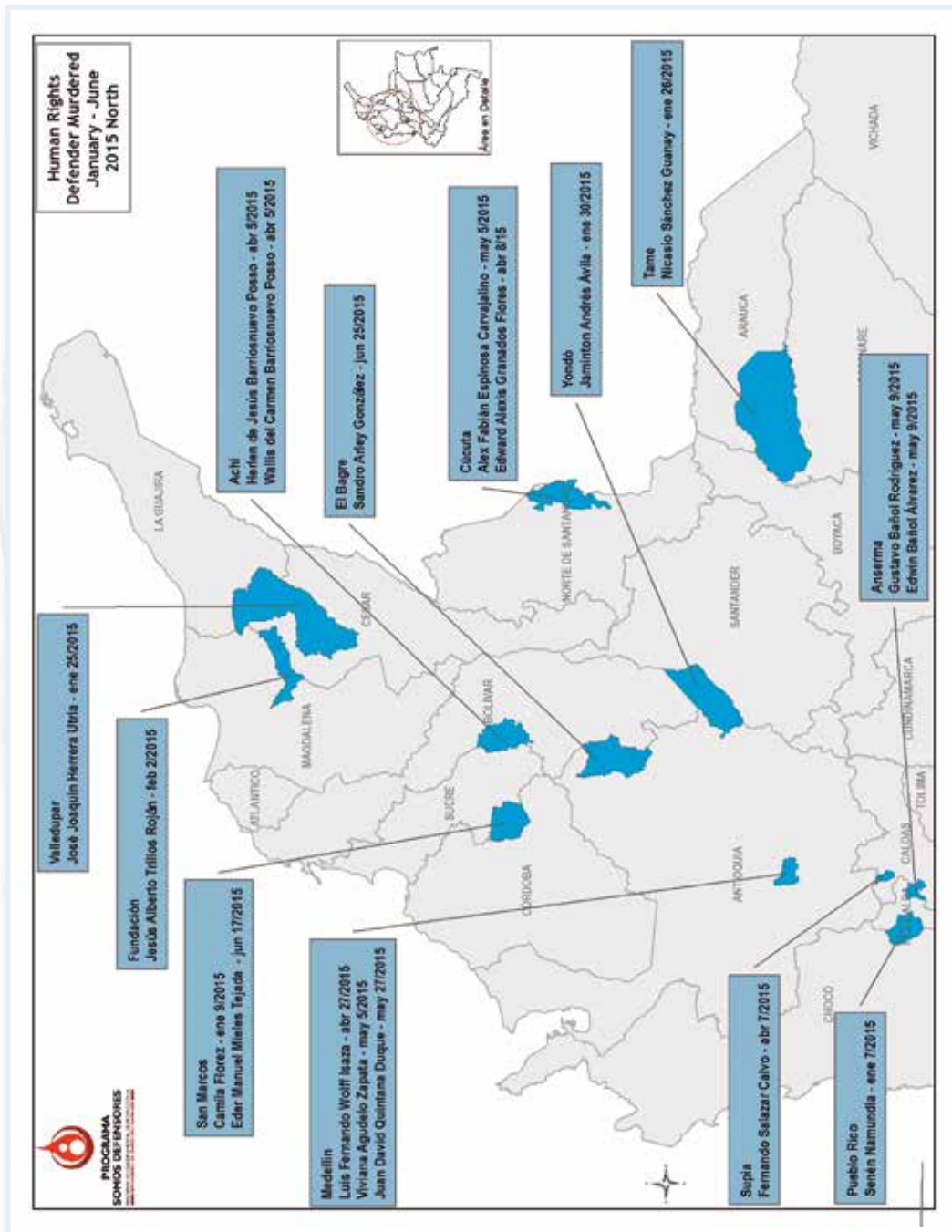
STATE	PLACE	VÍCTIM	ORGANIZATION	TYPE OF LEADER	BE RESPONSIBLE	DATE
Risaralda	Pueblo Rico	Senén Namundia	Pueblo Indígena Embera Chami	Indigenous Leader	unknown	07/01/2015
Sucre	San Marcos	Camilia Flores	Mecanismo Coordinador de País (MCP) / Fondo Mundial de prevención de VIH/SIDA	LGBTI Leader	unknown	09/01/2015
Bogotá	Molinos	Carlos Alberto Pedraza Salcedo	Proyecto Nurca Más, Movimiento de Víctimas de crímenes de Estado	Social Leader	unknown	21/01/2015
Cesar	Valledupar	José Joaquín Herrera Utría	La Brigada LGBT	LGBTI Leader	unknown	25/01/2015
Arauca	Tame	Nicasio Sánchez Guanay	Comunidad de la Vereda Puerto Gaitán	Peasant Leader	ELN	26/01/2015
Antioquia	Yondó	Jaminton Andrés Ávila	Junta de Acción Comunal de la vereda El Porvenir / Zona de Reserva Campesina del Valle del Río Cimitarra	Community Leader	unknown	30/01/2015
Magdalena	Fundación	Jesús Alberto Trillos Roján	Comunidad LGBTI Fundación - Magdalena, Consejo de Política Social del municipio.	LGBTI Leader	unknown	02/02/2015
Cauca	Patía	Heriberto Narváez Hoyos	AGROPEMCA	Peasant Leader	unknown	04/02/2015
Cauca	Guachené	Emiliano Silva	Pueblo Indígena Nasa	Indigenous Leader	unknown	08/02/2015
Cauca	Guachené	Gerardo Velasco	Pueblo Indígena Nasa	Indigenous Leader	unknown	08/02/2015
Caquetá	Florencia	Héctor William Cabrera Suárez	Junta de Parceleros Brisas de San Pedro	Community Leader	unknown	10/02/2015
Caquetá	El Doncello	Luis Peralta Cuellar	Emisora Linda Estereo	Journalist	unknown	14/02/2015
Cauca	Silvia	Gersaín Fernández	Pueblo Indígena Nasa Resguardo Pitayó	Indigenous Leader	Colombian Army	27/02/2015
Valle	Palmira	Édgar Quintero	Radio Luna	Journalist	unknown	02/03/2015
Meta	El Castillo	Ever López	Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas Independientes del Meta / vereda Caño Lindo	Peasant Leader	Colombian Army	05/03/2015
Putumayo	Puerto Asís	Luis De Jesús Rodríguez Parada	Comunidad de La Española - Zona de Reserva Campesina Perla Amazónica	Communal Leader	unknown	17/03/2015
Bogotá	Egipto	Elizabeth Méndez Sánchez	Comunidad del barrio Egipto	Community Leader	unknown	24/03/2015
Valle	Florida	José Joaquín Pinzón	Resguardo Indígena Trujillo Citará	Indigenous Leader	unknown	30/03/2015

Tabla De Homicidios B

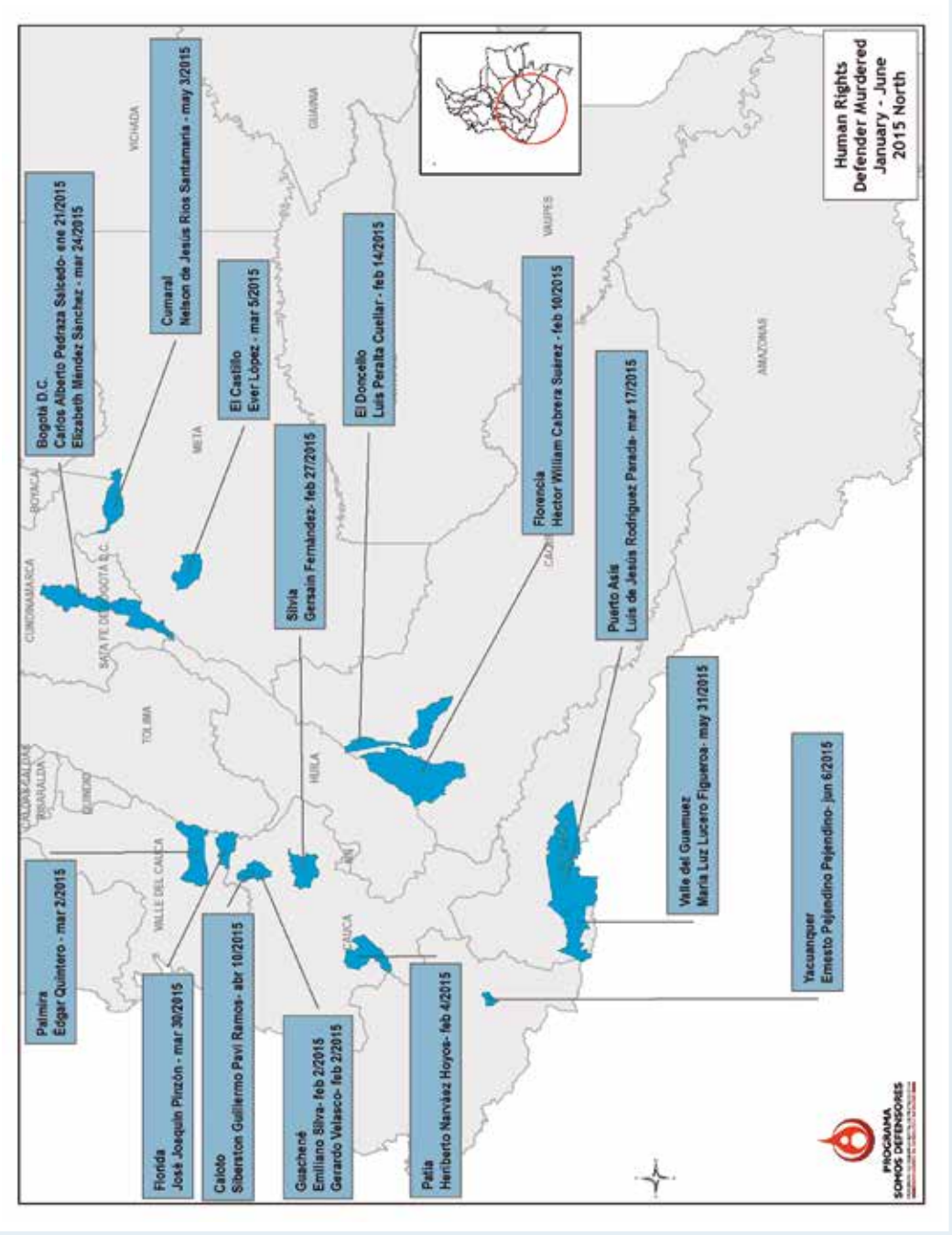
STATE	PLACE	VÍCTIM	ORGANIZATION	TYPE OF LEADER	BE RESPONSIBLE	DATE
Bolívar	Achí	Herlen de Jesús Barriosnuevo Posso	Mesa de Víctimas	Víctims Leader	Paramilitaries	05/04/2015
Bolívar	Achí	Wallis del Carmen Barriosnuevo Posso	Mesa de Víctimas	Víctims Leader	Paramilitaries	05/04/2015
Caldas	Supía	Fernando Salazar Calvo	Asociación de mineros del Resguardo Indígena Cañamomo y Lomapieta de Riosucio y Supía ASOMICAR - Asociación de Mineros de la Unión	Indigenous and Mining Leader	unknown	07/04/2015
Norte de Santander	Cúcuta	Edward Alexis Granados Flores	Sindicato Seccional de Cúcuta de la Unión de Trabajadores Penitenciarios - UTP	Union Leader	unknown	08/04/2015
Cauca	Caloto	Siberston Guillermo Pavi Ramos	Resguardo de López Adentro - Vereda el Pilamo	Indigenous Leader	Police	10/04/2015
Antioquia	Medellín	Luis Fernando Wolff Isaza	Frente Amplio por la Paz Antioquia	Social Leader	unknown	27/04/2015
Meta	Cumará	Nelson De Jesús Ríos Santamaría	Proceso de Restitución en el Predio el Carpintero Municipio de Cabuyaro	Lawyer of Human Rights	unknown	03/05/2015
Antioquia	Medellín	Viviana Agudelo Zapata	Junta Administradora Local del corregimiento San Antonio de Prado	Communal Leader	unknown	07/05/2015
Caldas	Anserma	Gustavo Bañol Rodríguez	Pueblo Indígena Emberá Chamí	Indigenous Leader	unknown	09/05/2015
Caldas	Anserma	Edwin Bañol Álvarez	Pueblo Indígena Emberá Chamí	Indigenous Leader	unknown	09/05/2015
Antioquia	Medellín	Juan David Quintana Duque	Mesa de Derechos Humanos del Valle de Aburrá	Youth Leader	unknown	27/05/2015
Norte de Santander	Cúcuta	Alex Fabián Espinosa Canvajalino	Asociación Nacional de Empleados y Funcionarios de la Rama Judicial (Asonal) y Movice - Norte de Santander	Union and Victims Leader	unknown	31/05/2015
Putumayo	Valle del Guamuez	Maria Luz Lucero Figueroa	Mesa de Inversión Social	Community Leader	unknown	31/05/2015
Nariño	Yacuanquer	Ernesto Pejendino Pejendino	Cabildo de La Laguna Pejendino - Pueblo Indígena Quillacinga	Indigenous Leader	unknown	05/06/2015
Sucre	San Marcos	Eder Manuel Miele Tejada	Fondo Mundial de prevención del VIH/SIDA	LGBTI Leader	unknown	17/06/2015
Antioquia	El Bagre	Sandro Arley González	Asociación de Víctimas del Alto de las Brisas y representante LGBTI	LGBTI Leader	unknown	25/06/2015

THE NOBODIES

Mapa de Asesinatos 1



Mapa de Asesinatos 2



THE NOBODIES THE NOBODIES THE NOBODIES

THE NOBODIES

Of the 34 murders, 85% correspond to men and 15% to women. Cauca and Antioquia are the states in which the highest number of defenders were recorded, with 5 each. They are followed by Caldas with 3, Bogotá, Bolívar, Caquetá, Meta, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, Sucre and Valle del Cauca with 2; and finally Arauca, Risaralda, Cesar, Magdalena and Nariño with 1 case of homicide each. Of these 34 homicides, in 13 of them the sources consulted confirmed that the defender had reported threats against them before their murders; in the remaining 21 cases, they had not reported any threats.

Furthermore, of the 34 homicides, 29 of them were carried out with firearms, 4 with bladed weapons, and 1 case of murder by striking with a blunt object. According to the reports received by the Program, in 6 cases there was clear evidence of torture in the defenders' bodies. This practice was especially evident in the homicides of the leaders which belonged to the LGBTI community, and the homicides which occurred in the state of Putumayo.

"Between January 2002 and June 2015, 452 human rights defenders have been murdered in Colombia"

Type of Defender	No. Homicides
Indigenous Leader	9
LGBTI Leader	5
Communal Leader	4
Community Leader	4
Peasant Farmer Leader	3
Social Leader	2
Journalist	2
Lawyer Defending Human Rights	1
Mining Indigenous Leader	1
Juvenile Leader	1
Union Leader	1
Union and Victims Leader	1

The high levels of planning and following in relation to the murders continues to be evident. In **ALL** cases, it is evinced that the crimes occurred either in the early hours of the morning, or late at night when the leaders were leaving for work or coming home. No homicides were recorded whilst the defenders were carrying out their duties; on the contrary, the homicides occurred at different times from their work or human rights activities.

It must be pointed out that in many cases of these homicides, family members or friends of the defenders were also attacked in the murders; this same situation was detected in the analyses in 2012, 2013, and 2014. In fact, in addition to the homicides of the defenders, at least 3 family members who were with them at the time were also reported as murdered. This situation reveals the high risks that family members and close friends of defenders face. This situation doubly affects the social leaders and defenders, as their activity is seen as being dangerous for those close to them and in many cases causes social rejection, stigmatization, and abandonment by family and friends.

The leaders and defenders with the highest number of murders recorded against them were the indigenous (9 cases) the LGBTI movement (5 cases), the community (4 cases), and peasant farmers (3 cases). The majority of cases were attributed to unknown subjects (28 cases), followed by Public Forces (3 cases), paramilitaries (2 cases), and ELN guerrillas (1 case).

“As a result of these 34 murdered defenders, 34 peasants’, communal, indigenous, union, victims’, lands and communities, LGBTI, cultural, and juvenile processes have lost their leader, their training, their experience, and their knowledge.”

Individual Threats

En the period of January to June 2015, 332 defenders were threatened throughout the country. This is a trend that has continued from September 2014 when a bombardment

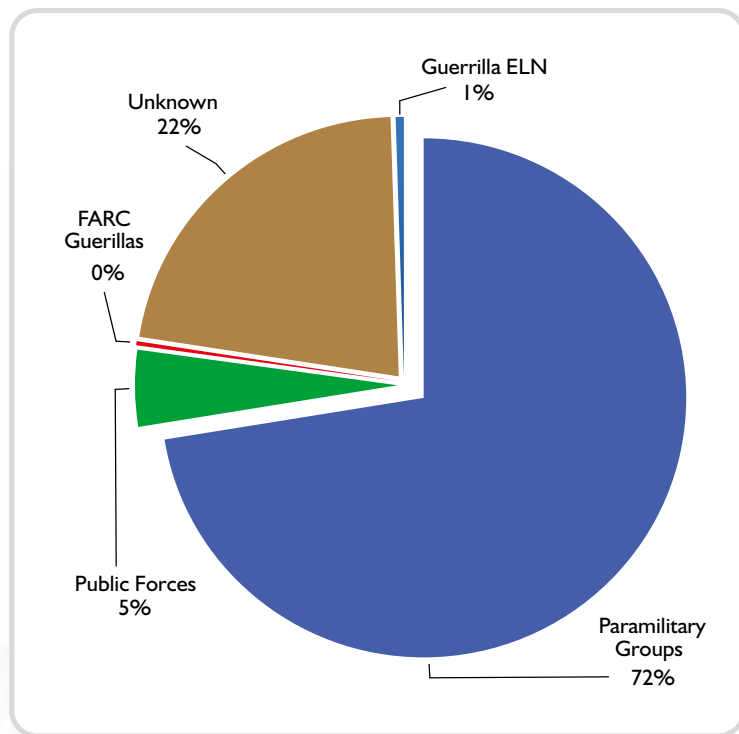
of mass threats in which 15 threatening pamphlets were recorded, with a total of 27 being recorded so far in 2015. It is calculated that between 2014 and 2015 for the period of analysis of this report (Jan – Jun), there has been an **increase of defenders threatened of 216%** (from 105 defenders threatened in 2014 to 332 in 2015 in the same period); this increase is attributed to the mass threats.

Of the alleged responsible parties of the threats during this first half of the year, we find that the paramilitary groups of diverse denominations recorded 282 cases, with unknown perpetrators recording 44 cases, and State security institutions (Army and PONAL) appearing with 3 alleged cases of responsibility.

Alleged Perpetrator	No. of Threats
Public Forces	3
Unknown	44
Paramilitary group Águilas Negras	167
Paramilitary group Rastrojos	47
Paramilitary group Urabeños	9
Other Paramilitary groups	59
FARC Guerrillas	1
Others	2

By the same token, Bogotá recorded the greatest number of defenders threatened with a total of 133, followed by Valle del Cauca with 72; Atlántico with 41; Cauca with 33; Sucre with 19 and Meta with 11. The increase in threats in the states of Sucre and Meta are noteworthy, as they historically had not recorded such a level of threats in the SIADDHH data.

ALLEGED PERPETRATORS OF INDIVIDUAL ATTACKS figures SIADDHH Jan - Jun 2015



Source: SIADDHH - Programa Somos Defensores 2015

Regarding the possible perpetrators of the 399 attacks that took place between January and June 2015, the SIADDHH recorded the paramilitary groups as being the main alleged perpetrators with 289 cases (72%), whilst 88 cases correspond to unknown (22%). The members of the state security forces (National Army, Police, SIJIN, Attorney General, etc.) are recorded in 19 cases of allegedly being responsible for attacks (5%). The FARC guerrillas and the ELN appear in 3 cases, with it worth mentioning that one of these was a homicide of which the ELN is thought to have been behind.

ATTACK AREAS

In terms of areas where the highest number of attacks were recorded in this half of the year, in comparison with the records from the same period of 2014, we can see an increase in cases in Bogotá (from 13 to 144 cases), the state of Valle del Cauca (from 34 to 81 cases), finally followed by Atlántico (from 17 to 42 cases). In the case of Antioquia, previously they had maintained a similar number of cases over several periods, however this time there has been an increase in cases (from 12 to 14 cases).

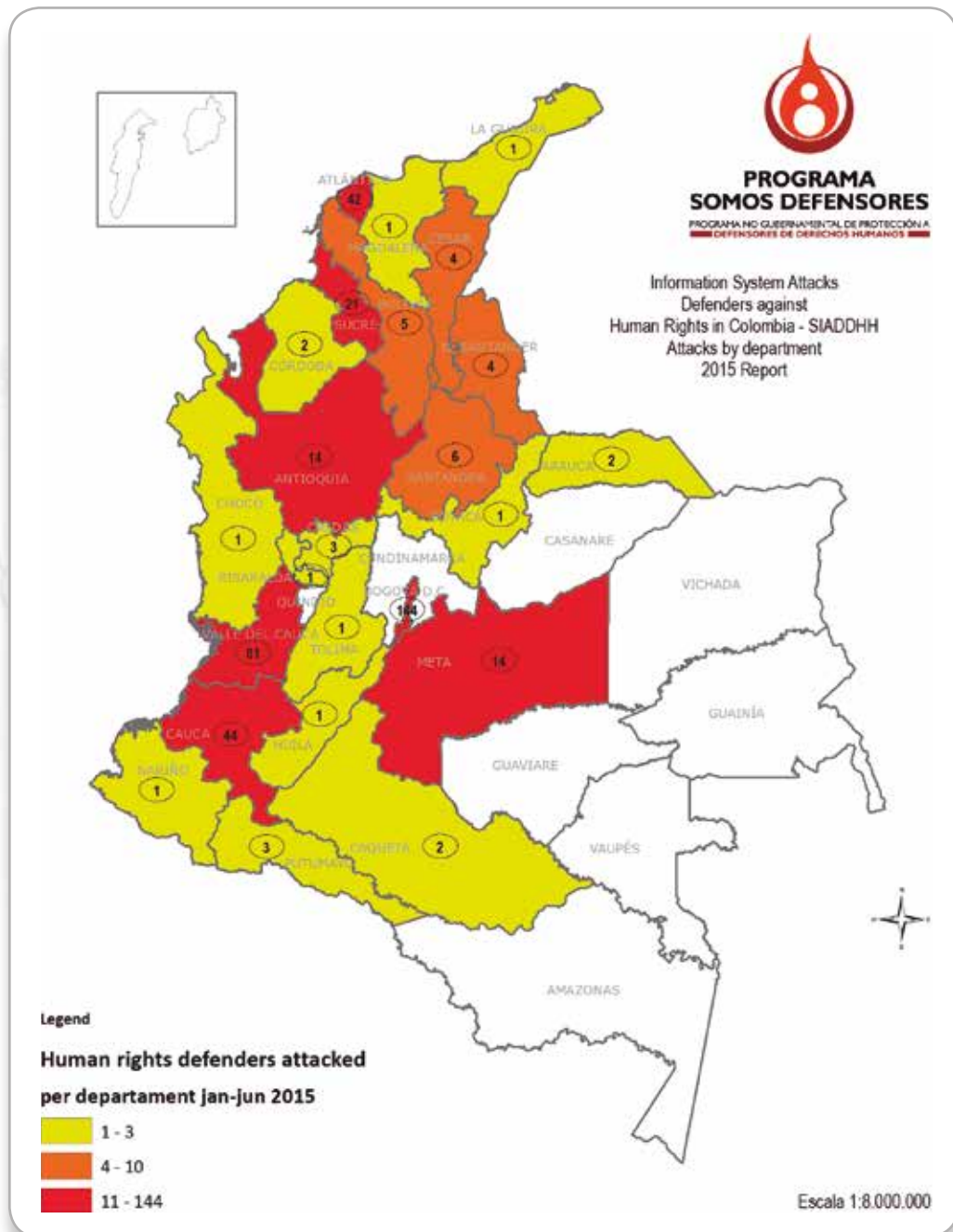
Likewise, a worrying significant increase is also present in the number of recorded attacks in the states of Cauca (44), Sucre (21), and Meta (14). These states had recorded low levels of attacks in the same time period of 2014.

While the bi-annual and annual reports made by SIADDHH always shed light on states with a significant concentration of attacks, in the present report of January to June 2015 we can see a different trend. A key conclusion

in this present report is that the attacks were recorded in a lower number of states, changing from 25 states recorded in 2014 to 24 in January to June 2015, yet all this with a significantly higher number of attacks when compared to the same period of 2014. While one may cite this phenomenon to there being a higher number of threatened defenders, it is still worth highlighting the gradual increase in homicides as being an important factor to keep in mind.

Position	Highest Number of Cases 2015	Highest Number of Cases 2014
1	Bogotá - 144 cases	Valle del Cauca - 34 cases
2	Valle del Cauca - 81 cases	Santander - 25 cases
3	Cauca - 44 cases	Caquetá - 21 Cases
4	Atlántico - 42 cases	Atlántico - 17 cases
5	Sucre - 21 cases	Bogotá - 13 cases
6	Antioquia - 14 cases	Antioquia - 12 cases
7	Meta - 14 cases	Sucre y Tolima - 10 cases

Mapa de Agresiones



GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

This report “The Nobodies” reflects the situation of attacks against defenders of human rights in Colombia during the first half of 2015, which implies several specific conclusions. We also wish to outline some more general conclusions referring to the five years of the current national government’s time in power, which are very pertinent at this moment in time.

Faced with facts:

1. The increase in attacks against men and women defenders of human rights during the first half of 2015, when compared with the same period of 2014, was a rise of 105%, going from 194 to 399.

2. The attacks on women rose, with 35% of the total attacks against human rights defenders being attacks on women, and of this percentage 5 were homicides.

3. Threats continue to be the form of attack most used against the human rights activists, increasing from 105 cases to 332 – a total increase of 216%.

4. Homicides also increased, with a rise in 15%, from 30 to 34 cases in the period analyzed.

5. The social sector that continues to be highly victimized for their social leadership is the indigenous, who as well as being the target of the highest number of homicides in previous years, recorded nine more cases this year.

6. Another fact that catches the eye is the increase in attacks and homicides of LGBTI community defenders, who suffered five homicides. But what’s more, these were emerging leaders in the search for respect whilst fighting for their rights.

7. In relation to the possible responsible parties, there continues to be a contradictory indicator – whilst the national government insists that the paramilitary groups are disappearing, the denouncements indicate that they were responsible for attacks in the period in mention, with paramilitary groups being alleged to have committed 72% of the attacks, followed by unknown perpetrators at 22%.

8. In terms of the regions where most attacks have been committed against defenders, Bogotá continues to record the highest numbers. However, this is due to the highest number of threats being made virtually or via pamphlets, given that the vast majority of social organizations and human rights offices are in the city, as well as other national leaders. Yet in a concerning pattern, the states of Valle del Cauca, Atlántico and Antioquia follow the capital city in numbers.

Frente al contexto:

Despite the innumerable advertisements, commitments, and provisions of the national government and State entities in Colombia related to the protection and prevention of attacks against human rights defenders in the country, the statistics clearly show a different reality:

1. During the governments of Juan Manuel Santos, 317 human rights defenders have been murdered, as well as 1480 threats being recorded, and 196 attempted murders, amongst other forms of attack.

2. The Office of the Attorney General has a clearly decided lack of political and administrative willingness to deal with the responsible parties of the attacks against human rights defenders in Colombia. But in contrast, there is evidence of a clear and marked speed and effectiveness at the institution and its investigative bodies when it comes to PROSECUTING and CRIMINALIZING the human rights defenders in Colombia. Not only do these defenders have both legal and illegal armed parties pursuing them, we may now add to this nefarious list the OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL, which leaves homicides and threats of leaders and defenders in total impunity, whilst at the same time accelerating the processes to take the leaders to jail without guarantees of just procedure.

3. The National Unit of Protection – UNP – continues to be a part of the INFERNO. It could be described as a sea of inconsistencies and administrative and operational

problems, for which reason the Comptroller and the Attorney General are investigating the unit, as was mentioned in this report. Added to this situation is that neither the national government nor the Cambio Radical political party, who have both left the UNP to its own devices, are willing to assume the corresponding political collateral. Moreover, this is evidence of a weakness in the national government of not being able to identify the type of institutionalism and an adequate model of protection necessary, with a focus on human rights, in a scenario of post-armed conflict.

4. The intelligence offensive, its responsible parties, and the entities that carried out the work are of extreme concern for the defenders, due to their actions that are increasingly impinging on the bounds of legality. The national government seems to have a great doubt in terms of their role within the country, as instead of being a contributing factor for political stability, public safety, and the prevention of crime, they have converted themselves into the exact opposite: an environment of the buying and selling of information to the highest bidder to conspire against adverse sectors in the establishment, and the making use of corruption and illegal tools, whilst all the while being protected by the legality of the Military Forces and the National Police.