

THE WAIT

ARRIVALS

TIME	DESTINATION	DOOR	STATUS
12:00	PEACE	23	DELAYED
12:05	VIOLENCE	18	ON TIME



Semi-annual report January - June 2023

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



PROGRAMA
SOMOS DEFENSORES
PROGRAMA GOBIERNAMENTAL DE PROTECCIÓN A
DEFENSORES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS



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2023

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

The Somos Defensores program is formed by:



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Embajada de Noruega

La gente
cambia
el mundo

Diakonia

The work of the Somos Defensores Program is possible in 2023 thanks to the financial and political support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the cooperation agencies Misereor, Diakonia, Amnesty International and Bread for the World.

INTRODUCTION

The present biannual report of the Information System on Aggressions against Human Rights Defenders in Colombia -SIADDHH- of the Somos Defensores Program, which corresponds to the period from January to June 2023, is entitled “The Wait”, alluding to the expectation of the arrival of a new situation in the Colombian context, based on its origin in the Latin word *sperare*, which means to have hope.

We wanted to capture this image of the hopeful waiting in a train station, where multiple expectations and joys, but also sadness and pain, are usually combined.

During the period of preparation of the report, the current government led by President Gustavo Petro and Vice President Francia Márquez has completed its first year, it has been an intense and convulsive year, in which the dynamics of violence are still present with greater force, which has generated multiple aggressions against defenders and social leaders, as well as affectations to the civilian population in general.

The pain caused by this violence persists, however, the Total Peace policy, the implementation of a

new security policy under the human security approach, the current government’s recognition regarding the seriousness of the human rights situation and the promotion of initiatives aimed at addressing it in dialogue with human rights organizations, make the expectation fluctuate between hope and pessimism.

The six-monthly report consists of three chapters:

In the first chapter, called the waiting area, we seek to highlight some relevant aspects of the state’s response to violent attacks and how they have materialized during the first half of the year, specifically in relation to the path of Total Peace and the ceasefire proposals with the various armed groups.

In the second chapter entitled *Against the Clock (Counterclock)*, we wanted to incorporate some brief notes on this year’s commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which official name is the *Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*, based



on seeing it as an important instrument of recognition of the work on the defense of human rights and of enforceability for states, which has also impacted the Inter-American Human Rights System. We also incorporate in this section some considerations on the evolution of the protection of human rights defenders and social leaders in Colombia during this period, recognizing the normative developments that have taken place, but also pointing out some of the identified failures that have prevented the existence of an effective protection policy for the exercise of the right to defend human rights.

The third chapter, entitled *Out of Time*, is dedicated to presenting the results of the Program's Information System during the semester, which registered a worrisome 6% increase in the total number of attacks. Although there has been a 14% decrease in the number of murders, the 85 murders continue to be the manifestation of a terrifying reality. Also of concern is the 50% increase in the number of assassinations of defenders and leaders, and the recording of 52 cases of assassination attempts. The chapter also includes a cross-check of information with the recent Early Alert issued by the Ombudsman's Office on human rights defenders and on risks in the electoral context, identifying the municipalities with the highest number of murders according to the SIA-DDHH.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organizations and individuals who are always present in the process of the Somos Defensores Program to produce these periodic publications. Our sincere thanks to all those organizations and individuals who provided us with inputs for the preparation of this report: Early Warning System -SAT- of the Ombudsman's Office; United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Office in Colombia; Indigenous Councils Association of Northern Cauca; Development and Peace Foundation -FUNDEPAZ; Territories for a Dignified Life; CINEP; Sumapaz Foundation; Joel Sierra Human Rights Foundation; Corporation for Regional Development -CDR-; and the Córdoba Controversial Social Foundation -CORDOBERXIA-. Thank you for your trust and your belief in the importance of the work carried out by our information system.

We would also like to thank the cooperation agencies and organizations that support us in our daily work and encourage us to continue with it, such as Bread for the World, Misereor, Global Witness, Amnesty International and Front Line Defenders, and especially the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Colombia and Diakonia Sweden, whose constant support has boosted the work of the Somos Defensores Program and the production



of periodical publications to make visible the risk situation faced by human rights defenders and social leaders in Colombia.

Without this joint effort, this report would not be possible.

IN MEMORY OF THE MURDERED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

During the first half of 2023, violence took the lives of 85 social leaders and human rights defenders in Colombia, who from their processes in different territories worked for their communities, to build a more just and peaceful country. Here we remember their names and profiles, so that their memories will live on, and to demand that their murders do not go unpunished.

JANUARY 2, 2023

MARIELA REYES MONTENEGRO

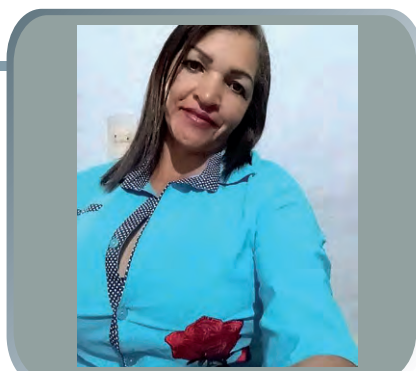
Leader of SINTRAEMSDES

Santander de Quilichao, Cauca, Colombia

Mariela Reyes Montenegro was secretary of the women's section of the Workers Union of and Employees of Public Services, Autonomous and Decentralized Corporations and Territorial Institutes of Colombia -SINTRAEMSDES-, Santander de Quilichao sub-directorate.

She was murdered on January 2 when she was leaving to visit some workers in the Morales Duque neighborhood, in Santander de Quilichao; an unknown person shot her in the back and then fled on a motorcycle. The leader was taken to a medical center in Cali but died from the seriousness of her injuries.

Alleged responsible: unknown





JANUARY 4, 2023

YURGEN EMIR TRUJILLO CARRASCAL
Community leader of the Cristo
Rey neighborhood
Santa Marta, Magdalena

Yurgen Emir Trujillo Carrascal, 68 years old, was a community leader in the Cristo Rey neighborhood of Santa Marta, he was known in his community for the help he provided to the most vulnerable population.

On January 4, several unknown persons entered his house, apparently in an attempt of robbery. The leader resisted and was attacked with a knife by the assailants, a wound that caused his death.

Alleged responsible: unknown



JANUARY 7, 2023

CRISTIAN FERNANDO SALINAS CHOCUÉ
Community leader
Ginebra, Valle del Cauca

Cristian Fernando Salinas Chocué, 34 years old, was a community leader, promoted social barrismo, was an activist during the National Strike of 2021 and was also a member of the Comunes party.

He was murdered on January 7 in the morning hours, in the Costa Rica vi-





llage in the municipality of Ginebra, unknown persons approached him and shot him several times. He was seriously wounded and was taken to a hospital in Buga where he died. Cristian had received threats over the past year.

Alleged responsible: unknown

JANUARY 14, 2023

JAIME ÁLVAREZ ROMERO

Leader of the “Monaya Nuevo Amanecer” community, Murui indigenous people. Puerto Leguizamo, Putumayo

Jaime Álvarez Romero, was a leader of the Association of Indigenous Councils of Leguizamo and Alto Predio Putumayo -ACILAP-, he was also a leader of the community “Monaya Nuevo Amanecer” of the Murui indigenous people. He was murdered on January 14 in the municipality of Puerto Leguizamo, allegedly by members of the criminal alliance Border Comandos.



Alleged responsible: criminal alliances



JANUARY 17, 2023

GENIVERO JOSÉ MÉNDEZ BUELVAS

**Cultural Manager
Morroa, Sucre**

Genivero José Méndez Buelvas, 63, was a cultural manager, composer, and co-founder of the Voces de la Luna Music Festival, recognized for his work in the reconstruction of the historical memory of the armed conflict through art and music.

He was murdered on January 17 in the village of Las Flores in the municipality of Morroa. He was talking with an acquaintance when unidentified persons approached him on a motorcycle and shot him. Genivero was taken to a hospital in Sincelejo where he died.

Alleged responsible: unknown



JANUARY 18, 2023

JOSÉ HUMBERTO SIERRA SOTO (LA GATA)

**LGBTIQ+ community leader
Medellín, Antioquia**

José Humberto Sierra Soto was 68 years old, was known as “La Gata”, and exercised leadership with trans people in the San Pedro neighborhood of Medellín.

On January 18, she was found dead in her room in the San Pedro neighborhood, with signs of violence and multiple stab wounds.

Alleged responsible: unknown





JANUARY 21, 2023

SAMUEL SABI DORADO

**Secretary JAC, Reina Baja Village
La Montañita, Caquetá**

Samuel Sabi Dorado, was secretary of the Community Action Board of the village of Reina Baja in the municipality of La Montañita, Caquetá, and also served as president of this organization in previous periods.

On January 21, in the early hours of the morning, a group of armed persons arrived at his house in the village of Reina Baja, forcibly took him out and shot him when they were several meters away.

Alleged responsible: unknown



JANUARY 22, 2023

JOSÉ ISAÍAS YANDI PACHO

**JAC President, Alto Palmar Village
Paez, Cauca**

José Isaías Yandi Pacho was president of the Alto Palmar Village Community Action Board, located in the township of Riochiquito, Páez, Cauca.

On January 22, a group of armed people came to his house, forced him to leave and took him to another area where they shot him. The act was committed by the post-peace agreement structure Dagoberto Ramos.

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





JANUARY 24, 2023

ALFREDO ARRIETA VITOLA

LGBTIQ+ Leader

Toluviejo, Sucre

Alfredo Arrieta Vitola, 39 years old, was a leader of the LGBTIQ+ community, who worked for the rights of the diverse community and was also part of the construction of the Human Rights observatory of the organization Caribe Afirmativo.

On January 24 he was murdered in his home located in the village of Cienaguita, Toluviejo municipality. While he was resting in a hammock, unknown persons broke in and shot him.

Alleged responsible: unknown



JANUARY 24, 2023

ARLEY JARAMILLO MONSALVE

Community Leader

Yarumal, Antioquia

Arley Jaramillo Monsalve, 50 years old, was a community leader in the municipality of Yarumal, recognized for supporting different social causes in the municipality, such as food banks and geriatric homes. He was a businessman and father of three children.





He was murdered on January 24, when an armed person came to his home and shot him. Allegedly, the perpetrator was part of the paramilitary group Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, substructure Julio César Vargas.

Alleged responsible: paramilitaries

JANUARY 28, 2023

BERNA NASTACUAS PAI

**Indigenous Guard, Inda Sabaleta community
Tumaco, Nariño**

Berna Nastacuas Pai, 30 years old, was an indigenous guard of the Inda Sabaleta community, El Gran Sábalo Awá reservation. On January 28, around noon, while he was traveling between Pasto and Tumaco with his wife and brother-in-law, he accidentally set off an antipersonnel mine, which caused his death.

Alleged responsible: unknown





JANUARY 30, 2023

LUIS GERARDO VÁSQUEZ PIMIENTO
Citizen Overseer
Mogotes, Santander

Luis Gerardo Vásquez Pimiento was a citizen overseer in the municipality of Mogotes and a pre-candidate for mayor of the municipality. He was also a well-known businessman in this place. On January 30, around noon, when he was on his way home on a motorcycle, near the sector known as La Unión, he was attacked by two unknown persons who shot him several times.

Alleged responsible: unknown



JANUARY 31, 2023

EDILSAN ANDRADE AVIRAMA
Member of CIMA's Maciceña Women's
process
Rosas, Cauca

Edilsan Andrade Avirama was 41 years old, she was a member of the Maciceña Women's process of the Integration Committee of the Colombian Massif -CIMA- and of the Peasant Guard. She was the mother of 4 children.

On January 31 at night, armed persons, presumably from the Carlos Patiño front, a post-peace agreement





structure, came to her house in the Loma Bajo village where she was in the company of her children, took her out by force and shot her repeatedly 20 meters away.

Alleged responsible: post-peace agreement groups

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

RUBIEL ANTONIO ZAPATA VALENCIA **Community leader of Guática** **Guática, Risaralda**

Rubiel Antonio Zapata Valencia, 45 years old, was a community leader in the municipality of Guática, Risaralda and a member of the Historical Pact in the department. He had denounced the misuse of the waters of a river that crosses between the departments of Caldas and Risaralda, and the negative impacts on the environment, for which he received threats.

On February 1, one of his brothers arrived at his home located in the La Florida farm, in the Llanogrande district of the municipality of Guática, and found the leader's lifeless body in the kitchen, with wounds caused by a machete.

Alleged responsible: unknown





FEBRUARY 4, 2023

JOSÉ ANTONIO SANTIAGO PÉREZ
JAC President, Socuavo Norte village
and delegate of the Juntas Federation
Tibú, Norte de Santander

José Antonio Santiago Pérez was president of the Community Action Board of Socuavo Norte in Tibú, Norte de Santander, and was also a delegate of the Federation of Boards of this department. Two years ago, he was the victim of an attack and for this reason he was the beneficiary of state protection measures, which consisted of three bodyguards and a van, in November 2022 the vehicle of the security scheme was stolen.

He was killed on the night of February 4; he was on a motorcycle on his way to Tibú, when in the village of La Serena he was stopped by armed people who forced him to get off and minutes later shot him twice.

Alleged responsible: ELN



FEBRUARY 5, 2023

JORGE CÁRDENAS FAJARDO
JAC Prosecutor, Chaparral Village
Cantagallo, Bolívar

Jorge Cárdenas Fajardo was a prosecutor of the Chaparral village Community Action Board in Cantagallo, Bolívar. He was murdered on February



5 in his house located in the same village; allegedly by members of the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia paramilitary group, who entered his house and attacked him with a knife.

Alleged responsible: paramilitaries

FEBRUARY 11, 2023

MOISÉS MARCOS LÓPEZ ENRÍQUEZ

Indigenous leader. Legal representative of the political party AICO Mallama, Nariño

Taita Marcos Moisés López Enríquez, was the legal representative of the Indigenous Authorities Movement of Colombia -AICO-, known for his trajectory in the leadership of indigenous communities. He was a councilman of the municipality of Mallama in 2019 and governor of the Gran Mallama Reservation until 2021.

He was assassinated on February 11. When he was on his way to a meeting with National Government officials, on the road between Mallama and Ipiales, he was stopped and forced to board a car, further on, in a sector known as La Verbena, he was forced to get out and shot. The leader died while being transported to a medical center.

Alleged responsible: unknown





FEBRUARY 18, 2023

MILTON ROCHA PEÑA

**Farmer leader of the municipality
of San Sebastián
San Sebastián de Buenavista,
Magdalena**



Milton Rocha Peña, 42 years old, was a peasant leader in the municipality of San Sebastián and a member of Colombia Humana. He had denounced death threats against him and 6 months before his murder he requested protection from the National Protection Unit but received no response.

He was murdered on February 19 at night; two people on a motorcycle intercepted him and the rider shot him 5 times, he was still alive and managed to be helped and taken to a health center in Magangué, but due to the severity of his wounds he had to be sent to a more complex clinic where he passed away.

Alleged responsible: paramilitaries

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

SHAINA VANESSA PRETEL

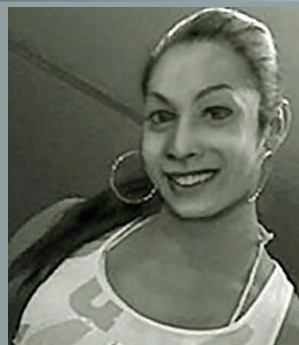
Member of AfroResistance

Cali, Valle del Cauca

Shaina Vanessa Pretel, 28 years old, was a trans leader in Cali, a member of AfroResistance and had stood out for her work in the defense of the rights of Afro and trans women.

In the early morning of February 26, when she was in an apartment in the El Poblado II neighborhood in Cali, she was attacked with a firearm. She was taken to a medical center but died, due to the extent of her injuries.

Alleged responsible: unknown



FEBRUARY 26, 2023

ROSA ELENA CELIX GUAÑARITA

Vice-president of the Guayacanes Village Association of Victims

San Pablo, Bolivar

Rosa Elena Celix Guañarita, 37 years old, was vice-president of the Guayacanes village Association of Victims in the municipality of Santa Rosa del Sur, Bolivar.

She was murdered on February 26 by an unknown person who arrived at a commercial establishment where she was hanging out with friends and shot her multiple times.

Alleged responsible: unknown





FEBRUARY 27, 2023

ABELARDO DUARTE MONCADA

Community leader

Tame, Arauca

Abelardo Duarte Moncada, was a community leader and former president of the El Rosario village Community Action Board in the municipality of Arauca.



On February 11, when he was in his house located in a rural area of the municipality of Arauca, he was kidnapped by armed persons, presumably members of the ELN, who came to the place and took him away to an unknown destination. His body was found on with several bullet wounds February 27 on a road between the villages of Puerto Miranda and El Botalón, municipality of Tame.

Alleged responsible: ELN

MARCH 3, 2023

MARLON HERNANDO GARCÍA PASCAL

Indigenous guard of the El Gran

Sábalo reservation

Tumaco, Nariño

Marlon Hernando García Pascal, 19 years old, was a member of the Indigenous Guard of the Awá people in the El Gran Sábalo reservation, Tumaco, with whom he accompanied





different processes of defense of the territory. He was killed on March 3 around 5:30 in the afternoon, when unidentified individuals, presumably members of the post-peace agreement structure Segunda Marquetalia, entered his house located in the Panadero community of the same reservation and shot him.

Alleged responsible: post-peace agreement groups

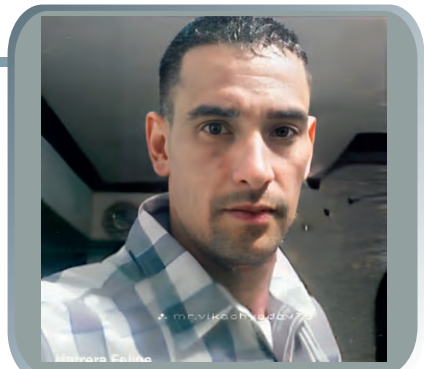
MARCH 9, 2023

ANDRÉS FELIPE HERRERA MOSQUERA
Youth Leader
Buga, Valle del Cauca

Andrés Felipe Herrera Mosquera, 35 years old, was a youth leader, very active during the National Strike of 2021, in fact, in this context he was a representative in the dialogue tables with the mayor's office of Buga in which he represented the interests of the young people who demonstrated. In addition, he was a militant of the Comunes party.

On March 9, while he was walking through the neighborhood María Luisa de La Espada de Buga, he was reached by two assassins on a motorcycle and shot at him.

Alleged responsible: unknown





MARCH 10, 2023

YEISSON JÁCOME

**JAC President, Nueva Granada neighborhood
Pailitas, Cesar**

Yeisson Jácome was president of the Nueva Granada neighborhood Community Action Board in the municipality of Pailitas, Cesar.



On March 10, while he was on his way with other people to his grandfather's farm in the El Diviso area, they were overtaken by armed men who tried to forcefully take them away. Yeisson and his companions offered resistance, and the armed men fired several shots. The leader was injured and died while being transported to a medical center.

**Alleged responsible: individual
perpetrators**

MARCH 14, 2023

RODOLFO JOSÉ GARCÍA SIERRA

**JAC Vice President, La Esperanza
neighborhood
Baranoa, Atlántico**

Rodolfo José García Sierra, 55 years old, was vice-president of the La Esperanza neighborhood Community Action Board, located in the municipality of Baranoa, Atlántico.



On February 21, while he was moving between his place of work and his home, he was approached by two unknown individuals who stabbed him, apparently in an attempt of robbery. Rodolfo was wounded and transferred to the Reina Catalina clinic in Baranoa where he remained hospitalized for twenty days. On March 14 he died due to health complications caused by the wounds.

Alleged responsible: individual perpetrators

MARCH 15, 2023

NÉSTOR ENRIQUE MARTÍNEZ BRITO
Community Defender with
the Ombudsman's Office
Riohacha, La Guajira

Néstor Enrique Martínez Brito, 49 years old, was a community defender in the Ombudsman's Office. For 20 years he worked for the defense of human rights alongside different communities in the department of La Guajira.

He was murdered on March 15 in the morning; when he was riding his motorcycle in the Ranchería neighborhood of Riohacha he was approached by hired assassins who shot him twice. A week later, a person who was identified as the perpetrator of this crime was captured.

Alleged responsible: paramilitaries





MARCH 15, 2023

WILSON ANDRÉS BOMBA PIAMBA
Indigenous authority of the San Lorenzo
Reservation
Caldono, Cauca

Wilson Andrés Bomba Piamba, 31 years old, was a commissioner and authority of the San Lorenzo de Caldono indigenous reservation.

On March 15, when he was driving through the village of Santa Elena, his vehicle was attacked, presumably by the post-peace agreement structure Dagoberto Ramos. Wilson died and a community member who was traveling with him was left injured. This event occurred in the context of fighting between this group and the National Liberation Army (ELN). According to the UNP, at the time of his murder, the protection measures for the leader were being re-evaluated.

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



MARCH 17, 2023

MIGUEL ÁNGEL ARRIETA MENDOZA
Soledad community leader
Soledad, Atlántico

Miguel Angel Arrieta Mendoza, 51 years old, who was affectionately known as "Pibe Soledaño", was a community leader of the municipality of Soledad, Atlántico. He stood out





for his work in favor of the welfare of the community and was also a candidate for the council of the same municipality for Colombia Humana.

He was murdered in the morning hours of March 17 when he was in a mechanic shop of his property in the Villa Adela neighborhood of Soledad. Two men arrived at the place on a motorcycle, one of them got off, entered the shop and shot him five times, then fled the place in the same vehicle. Months later, the perpetrator was arrested, allegedly a member of the criminal gang “Los Costeños”..

Alleged responsible: criminal gang

MARCH 19, 2023

WEIMAR POSSÚ DÍAZ

Legal representative of the Peasant Community Council Palenque Monte Oscuro Puerto Tejada, Cauca

Weimar Possú Díaz, 66 years old, was the founder and first legal representative of the Peasant Community Council Palenque Monte Oscuro. He stood out for his work in vindicating the rights of Afro-descendant and peasant communities in northern Cauca.

His corpse was found displaying stab wounds during the afternoon of March 19 in a canal on the road between the villages of Las Brisas and Guengüé, in Puerto Tejada.

Alleged responsible: unknown





MARCH 19, 2023

JOSÉ EDUARDO CÁRDENAS MOSQUERA
JAC President, Subestación Neighborhood
Quibdó, Chocó

José Eduardo Cárdenas Mosquera, was president of the Subestación neighborhood Community Action Board, located in the municipality of Quibdó, Chocó, he was also a lawyer by profession. He was murdered on March 19 while accompanied by his mother in an urban area of this municipality that is in dispute between criminal gangs.



Alleged responsible: unknown

MARCH 21, 2023

ALBERT CAMILO MENDOZA CORZO
Prosecutor of the Valledupar Local Elderly
Council of the Kankuamos Community
Valledupar, Cesar

Albert Camilo Mendoza Corzo, 56 years old, was a prosecutor of the Valledupar Local Elderly Council of the Kankuamos Community -CKV-. On March 21 he was found dead, with blows to his head and face, apparently while he was working, he was attacked with a blunt object by an unknown person, on the road that leads to the village of Sabana Crespo, near the recreational center La Pedregosa in the city of Valledupar.



Alleged responsible: individual
perpetrators

MARCH 21, 2023**DIEGO JAIR ORBES MECHA****JAC Prosecutor, Jerusalén Village
Puerto Caicedo, Putumayo**

Diego Jair Orbes, 32 years old, was a JAC prosecutor in the Jerusalén village, located in the San Pedro Arizona corridor, Municipality of Puerto Caicedo, Putumayo. He was also a Nasa indigenous community member of the Selva Hermosa chapter and father of two children. He was killed, along with another man, in the early morning of March 21, by unidentified armed individuals.

Alleged responsible: unknown**MARCH 24, 2023****RAÚL ANTONIO NASTACUÁS****Prosecutor of the Cuasucabí reservation
Ricaurte, Nariño**

Raúl Antonio Nastacuás was the prosecutor of the Cuasucabí reservation. On March 24 he was murdered in the municipality of Ricaurte by members of the National Liberation Army -ELN-.

Alleged responsible: ELN



MARCH 25, 2023

GONZALO DE JESÚS PARRA FORERO
Founder of ASOMIPAZ
Maripí, Boyacá

Gonzalo de Jesús Parra Forero was president of the Association of Artisanal Miners of Soatá -ASOMIPAZ-, he stood out in his community for defending the labor rights of emerald miners.

He was murdered on March 25 at night in Zulia, in the sector known as Guarumal, municipality of Maripí, apparently a person shot him after an argument. Hours later, the authorities captured the alleged perpetrator of the crime.

**Alleged responsible: individual
perpetrators**



MARCH 26, 2023

MARIELA MARINEZ GAVIRIA
JAC President, Bucheli Village
Tumaco, Nariño

Mariela Martinez Gaviria, 69 years old, was president of the Bucheli Community Action Board, Tumaco, Nariño. She also worked in the administrative area of the Divino Niño hospital in that town.



She was murdered on the night of March 26, when several people on motorcycles arrived at her house located in the Villa Esperanza neighborhood in Buchelli, requested to see her and upon identifying her, shot her 11 times. After the incident, her family was threatened and forced to leave the territory.

Alleged responsible: post-peace agreement groups

MARCH 27, 2023

LÍNDER STIVEN RODRÍGUEZ SEPÚLVEDA
Youth leader and cultural manager
Tumaco, Nariño

Línder Stiven Rodríguez Sepúlveda, 24 years old, was a youth leader and cultural manager in the village of La Espriella, Tumaco. On the afternoon of March 27, while riding a motorcycle through the village of La Espriella, he was approached by four men who shot him several times.



Alleged responsible: unknown



MARCH 30, 2023

JHON JAIRO VALENCIA SOTO

Community Leader
Abejorral, Antioquia

John Jairo Valencia Soto, 53 years old, was a recognized community leader who carried out work in search of the development within rural communities. In addition, he was councilman of Abejorral between 2012 and 2019.



On March 30, while he was doing mining work in the company of his son in the sector known as El Buey, he was approached by unknown persons who took him away by force. His son went to ask for help to the authorities, and when they arrived at the site, they found the leader lying lifeless with a head wound caused by a blunt object.

Alleged responsible: unknown

APRIL 2, 2023

LENIS YANETH SALAZAR VERA

Community leader
Teorama, Norte de Santander

Lenis Yaneth Salazar Vera was a community leader with different roles in the defense of human rights. She was a member of the Community Action Board of the San Pablo village, municipality of Teorama, Norte de Santander; she was also a member of





the Fair Committee and of the dance group Riqueza Cultural Alegría Catumbra of the Culture House, of the Mobility Committee and of the women's associations of San Pablo.

On April 2 her body was found with a gunshot wound inside a pool hall in the village of San Pablo. The facts surrounding her murder are not entirely clear.

Alleged responsible: individual perpetrators

APRIL 2, 2023

JAIME LEÓN LÓPEZ CARMONA
Director of the Amores Callejeros
Foundation
Santa Barbara, Antioquia

Jaime León López Carmona, 66 years old, was a recognized animal lover in the municipality of Santa Bárbara, Antioquia, this led him to create the Amores Callejeros animal protection foundation of which he was the director, with this organization he was dedicated to rescuing and finding homes for stray animals.

On March 29 he was attacked with a knife in the park of the Santa Barbara municipality. He was injured and was taken to a medical center, however, due to complications caused by the severity of his injuries, he died on April 2.

Alleged responsible: unknown





APRIL 5, 2023

HERNEY MUÑOZ MUÑOZ

**Member of the sports committee
of the La Planada village
Balboa, Cauca**



Herney Muñoz, 56 years old, was a community leader in the La Planada village, municipality of Balboa, Cauca. He was a member of the sports committee of this township, he also worked hand in hand with the Community Action Board of the sector in search of improving the conditions of its inhabitants, he was known for organizing sports weeks and inter-municipal soccer championships.

On April 4, members of an armed group, presumably a post-peace agreement structure, arrived at his house in La Planada and forced him away to an unknown destination. The following morning, he was found dead, with gunshot wounds, in the village of El Turbio.

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



APRIL 9, 2023

LUIS ALBERTO QUIÑONES CORTÉS
Legal representative of La Voz
de los Negros Community Council
Cali, Valle del Cauca

Luis Alberto Quiñones Cortés was the legal representative of the Community Council La Voz de los Negros (The Voice of the Black) Magüi Payán, in Nariño. As a result of his leadership work, he was the victim of multiple threats, which led him to forcibly move to the city of Cali, Valle del Cauca.

He was murdered on April 9 in Cali when he was in a commercial establishment in the La Paz neighborhood. An unknown person arrived at the place on a motorcycle, entered and shot him. He was taken to a medical center where he died.

Alleged responsible: unknown



APRIL 9, 2023

JUAN HILARIO BANGUERA COLORADO
Afro-descendant leader
Guapi, Cauca

Juan Hilario Banguera Colorado, 64 years old, was a member of the Community Council of Alto Guapi and the Local Board of the Yantín River.





On March 31, he left his home with his wife and traveled on a boat from the Hojarascal to the municipal capital of Guapi, but they never arrived at their destination. The community searched for them for 9 days, until on April 9, they found their bodies with signs of torture and gunshot wounds around the Palanquera stream, in the Chigüero community.

Alleged responsible: unknown

APRIL 10, 2023

ALFONSO HERNANDO MEDINA

**JAC President, Villa Jaidith Neighborhood
Valledupar, Cesar**

Alfonso Hernando Medina, 68 years old, was JAC President of the Villa Jaidith neighborhood for 8 years. He stood out for his community leadership and his constant work to improve the conditions of the community. Before his assassination, he denounced irregular occupations in his neighborhood.

On April 10 at night, when he was arriving home in Villa Jaidith, he was approached by a person who was waiting for him in the dark and shot him three times upon identifying him.

Alleged responsible: unknown



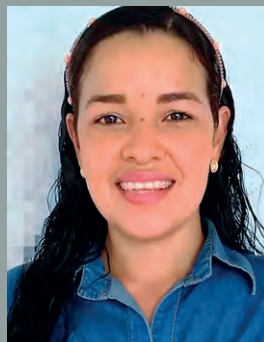
APRIL 11, 2023

DIANA CAROLINA RODRÍGUEZ MADRIGAL
JAC Delegate of the La Florida Village
Conciliation Committee
San Cayetano, Norte de Santander

Diana Carolina Rodríguez Madrigal, 32 years old, was a JAC Delegate of the La Florida Village Conciliation Committee in the municipality of San Cayetano and a delegate to ASOJUNTAS.

On the night of April 11, relatives of the leader found her with no vital signs and with marks of blows from a blunt object, on the road that leads to the village of La Florida. Hours before, Diana was traveling through this sector on her motorcycle, but when she did not reach her destination, several people from the sector went out to look for her and found her and her vehicle a few minutes away from where it is known that she made a last stop.

Alleged responsible: unknown



APRIL 13, 2023

GUSTAVO MUÑOZ MOJOMBOY
Member of the organizational process
of Tocaimita
Bogotá Capital District

Gustavo Muñoz Mojombo, 26 years old, was a community leader of the organizational process of Tocaimita in the Usme locality. He was also a lea-





der of the displaced Inga community in the capital.

On April 13, in the morning hours, when he was returning from connecting the water in the sector, a task he performed every day, he was approached by people who shot him. It is known that the night before, after an argument in a public establishment, he had received death threats, allegedly from a criminal gang in the area.

Alleged responsible: criminal gangs

APRIL 14, 2023

REINEL OSPINA DELGADO

**JAC Treasurer, La Carmelita Village
Quimbaya, Quindío**

Reinel Ospina Delgado, 58 years old, was JAC treasurer of the La Carmelita village in the municipality of Quimbaya, Quindío. He was also a well-known businessman in the municipality.

On the morning of April 14, while the National Police was patrolling through the village of La Carmelita, they found the body of the leader with gunshot wounds. Apparently, he was riding his motorcycle when he was killed.

Alleged responsible: unknown



APRIL 15, 2023

LUISA ISABEL MORENO

**JAC President, Santo Domingo
neighborhood
Bogotá Capital District**

Luisa Isabel Moreno, 70 years old, was president of the Santo Domingo neighborhood's Community Action Board, located in Ciudad Bolívar, Bogotá. Due to complaints she had made about the presence of criminal structures in Altos de la Estancia, she received threats in the weeks prior to her murder.

On April 15, she was found dead with stab wounds in her home in the Santo Domingo neighborhood.

Alleged responsible: criminal gangs



APRIL 16, 2023

HERNANDO MONTOYA MELO

**ASOJUNTAS Delegate
Puerto Rondón, Arauca**

Hernando Montoya Melo, 73 years old, was a delegate of the Community Action Board before Asojuntas, in the municipality of Puerto Rondón, Arauca, in addition, he stood out in his community for delivering food to communities confined by the presence of illegal armed groups. He was a





candidate for mayor of this municipality during the 2015 elections.

On May 16 in the afternoon, while he was at his home located in the 7 de Agosto neighborhood of the Puerto Rondón municipality, he was approached by hitmen who arrived at the place, shot him six times, and then fled on a motorcycle.

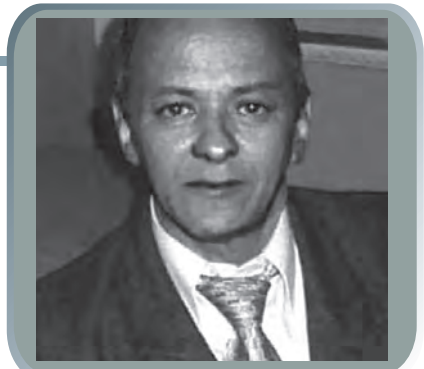
Alleged responsible: ELN

APRIL 17, 2023

JAIRO DE JESÚS ZULETA ÁLVAREZ

**Member of the JAC, Morro Azul Village
Nariño, Antioquia**

Jairo de Jesús Zuleta Álvarez, 68 years old, was a member of the Morro Azul Community Action Board. On the morning of April 17, a family member arrived at his house located in a rural area and found his lifeless body with gunshot wounds. It appears that he had been killed the night before.



Alleged responsible: paramilitaries

APRIL 17, 2023

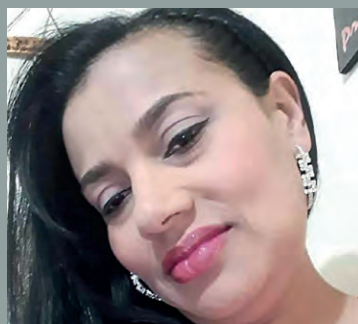
SORELSI JOHANA ECHAVARRÍA CAÑAS

**Community Mother
Medellín, Antioquia**

Sorelsi Johana Echavarría Cañas, 41 years old, was a community mother in the city of Medellín and used to participate and collaborate with the Community Action Board of the Popular 2 neighborhood.

On the afternoon of April 17, she boarded an informal transport vehicle in which another woman, a man and a minor were also traveling. At one point along the route, the man assaulted the women with a knife and escaped. They were taken in the same vehicle to a medical center, but the leader died.

Alleged responsible: individual perpetrators



APRIL 18, 2023

JOSÉ ISAÍAS QUIGUANÁS MUSICUÉ

**Traditional doctor of Tacueyó
Caloto, Cauca**

José Isaías Quiguanás Musicué, 49 years old, was a traditional doctor, ancestral knowledgeable of the Nasa people, he was a native of the Soto village, in Tacueyó.

He was murdered on the early morning of April 18 in the municipality of Caloto, Cauca, specifically on a road in the El Palo village. His body was found with gunshot wounds on the side of the road.

Alleged responsible: ELN





APRIL 23, 2023

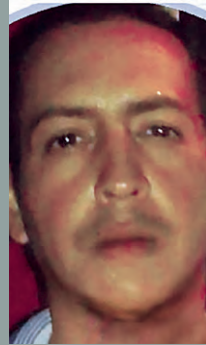
SAMIR ANTONIO ZÁRATE LUGO

**JAC Secretary, Villas de Aranjuez
Neighborhood
Cartagena, Bolivar**

Samir Antonio Zárate Lugo, 39 years old, was the recently elected secretary of the Community Action Board of the Villas de Aranjuez neighborhood, located in Cartagena. He was dedicated to the maintenance and repair of cell phones and was the father of a 4-year-old girl.

He was murdered on April 23. At night, while he was crossing the soccer field of his neighborhood, he was assaulted by a person who attacked him with a knife.

Alleged responsible: unknown



APRIL 25, 2023

MARY CRUZ PETRO VILLALBA

**Treasurer of the Zenú Cantagallo Chapter
Ciénaga de Oro, Córdoba**

Mary Cruz Petro was the treasurer of the Zenú Cantagallo Indigenous Chapter, located in the municipality of Ciénaga de Oro, Córdoba. She was also a nurse in the rural area of this municipality.





She was murdered on April 25 in the morning hours when she was riding her motorcycle on the road that leads from Salguero to the town of Pijigual. She was approached by two men on a motorcycle and after having a short conversation with her, they took out a firearm and shot her. .

Alleged responsible: paramilitaries

APRIL 30, 2023

CARLOS ANDRÉS TORRES GUTIÉRREZ
Member of the Municipal Youth Council
of Chaparral
Chaparral, Tolima

Carlos Andrés Torres Gutiérrez, 20 years old, was a youth advisor of the Youth Movement “Juventud Firme por Chaparral” (“Steady/Strong Youth for Chaparral”). He was recognized for his initiatives in projects for rural youth.

He was murdered in the early morning of April 30, when he was at a birthday party in the village of Calarma. In confusing facts, he was hit by a bullet that caused his death.

Alleged responsible: individual perpetrators





MAY 2, 2023

DIEGO FERNANDO PAPAMIJA CHILITO
JAC President, Puerto Rico township
Balboa, Cauca

Diego Fernando Papamija Chilito, 41 years old, was JAC president of the Junta de Acción Comunal of Puerto Rico in Argelia, Cauca. He had recently promoted an initiative for the improvement of the village roads.

On May 2 his body was found with gunshot wounds in the San Alfonso sector, between the municipalities of Balboa and Argelia.

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



MAY 3, 2023

JHON WILLIAM VARGAS PEÑA
Pitayó Indigenous Guard
Caldono, Cauca

Jhon William Vargas Peña, 25 years old, was an indigenous guard from Pitayó, a native of the San Antonio village.

On May 3, there were confrontations between the National Liberation Army -ELN- and the post-peace agreement structures Dagoberto Ramos and



Jaime Martínez, in the Los Robles village, which is part of the Pioyá reservation located in Caldonó, Cauca. The confrontations began at approximately 11:30 in the morning and continued until the evening, during which time the population had to take shelter from the gunfire and called for help from the Indigenous Guard. For this reason, the leader Jhon William moved to the place along with other guards and when they were in the territory the armed groups opened fire against them, the shots hit the leader who was seriously wounded. The armed groups prevented the medical mission from entering the area, so the Guardia tried to transfer him by trail to a medical center, but he died on the way.

Alleged responsible: unknown

MAY 4, 2023

GUSTAVO RAFAEL GONZÁLEZ SALGADO
JAC President, Santa Rosa neighborhood
Momil, Córdoba

Gustavo Rafael González Salgado was President of the Santa Rosa neighborhood Community Action Board in the municipality of Chinú. On May 4 someone found his body with gunshot wounds in the village of Trementino, rural area of Momil.



Alleged responsible: unknown



MAY 7, 2023

CARLOS OSORIO JARAMILLO

**Traditional doctor of the Dachijoma
community, Anserma
Mistrató, Risaralda**



Carlos Osorio Jaramillo, 69, was a traditional doctor in the Dachijoma community in the municipality of Anserma, Caldas.

He was murdered during the morning of May 7. When he was traveling with his wife along a road in the El Silencio hamlet of the municipality of Mistrató, he was approached by a person with a shotgun who fired at him twice.

Alleged responsible: unknown

MAY 9, 2023

JOHAN MARCELO MONTAÑO MONTAÑO

**Community Leader
Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca**



Johan Marcelo Montaña Montaña, 27 years old, was part of the group Activos y Pendientes Buenaventura with which he developed social work and cultural processes with children, adolescents and senior citizens.

He was murdered on May 9, when he was near his home located in the Los Pinos neighborhood of Buenaventura, he was approached by hit men who opened fire against him on several occasions.

Alleged responsible: unknown

MAY 11, 2023

JHON FREDDY RUEDA RODRÍGUEZ

**Legal representative of the Colombian
Citizen's Mobility Oversight Board
-VEEMCOL-**

Sincelejo, Sucre



Jhon Freddy Rueda Rodríguez was a member of the Colombian Citizen's Mobility Oversight Board -VEEMCOL- and was leading a land process in the Quintas de Belén sector.

He was murdered on May 11, when he was outside his house between the sector Bitar and Pablo Sexto, Sincelejo; where two men approached him and one of them shot him 4 times. He left wounded and was taken to a health care center where he died.

Alleged responsible: unknown

MAY 12, 2023

DANIA SHARITH POLO SOLORZANO

LGBTIQ+ Leader

Carmen de Bolívar, Bolívar



Dania Sharith Polo Solorzano, an LGBTIQ+ leader in Carmen de Bolívar, was a witness before the Truth Commission and the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP).



On April 30, while she was at her home in the Las Palmas neighborhood of Carmen de Bolívar, she was the victim of an attack, people who arrived at the place shot at her on several occasions. She was taken to a medical center in Sincelejo where she was hospitalized until May 12, day on which she died.

Alleged responsible: unknown

MAY 16, 2023

YENIFER CÓRDOBA HENAO

**Responsible leader
Calamar, Guaviare**

Yenifer Córdoba Henao, 22 years old, was a community leader, member of the Land Committee of the Barranquilla inspection of Miraflores, Guaviare, member of the Community Action Board and candidate for the municipal council of Calamar for the movement *Vamos por los Derechos del Polo Democrático Alternativo* (*Let's Go For the Rights of the Alternative Democratic Pole*), she was also a leader of several actions against deforestation in her territory.

On May 16 she was found in the village of Agua Bonita Media, municipality of Calamar, Guaviare.

Alleged responsible: unknown



MAY 18, 2023

SERGIO LUIS CASTRO CARRILLO

Community Leader

Tibú, Norte de Santander

Sergio Luis Castro Carrillo, 34 years old, was a recognized community leader and candidate for the council of Tibú.



He was murdered on the night of May 18, in the La Esperanza neighborhood of Tibú, while he was on his way home, an unknown person approached him and fired several shots at him, he was taken to a hospital, but died due to the seriousness of his wounds.

Alleged responsible: unknown

MAY 19, 2023

HERINSOL LIBARDO MORA RODRÍGUEZ

Guavarín Village JAC President

and delegate of ASOJUNTAS,

municipality of Sacama

Tame, Arauca



Herinsol Libardo Mora Rodríguez was president of the Community Action Board of the Guavarín village and delegate to ASOJUNTAS for the municipality of Sacama in the Casanare Community Federation. He was also the legal representative of the Blackberry Producers Association ASOPRO-MORA- and was a member of the Manantiales Peasant Association -ASOCAM-.



He was killed with a firearm on May 19 when he was traveling near the village of Santo Domingo, municipality of Tame, Arauca, along with three other people who suffered injuries.

Alleged responsible: unknown

MAY 24, 2023

LIBIA QUIGUANÁS CASSO

**Traditional doctor of the Jambaló
reservation
Jambaló, Cauca**

Libia Quiguanás Casso, 45 years old, was an ancestral knowledgeable and traditional doctor of the Jambaló indigenous reservation. She was the victim of forced disappearance along with her husband on May 22, 2023, when unknown persons entered their home located in the La Mina village at night and took them away to an unknown destination.

On May 24, her body along with her husband's was found by the Indigenous Guard with stab wounds on the banks of the Jambaló River.

Alleged responsible: unknown



MAY 26, 2023

HERMES CARREÑO CORTÉS

Community Leader

Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca

Hermes Carreño Cortés, 67 years old, was a community leader who worked as an official of the Economic and Rural Development unit of the mayor's office of Buenaventura and was also the former president of the Gamboa neighborhood Community Action Board.

He was murdered on May 26 in his house in Ciudadela Nueva, Gamboa sector. Two unknown persons broke in, apparently in an attempt of robbery, and inflicted several wounds with a knife. Although he was taken to a medical center, he died from his wounds.

Alleged responsible: unknown



MAY 28, 2023

WLADIMIRO TIRADO VEGA

Member of ASCSUCOR

Puerto Libertador, Córdoba

Wladimiro Tirado Vega, 49 years old, was a founding partner and member of the Southern Cordoba Peasant Association -ASCSUCOR- and a beneficiary of the National Program for the Integral Substitution of Illicit Crops -PNIS-. He was invested in providing river transport services on the San Jorge River.





He was murdered in the village of Juan José, municipality of Puerto Libertador; while mooring his boat, two unidentified individuals arrived where he was and shot him twice.

Alleged responsible: paramilitaries

MAY 31, 2023

HUGO HORACIO BURGOS RAMÍREZ

**Member of the Páramo de las Tinajas
Peasant Association and the Peasant
Workers Association of Valle del Cauca
Corinto, Cauca**



Hugo Horacio Burgos Ramírez, 48 years old, was a member of the Peasant Workers Association of Valle del Cauca -ASTRACAVA-, the Municipal Council for Rural Development of Pradera and the Peasant Association of the Páramo de las Tinajas -ASOCAM-PPTIN-. He exercised his leadership mainly in the municipality of Pradera, Valle del Cauca. As a result of various threats he received, he was forced to move to Miranda, Cauca. Although he filed the respective complaints with the authorities, he did not receive protection measures.

On May 31 his body was found with gunshot wounds on the road that leads from Miranda to Corinto, apparently, he was killed while traveling on this road.

Alleged responsible: unknown

JUNE 3, 2023

GUIDO IDELBER GÓMEZ HOYOS

CIMA Member

La Vega, Cauca

Guido Idelber Gómez, 48 years old, was a member of the Colombian Massif Integration Committee -CIMA- and elected president of the El Paraíso Community Action Board, municipality of Sucre, Cauca.



On June 2, the leader left El Paraíso and headed to the Piedra Sentada village in the municipality of Patía. His family did not have any communication with him and began searching for him. The body of the leader was found the following day in the Puente Fierro sector of La Vega municipality, Cauca, with knife wounds and signs of torture.

Alleged responsible: ELN

JUNE 5, 2023

DANIEL ESCORCIA CARRANZA

Member of the Municipal Board of Victims Participation of Curumaní Bosconia, Cesar

Daniel Escorcía Carranza, 26 years old, was a member of the Municipal Board of Victims Participation of Curumaní, Cesar.



On the morning of June 5, while he was walking with another person in



the San Juan Bosco neighborhood of Bosconia, two people on board a motorcycle approached him, a female parrillera got off the vehicle and shot him. The leader died, and his companion was wounded and was taken to a medical center.

Alleged responsible: unknown

JUNE 5, 2023

JAIRO ENRIQUE TOMBÉ

**JAC President, Quilcacé village
El Tambo, Cauca**

Jairo Enrique Tombé, era presidente Jairo Enrique Tombé was president of the Quilcacé village Community Action Board and a member of the Education Instructors and Workers Association of Cauca -ASOINCA-. He worked at the educational institution Pueblo Nuevo Ciprés, El Navarro, and was the father of two children.

On May 31, the leader and his wife disappeared while they were on their way from their home located in the Quilcacé village to their place of work. When they did not reach their destination, a search was initiated. On June 5 their bodies were found in a mass grave in a rural area of the El Tambo municipality.

Alleged responsible: unknown



JUNE 5, 2023

LUIS GABRIEL MARTÍNEZ PÉREZ

Community Leader

Puerto Asís, Putumayo

Luis Gabriel Martínez Pérez, 30 years old, was a community leader and member of the El Quebradón village community action board in the municipality of Puerto Asís, Putumayo.

On the afternoon of June 5, while the leader was in the backyard of his house in the village of El Quebradón, which is part of the Perla Amazónica Peasant Reserve Zone, people on a motorcycle arrived at the place and shot him.

Alleged responsible: criminal alliances



JUNE 6, 2023

CUSTODIO YUCUNA TANIMUCA

Curare community health promoter

La Pedrera, Amazonas

Custodio Yucuna was a leader and health promoter of the Curare community in the Curare Los Ingleses reservation. He was murdered on June 6 in the municipality of La Pedrera, Amazonas.



Alleged responsible: unknown



JUNE 10, 2023

MARCELINO MARTÍNEZ CUADROS

**Member of ASONALCA, founder
of the ANUC's Veredal Committee
Tame, Arauca**

Marcelino Martinez Cuadros, 69 years old, was the founder of the rural committee of the National Association of Peasant Users -ANUC-, member of the National Peasant Association José Antonio Galán Zorro -ASONALCA- and member of the committee of the Brisas de Cuiloto village.

He was killed on June 10 in the afternoon. When he was in the La Quesera sector of the Santo Domingo village, municipality of Tame, he was approached by individuals who shot him.

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



JUNE 11, 2023

FRANCISCO LÓPEZ

**JAC President, Holdown Village
Fresno, Tolima**

Francisco López was the president of the Holdown village Community Action Board, located in La Aguadita township, municipality of Fresno, Tolima.

On June 11, during the morning hours, he was riding a motorcycle with his





wife and daughter, when he was shot by hooded persons hidden in some bushes. His family was unharmed, but the leader died.

Alleged responsible: unknown

JUNE 12, 2023

EMIRO NEL SÁNCHEZ MEDRANO
Member of FUVIRTCAN
San Pelayo, Córdoba

Emiro Nel Sánchez Medrano was the president of the Land Restitution Foundation -FUVIRTCAN-, a recognized leader of victims for his work on restitution issues in the departments of Antioquia and Córdoba. Due to his work, he received several threats, which were reported to the Attorney General's Office since 2010.



On the afternoon of June 9, he was traveling in his security detail from the municipality of Apartadó, Antioquia, to Montería, Córdoba, when he was detained by a group of armed persons, presumably members of the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia -AGC- in the village of Garrapatas, municipality of Arboletes. His bodyguard was disarmed and later released, but the leader was taken to an unknown destination. On June 12, his body with gunshot wounds was found in the village of Bongamella de San Pelayo, Córdoba.

Alleged responsible: paramilitaries



JUNE 12, 2023

MARCELINO DAGUA BAICUÉ
Traditional doctor of the Jambaló
reservation
Jambaló, Cauca

Marcelino Dagua Baicué, 51, was a traditional doctor of the Nasa people in the Jambaló reservation, Cauca.

He was murdered on June 12 along with his 48-year-old wife in their home located in the Picacho village. The events took place in the early hours of the morning, his neighbors heard some shots and hours later they found their lifeless bodies with gunshot wounds.

Alleged responsible: unknown



JUNE 14, 2023

BLANCA ALICIA MARÍN
JAC Treasurer, Puerto Nare
Miraflores, Guaviare

Blanca Alicia Marín, was treasurer of the Puerto Nare Community Action Board. On June 14 she was murdered in the municipality of Miraflores, Guaviare. The way in which this crime was committed remains unknown.

Alleged responsible: unknown





JUNE 15, 2023

ALEJANDRO FORERO VALDERRAMA

Citizen Ombudsman

Tuluá, Valle del Cauca

Alejandro Forero Valderrama, was a community leader, citizen overseer and pre-candidate for the council of Tuluá.

On June 13, while he was with his security detail at the Supercentro Tuluá shopping mall when people, presumably members of a criminal gang, arrived at the place and shot him. While the leader was being transported in a cab to a medical center, he was hit by assassins on a motorcycle who shot him again. The cab driver and one of his escorts were wounded. Alejandro Forero was admitted to the hospital and remained with a guarded prognosis until June 15 when he died.

Alleged responsible: criminal gangs



JUNE 19, 2023

ALEXANDER CHOCUÉ PEÑA

Minor sheriff, Nasa people

Caldono, Cauca

Alexander Chocué Peña was a minor constable of the Laguna Siberia reservation.





He was murdered on June 19 in the early hours of the morning in the village of La Buitrera, unknown persons arrived at the place and shot him, during these events another guard was wounded.

It is known that the leader received threats in August 2022, by the Jaime Martínez front, a post-peace agreement structure.

Alleged responsible: unknown

JUNE 19, 2023
TEMÍSTOCLES BELTRÁN
Farmer leader
El Copey, Cesar

Temístocles Beltrán, 55 years old, was a well-known peasant leader in El Copey, Cesar, he was also a pre-candidate for the council of that municipality.

He was murdered during the night of June 19 at his farm located in the Puente Quemado village of Caracolito, El Copey. A person entered the place and shot him three times.

It is known that a week before his murder the leader had received threats from the paramilitary group Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia -AGC-..

Alleged responsible: unknown



JUNE 20, 2023

SEBASTIÁN LUCUMÍ MINA

Member of the La Toma Community Council and the Cimarrona Guardia Suarez, Cauca

Sebastián Lucumí Mina, 28 years old, was a member of the La Toma Community Council and a member of the Cimarrona Guard. He was killed on June 20, presumably by members of the Jaime Martínez post-peace agreement group. The facts amid which this crime occurred are unknown.



Alleged responsible: post-peace agreement groups

JUNE 23, 2023

ARMANDO MOSQUERA TRUJILLO

JAC President, Mesa Redonda Village Tello, Huila

Armando Mosquera Trujillo, 64 years old, was president of the Mesa Redonda Community Action Board, located in the municipality of Tello, Huila. He was also a former councilman of this municipality.



On the night of June 22, the leader left his house in a pick-up truck to



attend a meeting, people close to him tried to contact him on his phone without success, so they began to search for him. Hours later they found his vehicle abandoned in a rural area of Mesa Redonda and, approximately a kilometer and a half from that place, they found his body with gunshot wounds.

Alleged responsible: unknown

JUNE 26, 2023
NELSON MEDINA MUÑOZ
Member of Asoquimbo
Gigante, Huila

Nelson Medina Muñoz was an active member of the Association of People Affected by the El Quimbo Hydroelectric Project -Asoquimbo- and the Fishermen's Association of Puerto Seco. As one of those affected by the El Quimbo dam, he worked continuously to demand rights for others like him. On June 26 he was killed with a firearm by unknown persons.



Alleged responsible: unknown



JUNE 26, 2023

PABLO ENRIQUE RODRÍGUEZ

Community Leader

Tello, Huila

Pablo Enrique Rodríguez was a community leader and president of the Anacleto García village Community Action Board, until June 2022.

On June 26, when he was traveling with a fellow peasant farmer in the village of El Bosque, municipality of Tello, he was attacked with firearm by unknown persons.

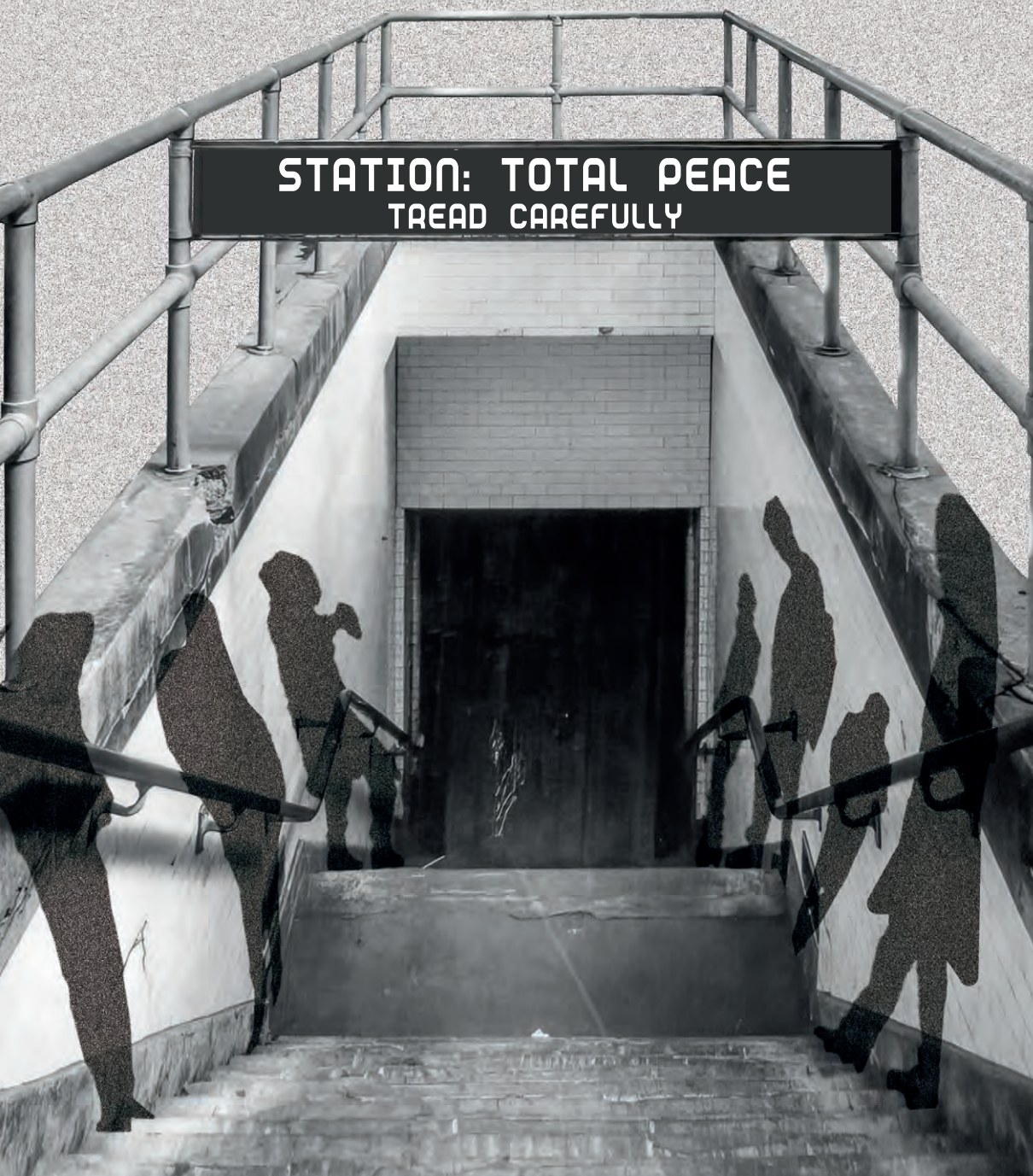
Alleged responsible: unknown



CHAPTER 1

WAITING AREA

STATION: TOTAL PEACE
TREAD CAREFULLY



The hope for peace significantly marked the first semester of 2023. The eyes of all sectors of Colombia and the international community have been focused on the possible advances and agreements that the National Government may reach with the different armed groups and structures within the framework of the Total Peace Law, which has placed the issue at the top of the agenda of public opinion. In spite of this, the search for peace has not been exempt from controversies, in these months many situations have arisen, among them setbacks and difficulties that have cast clouds of doubt on the way in which the different processes will be developed.

The publication of Law 2272 on Total Peace in November 2022 generated high expectations because it explored the possibility of generating rapprochements with groups such as the ELN, the Central Command of the FARC -EMC-, the criminal gangs of Medellín, Los Shottas and Los Esparitanos in Buenaventura, the Second Marquetalia, the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia -AGC- and Los Pachencas. This presented a never-before-seen opportunity to simultaneously begin to chart the path to peace with groups that have grown stronger and are currently generating complex dynamics of violence for communities, human rights defenders and social leaders, both in rural and urban areas.

However, just as hope was awakened, questions were also raised about the relevance and capacity of the government to advance these simultaneous processes, with groups that currently have great military capacity, control in different zones in some cases, social influence, and considerable resources, placing them in an advantageous position to enter a possible negotiation. This has been demonstrated by different armed groups despite having expressed their willingness to initiate rapprochements or to be in the middle of a formal process, as is the case of the National Liberation Army -ELN-.

This situation was evident in the mining strike in Bajo Cauca, which began on March 2 of this year and lasted a little over a month. Although several sectors protested autonomously, it was also known that this context was instrumentalized by the AGC, a group that forced some people to take to the streets to demonstrate and pressure the government to stop its actions against illegal mining in the sub-region, which generates income for this armed group¹. This strike led to violent blockades, attacks on medical missions, damage to property such as vehicles, attacks on mem-

¹ Coeuropa. March 12, 2023. Severe human rights situation in the context of protest in Bajo Cauca. Available at: <https://coeuropa.org.co/grave-situacion-de-dere->



bers of the police, and affected the mobility of one million people².

For this reason, on March 19 the government decided to interrupt the bilateral ceasefire that it had decreed on December 31, 2022, after President Gustavo Petro affirmed that the AGC were behind the mining strike, pointing out that “this group manipulates the needs of a mining population, holding them down with their own hunger”³.

Likewise, the ELN has sought throughout the period to demonstrate its military strength. Although this armed group has expressed its willingness for peace and is the one with which the process is currently most advanced, military actions as a demonstration of power have been constant. According to a follow-up report on armed actions by the National Intelligence Directorate, to which the *Cambio*⁴ magazine had access, between

January 1 and May 10, this guerrilla group carried out 137 armed actions, including incursions, combats, attacks on the public forces and the civilian population, and attacks on the oil infrastructure.

On the other hand, according to the Conflict Analysis Resource Center -CERAC⁵, between January and June 2023, 84 war actions and 42 combats were registered. With this, different sectors demonstrate the persistence of violence exercised by this armed group, which endangers the communities located in the territories where the ELN exercises or disputes power.

Although it is common that amid the peace processes the armed groups that are negotiating or intend to do so strengthen their military capabilities to sit at the negotiating table from an advantageous position, many have questioned the ELN as these violent acts are contrary to the will for peace. Nevertheless, there is still hope that after decades of failed attempts to negotiate peace with this armed group, this time it will finally be possible to achieve it.

Negotiations with the ELN are the most progressed in the framework of Total Peace. This path had its starting point a few months after the beginning of Gustavo Petro's government. In October 2022, in Caracas, Venezuela, the reinstatement of the talks was announced. A month later, the

chos-humanos-en-el-contexto-de-protesta-en-el-bajo-cauca/

² Coeuropa. Ceasefire and humanitarian crisis. Report on the progress of the bilateral and temporary nationwide ceasefire. January to May 2023. Available at: <https://coeuropa.org.co/cese-al-fuego-y-crisis-humanitaria/>

³ Castrillón. G. El Espectador. March 23, 2023. Why didn't the ceasefire with the Gulf Clan work? Available at: <https://www.elespectador.com/colombia-20/paz-y-memoria/clan-del-golfo-razones-por-las-que-no-funciono-y-se-levanto-ce-se-al-fuego-con-gobierno-petro-agc-paz-total/>

⁴ Patiño. J. Cambio. May 14, 2023. 279 armed actions in 130 days: illegals fail to comply with bilateral ceasefire. Available at: <https://cambiocolombia.com/conflicto-armado-en-colombia/279-acciones-ar>

mas-en-solo-130-dias-grupos-ilegales-incumplen-cese

⁵ CERAC. July 7, 2023. Monthly report number 37.



first cycle of talks took place in the same country between November 21 and December 12. The second round of talks began in February of this year in Mexico City. The third was held in May in Havana, Cuba⁶, the last one has been the one that has registered the greatest progress so far, since fundamental issues for the construction of an agreement were agreed upon, such as the beginning of the ceasefire, the creation of a monitoring and verification mechanism and the participation of civil society in the dialogues through a National Committee⁷. Recently in Caracas, Venezuela, the fourth cycle of talks began, in which, according to a joint communiqué, it is expected to continue advancing on issues such as social participation and the ceasefire⁸. This new stage is taking place at a critical moment for the parties at the table and for the country, since the will for peace of the armed group is being measured in large part through compliance with the ceasefire.

Another highly questioned process has been that of the government with the post-peace agreement group of the "Central General Staff" (Estado Mayor Central -EMC). On April 16, this group, which is under the command of Néstor Gregorio Vera Fernández, alias "Iván Mordisco", held in the Llanos del Yará, in the department of Caquetá, a multitudinous event with the presence of armed combatants and civilians who were allegedly pressured to participate in this event⁹. It was a highly questioned event, marked by what could be considered armed proselytism, in which a high capacity of the group and unity of command was shown with the subordination of five dissident group structures to the EMC¹⁰. In addition, it sent a message of high economic capacity and of having a broad social base, issues that would give legitimacy to the armed group in the face of a possible negotiation. In this event, the group presented its delegates for negotiations with the government and expressed its intention to set up the negotiating table in Norway.

Although there were expectations of the installation of the negotiating table, these approaches suffered

⁶ CNN. July 6, 2023. These have been the peace processes between Colombia and ELN for years and these have been the results. Available at: <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2023/07/06/eln-historia-procesos-de-paz-colombia-orix/>

⁷ Celis. L. Pares. June 9, 2023. The 10 most important achievements of the third round of negotiations between the Government and the ELN. Available at: <https://www.pares.com.co/post/los-10-logros-m%C3%A1s-importantes-del-tercer-ciclo-de-negociaciones-entre-el-gobierno-y-el-eln>

⁸ Delegation of Dialogues of the National Liberation Army of Colombia - ELN. [@DelegacionEln]. August 14, 2023. Available at: <https://twitter.com/DelegacionEln/status/1691042600583610369/photo/1>

⁹ El Tiempo. April 27, 2023. In Caquetá, dissidents of 'Iván Mordisco' held a three-day party. Available in: <https://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/conflicto-y-narcotrafico/en-caqueta-disidencias-de-ivan-mordisco-hicieron-fiesta-de-tres-dias-763255>

¹⁰ Rodríguez. S. La Silla Vacía (The Empty Chair). April 17, 2023. The five messages sent by the "Mordisco" show in the Yari. Available in: <https://www.lasillavacia.com/historias/silla-nacional/los-cinco-mensajes-que-envia-el-show-de-mordisco-en-el-yari/>



an obstacle in May, when it became known that on May 17, this armed group murdered four minors who belonged to the Murui people and had been forcibly recruited between the departments of Caquetá and Amazonas, murdered while they were trying to escape. This situation caused the National Government to decide to partially suspend the ceasefire with this armed group¹¹. The door to start talks opened again on July 12, when President Gustavo Petro signed Resolution 205 of 2023 "By which delegates of the National Government are designated for the preliminary phase of enlistment and for the Peace Dialogue Table with the self-styled Central General Staff of the FARC-EP"¹².

On the other hand, the process to advance the search for peace with organized armed structures of high impact crime, which is another of the important sectors considered in Total Peace, is still pending unraveling. Although this law was filed in March, it ended up sinking. This law provides the legal floor for negotiations with these gangs, so it is not easy to understand how without legal certainty and clarity on incentives it is possible to advance towards the submission of structures such as the Buenaven-

tura and Medellín gangs; additionally, this is the route that has been marked for the AGC, a group that demands recognition as a political actor, in fact, Ricardo Giraldo lawyer of this group has publicly expressed in different media that "this armed group will not accept a submission to justice, but they expect a political negotiation"¹³. Recently, the Minister of Justice, Néstor Osuna, confirmed that the law has undergone adjustments and will be presented again to Congress¹⁴.

The aforementioned situations are evidence of the permanent tensions that the country faces in the different paths currently being taken to seek peace with armed groups and criminal gangs. It is not an easy path, especially because of the number of groups with which agreements are being sought simultaneously, and because all of them have to a greater or lesser extent high capacities to exercise control and to dispute it, which has led to the humanitarian crises that the country has faced in recent years.

Undoubtedly, peace is the only possible solution to put an end to the suffering of millions of people in the

¹¹ BBC. May 22, 2023. The slaughter of 4 minors in Colombia for which President Petro suspended the ceasefire with FARC dissidents. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-65605987>

¹² Presidency of the Republic. July 11, 2023. Resolution 205 of 2023. Available at: <https://indepaz.org.co/resolucion-numero-205-de-2023/#:~:text=Por%20la%20cual%20se%20designan,y%20se%20dictan%20otras%20disposiciones>.

¹³ El Espectador. March 21, 2023. Gulf Clan lawyer speaks: "AGC will not accept submission to justice". Available at: <https://www.elespectador.com/colombia-20/paz-y-memoria/paz-total-de-petro-abogado-del-clan-del-golfo-habla-sobre-cese-y-sometimiento-a-la-justicia-de-agc/>

¹⁴ Montiel. J. Caracol Radio. June 21, 2023. Law to bring criminal gangs to justice will return to Congress. Available at: <https://caracol.com.co/2023/06/21/ley-de-sometimiento-a-la-justicia-para-bandas-criminales-volvera-al-congreso/>



country who in different territories live with the imminence of war, since many communities must even coexist with the armed actors with whom they seek to reach an agreement and submit to their power in the absence of the State. For this reason, the intention of the current government is supported by many sectors and very strongly by the international community, however, it must be recognized that it is going through a complex moment, there has been a lack of clarity and also greater foresight on the part of the government regarding the steps to be taken, which has generated concerns and criticism about the direction of total peace, even from related sectors, in the meantime the communities and organizations continue to wait.

Blurred cease-fire

The beginning of the New Year was marked by the announcement on Twitter by President Gustavo Petro, at around midnight, regarding the beginning of the bilateral ceasefire with 5 armed organizations: the currently known as the Central General Staff of the FARC -EMC- and the Second Marquetalia, both post-peace agreement armed organizations; the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia -AGC-, the Conquering Self-Defense Forces of the Sierra -ACSN- and the National Liberation Army -ELN-¹⁵.

¹⁵ Presidency of the Republic. President Petro announces bilateral ceasefire with 5 illegal armed organizations, starting January 1, 2023. Available at: <https://petro.presidencia.gov.co/prensa/Paginas/Presidente-Petro-anuncia-cese-al-fue->

The enthusiasm aroused by the announcement quickly vanished when the ELN stated that it had not negotiated any bilateral ceasefire with the National Government, making it clear that any agreement of this nature should be agreed at the negotiating table installed some weeks ago¹⁶. Nevertheless, the government issued the corresponding decrees ordering the ceasefire from zero hours on January 1 until 24:00 on June 30, 2023, with the possibility of extension. The successive decrees order the suspension of military operations and police operations, without prejudice to their constitutional and legal obligations, state as their objective the suspension of humanitarian affectation and incorporate the obligation to establish verification and monitoring mechanisms, for which the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia¹⁷ will be invited to participate.

The ceasefires continued to deteriorate with the President's announcement on March 19 of the suspension of the ceasefire with the AGC and on May 22 with the partial lifting of the ceasefire with the EMC in 4 departments (Meta, Caquetá, Guaviare and Putumayo).

go-bilateral-con-5-organizaciones-armad-221201.aspx

¹⁶ The peace negotiating table was set up on November 2022 in Caracas, Venezuela.

¹⁷ The decrees are: Decree 2660 of 2022 regarding the cessation with the Second Marquetalia, Decree 2659 of 2022 with ACSN, Decree 2558 of 2022 with the AGC, Decree 2657 with the ELN and Decree 2656 with the State Central Staff.



During this period, civil society organizations such as Indepaz, the Colombia-Europe-United States Coordination and even the Ombudsman's Office and the Investigation and Indictment Unit of the SJP -UIA- have made follow-up reports on the behavior of the ceasefires, which present common points and divergences. The different reports identify the EMC as the organization with the highest number of events considered as non-compliance. The Ombudsman's Office and Indepaz agree that the departments of Cauca, Antioquia and Caquetá have registered the highest number of incidents. For the UIA, the ceasefire with the AGC did not have a positive impact on the reduction of aggressions against the life and personal integrity of the civilian population, while it had a slight impact in relation to the EMC, the Second Marquetalia and the La Sierra Self-Defense Forces. The ombudsman's monitoring report indicates that in the first 5 months of the year, 117 events were recorded, 24 of them corresponding to military actions and 93 related to indirect actions affecting the civilian population¹⁸. Meanwhile, the Colombia-Europe-United States Coordination Observatory documented 106 cases in the same period, broken down into the following categories: 58 cases of humanitarian effects on the civilian population, 41 hostile events between armed actors and 7 addi-

onal events of armed control over population centers, consisting of armed patrols and/or military checkpoints¹⁹.

Beyond the data provided by the different reports on the behavior of the cessations in this first semester, what interests us from PSD is to point out some aspects that we consider important to advance in a new stage of strengthening them that will have a positive impact on overcoming the humanitarian crises that during the semester continued to affect the populations and communities in different territories of the country.

- **Disputes, domination and/or pacts between the different criminal structures continue to determine territorial dynamics to a large extent.** The reconfiguration of the conflict with a variable territorial geometry, to which we have already referred in previous reports of the Somos Defensores Program, continues to be a determining factor in interpreting the dynamics of violence in the territories in general and particularly, in relation to aggressions against human rights defenders and social leaders. By way of example, while in Putumayo during the first four months of the year the UIA indicates that no confrontations have been recorded between the structures in dispute, the Carolina

¹⁸ Ombudsman's Office. June 2, 2023. Ombudsman monitoring, human rights and IHL situation, ceasefires decreed to armed groups. Available at: <https://www.defensoria.gov.co/-/en-el-marco-del-cese-al-fuego-impulsado-por-el-gobierno-se-han-registrado-117-acciones-violentas>

¹⁹ Coeuropa. Ceasefire and humanitarian crisis. Report on the progress of the bilateral and temporary nationwide ceasefire. January to May 2023. Available at: <https://coeuropa.org.co/cese-al-fuego-y-crisis-humanitaria/>

Ramírez Front (EMC) and the Border Commandos²⁰, the situation is very different in the department of Chocó where the confrontations between the ELN and the AGC generated massive displacements and confinements in the rural zone of the municipalities of Novita and Sipí, in the San Juan region, which have affected black and indigenous communities²¹.

- **The different armed structures have used the ceasefire to strengthen and expand their presence and territorial control.** Part of the AGC and the EMC are the most benefited from it. This has allowed them to favor their interests in illegal economies and dynamics of social control over other actors in the framework of their disputes. The CCEEU report reviews what the ombudsman said regarding how the territorial presence of the AGC, which was between 12 and 14 departments, increased to 20 departments and how the EMC is now present in 19 departments²².

- **The intensity of the armed confrontation is between the illegal armed organizations themselves and not between them and the public forces.** In regions of the Arauca, southern Bolívar, Chocó, Cauca and Nariño departments, among others, confrontations in the context of disputes over the control of their economies and territory continue, while attacks against the security forces have decreased²³. According to the Indepaz balance sheet, it is in the department of Cauca where the greatest confrontations between the different armed organizations are observed²⁴.
- **Lack of knowledge regarding the existing protocols with the different armed organizations, their monitoring and verification mechanisms and the reports on these protocols affect their credibility and reliability.** Ceasefires require clear rules for the parties with respect to the required behavior and the geographic delimitation of the ceasefire, among others, to provide certainty for those who agree to them and for society as a whole. In addition, the

²⁰ UIA. Ceasefire Impact Assessment. Available at:

<https://www.jep.gov.co/JEP/documents1/Informe%20evaluaci%C3%B3n%20del%20impacto%20del%20cese%20al%20fuego.pdf>

²¹ See public communications of the San Juan ACADESAN General Community Council, May 26, 2023, June 19, 2023 and July 3, 2023.

²² Coeuropa. Ceasefire and humanitarian crisis. Report on the progress of the bilateral and temporary national ceasefire. January to May 2023. Available at: <https://coeuropa.org.co/cese-al-fuego-y-crisis-humanitaria/>

²³ Fundación Ideas para la Paz (Ideas for Peace Foundation). Lights and shadows of ceasefires: impact analysis from data. Available at: <https://ideaspaz.org/publicaciones/investigaciones-analisis/2023-05/luces-y-sombras-de-los-ceses-al-fuego-analisis-del-impacto-desde-los-datos>

²⁴ Indepaz. Actions of non-compliance or NO National Bilateral and Temporary Ceasefire, figures January-June 2023. Available at: <https://indepaz.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CESE-AL-FUEGO-INFORME-SEMESTRAL.pdf>



protocols also constitute the basis for compliance with the necessary monitoring and verification of the agreed ceasefires. The lack of knowledge of civil society about these instruments and of the communities most affected by humanitarian situations of different types has been noticeable, generating concerns, distrust and above all affecting the possibilities of organizations and communities in the territories to contribute to the observation and verification of these instruments.

From the information available, we only know about the existence of the bilateral ceasefire protocol signed with the EMC and the installation of its temporary Oversight, Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVMV) on April 24. The MVMV is made up of delegates from the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OHCP), the Ministry of Defense, the security forces and the EMC. Its installation was accompanied by the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia of the Organization of American States (MAPP-OAS) and, as observers, the UN Verification Mission and the Catholic Church representing civil society²⁵. No information is known about the work of the MVMV, nor about the

impact that the lifting of the partial ceasefire in four departments by the President of the Republic on May 22 might have had on it. The situation is much more worrisome if one considers that different existing reports point to the EMC as the organization that has most violated the commitments in the framework of the ceasefire. According to Indepaz's semi-annual report as of June 20, this armed structure is responsible for 115 violations of the bilateral ceasefire, most of them attributable to the Western Bloc and, more particularly, to its structures Jaime Martínez, Dagoberto Ramos and Carlos Patiño²⁶.

In contrast to the various setbacks presented with the bilateral ceasefires that came into effect at the beginning of the year, the good news for the country and also for the promotion of the Total Peace policy of the current government has been the agreement reached with the ELN for a national, bilateral and temporary ceasefire, agreed upon in the framework of the third cycle of peace negotiations on June 9.

The agreement signed by the parties includes 12 points in which the objectives of the ceasefire are: i) to reduce the intensity of the

²⁵ Pares. April 25, 2022. Oversight, Monitoring and Verification Mechanism for bilateral ceasefire with EMC was installed. Available at: <https://www.pares.com.co/post/se-instal%C3%B3-mecanismo-de-veedur%C3%ADa-monitoreo-y-verificaci%C3%B3n-para-ce-se-al-fuego-bilateral-con-emc>

²⁶ Indepaz. Actions of non-compliance or NO National Bilateral and Temporary Ceasefire, figures January-June 2023. Available at: <https://indepaz.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CESE-AL-FUEGO-IN-FORME-SEMESTRAL.pdf>



conflict, ii) to develop humanitarian actions and dynamics, iii) to promote the participation of civil society, and iv) to reach humanitarian agreements²⁷.

Point 10 of the agreement establishes that the ceasefire will be governed by 10 protocols: specific actions, evaluation and extension and suspension, mandate of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism -MMV-, role of the Catholic Church, security and protection for members of the MMV, security for members of the ELN and the places where it is present, social oversight and humanitarian protection, ceasefire education and communications.

Initially, the ceasefire will be in effect for 180 days as of August 3 and includes a preliminary or readiness phase that began on July 6, in the framework of which work is being carried out on some of the aforementioned protocols.

According to information broadcast by Caracol Radio on July 15, the following protocols are in progress: protocol of the role of the church in the Monitoring Mechanism, which states that it does so as part of its pastoral work and in favor of the community without implying that it evaluates or quali-

fies the incidents. Complementary protocol to the mandate of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, which specifies its tasks based on the protocol of concrete actions agreed on June 9; its main objective is to inform and prevent incidents; the fulfillment of its tasks will be carried out in three instances: national, regional in 9 municipalities, and local located in 22 municipalities; the MMV will receive the information provided by the organizations that wish to follow up and socially monitor the ceasefire. Protocol for the evaluation, extension or suspension of the agreement, which will be under the exclusive authority of the Peace Dialogue Table. The Protocol of security and protection for the members of the Mechanism, the different headquarters of the mechanism will be protected by the National Police, specifically the UNIPER. The Protocol of the Social Oversight and Humanitarian Protection Mechanisms; The social oversight is conceived as a dynamic network of articulation between ethnic authorities, social organizations, and human rights organizations²⁸.

According to peace promoter Carlos Velandia, to this date the ELN has carried out 28 ceasefires between unilateral and bilateral, the

²⁷ See Agreement between the parties at: <https://www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/prensa/PublishingImages/Paginas/Alistamiento-para-el-Proceso-de-Participacion-Bil/Acuerdo%20al%20Cese%20Bilateral.pdf>

²⁸ Navarro. C. Caracol Radio. July 15, 2023. Nine Points Will Monitor the Ceasefire between the ELN and the Government. Available at: <https://caracol.com.co/2023/07/15/nueve-puntos-vigilaran-el-cese-al-fuego-entre-el-gobierno-y-el-eln/>



national and bilateral ceasefires have totaled 202 days²⁹. Let us hope that this will allow us to make definitive and irreversible progress towards a solid and lasting peace.

In this search for agreements with the different armed groups, multiple fears and challenges arise, especially when the peace agreement signed with the FARC in 2016 is taken as a reference. The atomization of armed groups, the gaps of the State in the territories and the possible increase of territorial disputes are fears that the government must effectively anticipate preventing situations of the past from repeating themselves and to assure the communities not only the temporary silence of the guns,

but also the construction of peace that guarantees life and human rights in the territories. To this end, it is important for effective monitoring and verification mechanisms to be established in the different processes, as well as during the implementation of the agreements reached.

With all the situations that have arisen during this semester, Colombian society is still waiting for the way to peace and its destiny. Communities, social organizations and human rights defenders are still waiting for the agreements with the groups to be reached in order to finally have relief from the critical humanitarian situation they face every day.

²⁹ Carlos Velandia. [@carlosvelandiaj]. June 19, 2023. Available at: <https://twitter.com/carlosvelandiaj/status/1670791160388808704>

CHAPTER 2 COUNTERCLOCK

25
years

Universal
Declaration of
Human Rights
Defenders



In 1998, 25 years ago, within the United Nations, the commonly known Declaration on Human Rights Defenders was created, whose official name is actually the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The draft declaration was initially approved by the then Commission on Human Rights at that year's session, then a resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council recommended its approval by the General Assembly¹ and, finally, the declaration was embodied in General Assembly resolution A/Res53/144 in a process framed within the framework of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration.

In these 25 years, the Declaration has become an important tool for human rights defenders, on the one hand, because of the recognition that they contribute to the realization of human rights and, on the other hand, as a tool to demand progress from states in terms of public policies that materialize their obligation to protect and

respect the exercise of their work in favor of human rights. In this sense, the unanimous approval of the resolution in the General Assembly by the member states has been a very important element in favor of its enforceability.

It took more than 13 years of work in the multilateral political context of the Cold War to achieve an instrument for the recognition of human rights defenders within the United Nations. Resolution 1980/23 of the then Commission on Human Rights marked the beginning of the discussion and the process, recognizing that the work of activists and civil society groups is crucial for the application of international human rights standards and represents a greater risk of repression for these people. In this context, two important events gave impetus to the process: on the one hand, the guiding principles elaborated by the sub-commission on human rights and, on the other, the creation of the working group in charge of preparing the declaration, which continued until 1998. Its creation and the interaction it built up with participating international human rights organizations and/or those with consultative functions boosted the transnational process of human rights activism on behalf of those who defend human rights on different continents. In this context, it is important to remember the active role played by Gustavo Gallón Giraldo, as director of the Colombian

¹ Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/7 of April 3, 1998 approved the text of the draft Declaration. The Economic and Social Council recommended its adoption to the Assembly by resolution 1998/33 of July 30, 1998.



Commission of Jurists, in the work of the group².

The complexity of the negotiations of the Declaration had at its core the question of human rights as a matter of states, of each other at the international level and, for some, of the state as such at the national level. For others, the focus was not on states but on rights as such and the protection of those who defend them. Although the tensions and differences cannot be viewed solely from an ideological perspective between the Eastern and Western blocs, the fact is that the collapse of the Soviet Union changed the balance of power within the working group, which facilitated the climate for negotiation³.

Even today it is surprising that the Declaration does not incorporate the term “human rights defenders” in either the name or the text, as recommended by the subcommission rapporteur Erika Daes. This is an indication of the need to have opted for rigid and calculated language in the text, given the tensions that accompanied the approval process. For Petter Wille, as the Norwegian representative on the working group that drafted the declaration between 1995 and 1998, this was intended to prevent it from acquiring an emblematic

character like that of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁴.

Although the Declaration has been perceived by several human rights organizations as a declaration of an absolute minimum, it has made possible an institutional anchoring of the right to defend human rights in the United Nations System, with the appointment first of a special representative (2000) who then became a special rapporteur in the system of special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, which remains in place to this day⁵. The first representative was Hina Jilani from Pakistan; currently serving as special rapporteur since May 1, 2020 is Mary Lawlor from Ireland.

In her report presented during the March 2023 sessions of the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur takes stock of the 25 years of the Declaration, highlighting (despite all the difficulties faced by defenders in the exercise of their work and the violence they suffer) its contributions to societies around the world, mainly on issues such as access to justice, modification of laws, protection of vulnerable people, resilience in the face of obstacles to prevent their work, corporate responsibility and the release of persons unjustly detained⁶.

² Colombian Commission of Jurists. December 19, 2018. The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, History and Elaboration Process, Presentation by Petter Wille, special advisor to the Norwegian institution. Available at.: https://www.coljuristas.org/sala_de_prensa/articulo.php?id=175

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ United Nations. December 21, 2022. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders, Success through perseverance and solidarity, 25 years of achievements of Human Rights Defenders, A/HRC/52/29.



The reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, apart from highlighting the situations faced by defenders around the world in general or by certain categories of defenders in particular, and addressing particular aspects to draw attention to, also contribute to promoting resolutions of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on the subject.

Since the adoption of the Declaration, at least 22 Security Council and General Assembly resolutions have referred to or elaborated on the subject⁷. We will refer to two that we consider to be of particular importance:

- **General Assembly resolution A/Res/68 /181 of 2013 on the protection of female human rights defenders.** The Resolution recognizes the risks, discrimination and systematic violence suffered by women human rights defenders, as well as their contribution to peace, justice and equality, urging governments to ensure that protection programs and strategies incorporate a gender perspective, guarantee their participation and also to act with due diligence to prevent threats, harassment and violence, overcome impunity, guarantee safe and enabling environments for the exercise of the work of defending human rights, which also incorporates the provision of

adequate resources for their immediate and long-term protection⁸.

- **Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/40/L.22/Rev.1 on the recognition of the contribution made by human rights defenders related to the environment.** The resolution recognizes the important and legitimate role of human rights defenders who make known the effects of development projects and commercial activities and exploitation of natural resources, underscoring the need for states to create spaces for dialogue in this regard and to protect those who participate in them. It is also worth noting that the resolution underscores how transnational corporations and other companies have the responsibility to respect the human rights of HR defenders in general, and environmental defenders in particular, and to provide accessible and effective complaint mechanisms for individuals and communities affected by their activities⁹.

For the Special Rapporteur, the situation of human rights defenders in the different countries of the world continues to be of concern, even in those with solid democratic institutions.

⁷ See in: <https://www.ohchr.org/es/special-procedures/sr-human-rights-defenders/resolutions-and-decisions-mandate-special-rapporteur-situation-human-rights-defenders>

⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. A/RES68/181. Available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/450/34/PDF/N1345034.pdf?OpenElement>

⁹ United Nations, Human Rights Council. A/HRC/40/L.22/Rev.1. Available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G19/072/00/PDF/G1907200.pdf?OpenElement>



However, she emphasizes two particular situations: i) that of countries facing internal armed conflicts or public disorder, ii) that of countries in which guarantees are not fully guaranteed or do not exist, and iii) that of countries in which the situation of human rights defenders is not fully guaranteed or does not exist¹⁰.

Somehow, Colombia is framed in both situations. On the one hand, despite the signing of the Peace Agreement in 2016, the reconfiguration of the conflict dynamics in much of the country is a determining factor in the high number of attacks committed against human rights defenders. On the other hand, despite the fact that throughout these 25 years numerous public policy instruments aimed at protecting defenders have been formulated, the truth is that there is no policy of guarantees for the exercise of the work in defense of human rights.

Despite the important boost to the work of human rights defenders provided by the Declaration and its anchoring in the universal system, some states within the United Nations still persist in asserting limited and restrictive interpretations of the Declaration that seek to be reflected in the resolutions issued by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, despite which recognition of the right to exercise the work of defending human rights has continued to evolve.

"The Declaration can be seen as both a symptom and a catalyst for a human rights movement that is increasingly interested in local actors actively engaged in the human rights that Kofi Annan proposed: Helping to better protect the rights of all of us"¹¹.

Finally, it is important to note that although the Declaration is not a legally binding instrument under international law, the principles and rights it contains are incorporated into other instruments of international human rights law that are, to that extent it articulates these rights already established in the exercise of the work of defending human rights, such as the right to peaceful assembly, demonstration and protest, the right of association, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to access to an effective remedy, among others.

On the other hand, it is very important to highlight the impact of the Declaration in regional systems, within the Organization of American States (OAS) and based on the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the General Assembly, through resolution AG/RES 1671 of June 7, 1999, recognizes and supports the work of human rights defenders and their contribution to the defense and

¹⁰ United Nations. Special Rapporteur about human rights defenders. Challenges faced by human rights defenders. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/es/special-procedures/sr-human-rights-defenders/challenges-faced-human-rights-defenders>

¹¹ Colombian Commission of Jurists. December 19, 2018. The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, History and Elaboration Process, Presentation by Petter Wille, special advisor to the Norwegian institution. Available at: https://www.coljuristas.org/sala_de_prensa/articulo.php?id=175



protection of human rights, urging states to grant guarantees and facilities for this purpose, while deploring actions that prevent or hinder their work¹².

In 2011, the IACHR created the Rapporteurship about Human Rights Defenders within the Inter-American System, which replaced the unit that had been created in 2001¹³. For the IACHR, the work of human rights defenders is considered essential for the construction of a solid and lasting democratic society, playing a leading role in the full consolidation of the rule of law. In this sense, the guarantees enjoyed by human rights defenders make it possible to a large extent to respect and protect human rights¹⁴.

The activity developed by human rights defenders has been fundamental for the activation, both in the universal and regional systems, of the mechanisms and instruments created for the protection of human

rights, specifically for the Inter-American System:

the defenders have been very active, since they are the ones who have turned to the system to protect the rights of individuals in the States party to the American Convention on Human Rights and other international human rights instruments applicable in the hemisphere, the ones who have affirmed the legitimacy of the judgments and reports of the organs of the system, as well as the ones who act as overseers of compliance, seeking a policy of understanding with the system and promoting specialization in inter-American litigation¹⁵.

Along the same lines, human rights defenders are the ones who have taken the decisions of the Inter-American System to the national jurisdiction so that its decisions are adapted to the Inter-American standards, also demanding a conventionality control of the internal norms¹⁶.

In summary, although the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the instruments subsequently developed for the recognition of the right to defend human rights in the universal and regional human rights systems have been an important tool in the process of recognition and enforceability of guarantees for the exercise of this work, it is also true that their exercise has also led to significant advances for the instruments of respect and protection of human rights incorporated into both systems.

¹² Organization of American States OAS. June 7, 1999. AG/RES. 1671 (XXIX-O/99). "Human Rights Defenders in the Americas" support to the work carried out by individuals, groups and civil society organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Americas. Available at: <https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/defensores/docs/pdf/agres1671.pdf>

¹³ OEA. Human Rights Defenders and Justice Operators. Available at: <https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/r/dddh/default.asp>

¹⁴ Meza, Flores. J. H. 2015. The Right to Defend Rights, Inter-American Human Rights System Collection. Mexico. Available at: https://appweb.cndh.org.mx/biblioteca/archivos/pdfs/fas_CSIDH_DerDefender-Der-3aReimpr.pdf

¹⁵ Ibid. Page 16.

¹⁶ Ibid.



Impact of the Declaration in Colombia

The process of discussion and issuance of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders brought to the forefront the discussion on the need for reinforced protection of human rights defenders due to the risks they face in the exercise of their work.

With this momentum and with a complex national context for the defense of human rights and the assassination of human rights defenders that caused a strong national impact, Law 4128 of 1997 created the first protection mechanism in Colombia for people at risk because of the armed conflict and political violence, including leaders and activists of human rights organizations¹⁷.

Since then, at least 35 instruments have been formulated in Colombia,

including laws, decrees, programs, strategies, and directives that address the protection of human rights defenders and social leaders, but to date, as evidenced in this report, human rights defenders and social leaders do not have safe and enabling environments for the exercise of their work; on the contrary, violence against them persists and shows very high levels of aggression.

Among the failures identified, despite the existing public policy instruments, aggressions and high risks for the exercise of the work of defending human rights persist are: i) the existing imbalances between the implementation of protection and prevention, as its indispensable component; ii) the existing normative dispersion added to the institutional disarticulation for its implementation; iii) the lack of a timely and effective response to the risks alerted in the early warnings; iv) the existing asymmetries between the territorial entities to respond to their obligations in the matter as first responders; v) the impunity that has characterized the aggressions against the HR defenders and social leaders; vi) the shortcomings in the design of the National Protection Unit (Unidad Nacional de Protección -UNP-) and the large-scale corruption that has occurred within the Unit.

Some of the flaws of the UNP are the emphasis on individual risk analysis which limits the possibility of a broad understanding of risk, a predominantly physical and material response to risk, the adoption of outsourcing to private companies that implement the protection measures approved by the Unit.

¹⁷ Law 418 of 1997, Article 81. *The National Government will implement a protection program for persons who are in a situation of imminent risk to their life, integrity, security or freedom, due to causes related to political or ideological violence, or to the internal armed conflict, and who belong to the following categories:*
Leaders or activists of political groups and especially opposition groups.
Leaders or activists of social, civic and community organizations, unions, trade unions, peasants and ethnic groups.
Leaders or activists of human rights organizations and members of the Medical Mission.
Witnesses in cases of human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law, regardless of whether the respective disciplinary, criminal and administrative proceedings have not been initiated, in accordance with current regulations.



The Declaration has also been an important working tool for human rights defenders with a view to their recognition and legitimacy, the enforceability of guarantees for the exercise of their work, strategic national and international litigation actions and the basis for actions to monitor aggressions.

Advancing towards full guarantees for the exercise of human rights work remains an urgent task in the Colom-

bian context, We hope that the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Declaration will once again serve as an impetus for this, so that with the window of opportunity offered by the government of change we can move towards the formulation and implementation of a public policy of guarantees on the right to defend human rights built in a participatory manner, as has been demanded by human rights platforms for some time now.

CHAPTER 3 OUT OF TIME



Between January and June 2023, the Information System on Aggressions against Human Rights Defenders in Colombia - SIADDHH - of the Somos Defensores Program¹, recorded a total of **466** aggressions committed against **438** people. This is because, in some cases, several people were victims of more than one type of aggression in the same event.

The total number of aggressions presented an increase of **6%** (27 events), in relation to the same period of the previous year. It is important to note that both periods were marked by electoral events. The first semester of 2022 was due to the presidential and congressional elections. And the first semester of 2023 due to the preparation of the campaigns for the elections of governors and mayors and their respective collegiate bodies. In both cases, social leaders play an important role in the framework of electoral campaigns, they seek to be co-opted and instrumentalized, not only by political parties and movements, but also by armed groups: In the framework of regional elections their importance

is even greater, which makes us fear that aggressions will continue to increase until October, even more if we consider that some of them participate as candidates.

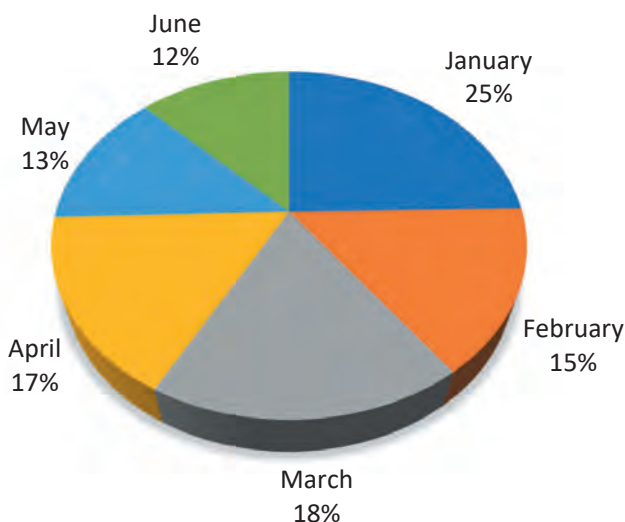
With 115 incidents, January was the month with the highest number of aggressions, followed by March with 84, April with 77, February with 71, May with 61 and June with 58. Thus, the most violent month for human rights defenders is January, which coincides with the holidays between the end and the beginning of the new year, when people are in their places of origin and in their homes, a situation in which they are more easily located by the alleged aggressors.

¹ This system records information known by the Somos Defensores Program and by direct source with social organizations and non-governmental organizations that

report cases to the Program. SIADDHH publishes only the cases it has directly confirmed.



**Number of assaults by month
SIADDHH figures January - June 2023**



Aggressions by gender

During the first half of 2023, of the 438 human rights defenders who were victims of different types of aggression, 109 (25%) were women and 329 (75%) were men. In relation to the same period of 2022, the number of female victims increased by 15% (14 more victims); as for men, the record showed an increase of 2% (5 more victims).

As for the number of aggressions, 119 occurred against women, with threats (78 events) being the most recurrent, followed by murders (15 events), attacks (12 events), forced displacement (6 events), theft of information (3 events), forced disappearances (2 events), judicialization

(1 event), kidnapping (1 event) and arbitrary detention (1 event). On the other hand, 437 aggressions occurred against men, in this case also threats (201 incidents) was the type of aggression with the highest number of incidents.

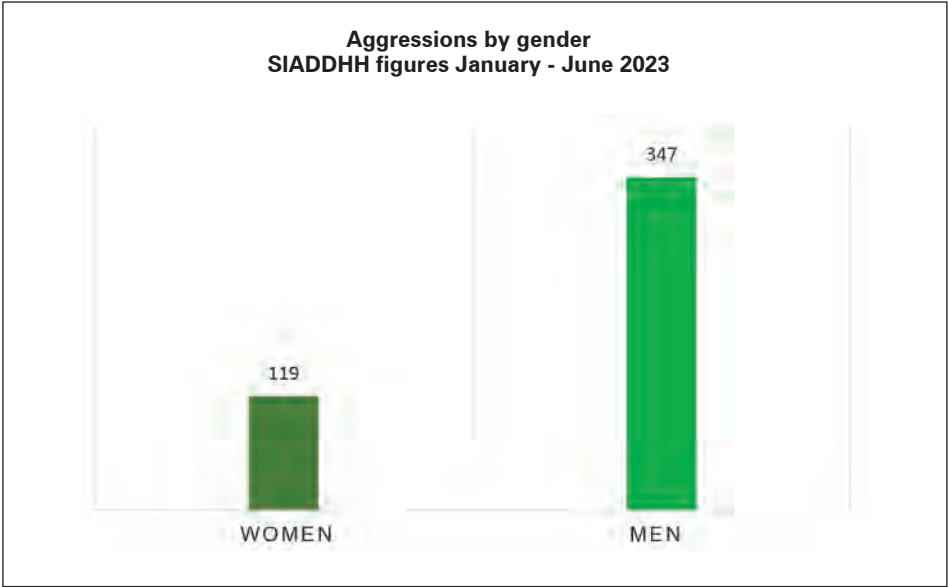
As for the alleged perpetrators of the attacks against women, although the main perpetrators are unknown, it was found that paramilitary groups, specifically the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AGC), committed 31 attacks, mainly against female defenders and environmental leaders (11 cases) in the department of Santander. The post-peace agreement groups committed 14 aggressions, all of which occurred in southwestern departments (Valle del Cauca, Cauca



and Nariño), 13 of which were perpetrated by the Segunda Marquetalia and the Oliver Sinisterra Front, which is part of the same structure, and 1 by the Carlos Patiño Front.

The regions with the highest number of attacks against women lea-

ders were Cauca (26 incidents), Antioquia (16 incidents), Santander (13 incidents), Nariño (9 incidents), Norte de Santander (8 incidents), the Capital District (7 incidents) and Valle del Cauca (7 incidents).



Aggressions by type of violence

The types of aggressions that occurred during the first semester of 2023 were: murders, threats, attacks, arbitrary detentions, prosecutions, forced disappearances, kidnappings, theft of information and forced displacements. This time a total of 85 murders were confirmed, although compared to the same period of 2022 there was a decrease of 14%, it is worth noting that it continues to be a

considerable loss of human lives that dramatically affects the social fabric.

As for other recorded aggressions, threats, with 279 cases, continue to be the most recurrent event, with a 2% reduction compared to the first half of 2022. Attacks, with 52 incidents, again presented an ostensible increase equivalent to 93%. Forced displacements, with 21 incidents, increased by 50%. Forced disappearances presented an increase of 13%. Arbitrary detentions, with 7 inci-



dents, also had a considerable increase equivalent to 250%. Kidnappings, which in the first semester of 2022 were not registered, in this period of analysis presented an occurrence of 5 facts. Likewise, 5 information thefts

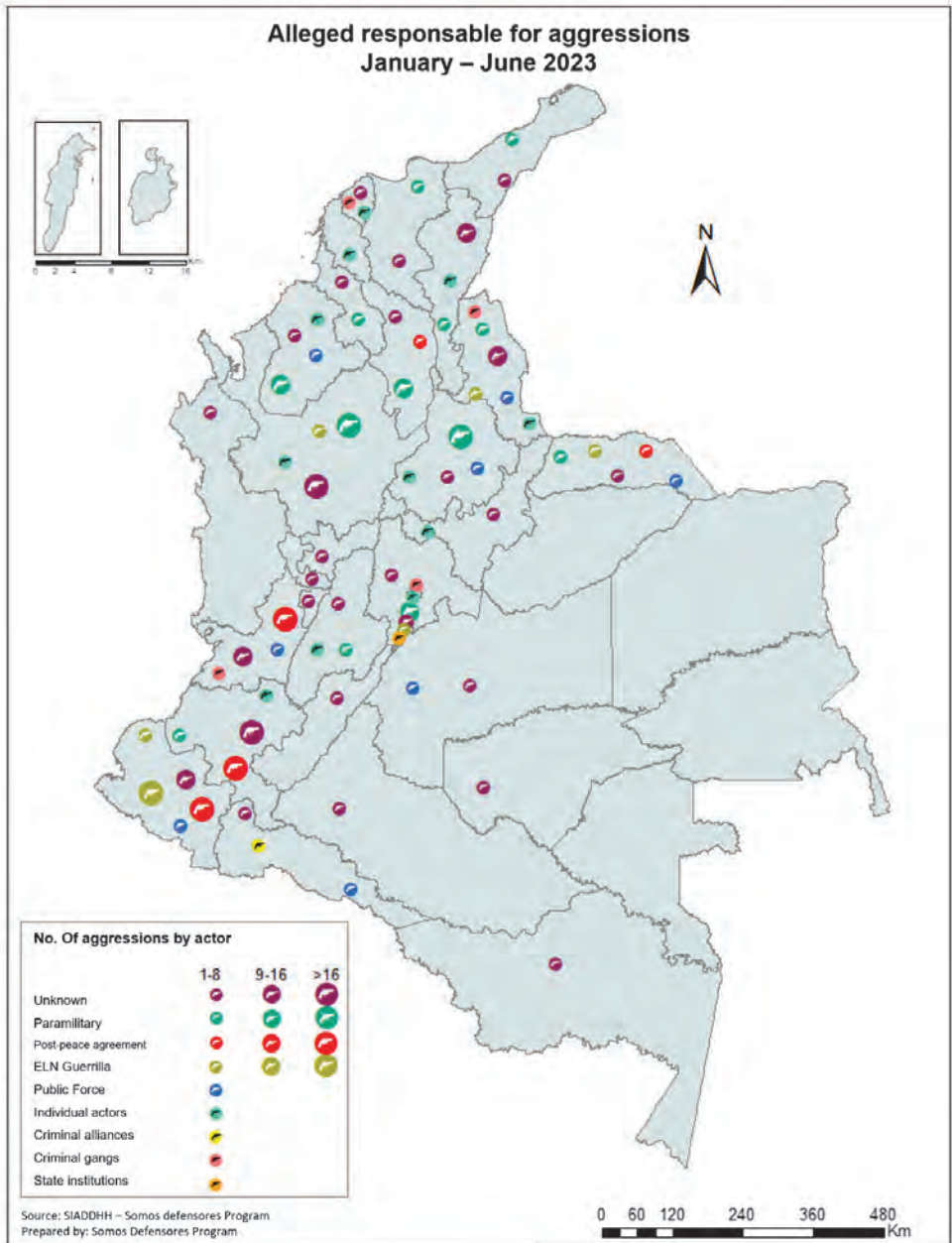
were recorded, events that had no record between January and June 2022. And finally, the judicializations, with 3 events, had the same record as in 2022.

Types of individual aggressions	Aggressions January - June 2022	Aggressions January - June 2023
Threats	286	279
Murders	99	85
Murder attempts	27	52
Forced displacements	14	21
Forced disappearances	8	9
Arbitrary detentions	2	7
Kidnappings	No reference	5
Information thefts	0	5
Judicializations	3	3
Total aggressions	439	466

Alleged responsible

As for the alleged perpetrators, the SIADDHH of the Somos Defensores Program found that of the 466 confirmed aggressions, 41% are attributed to unknown perpetrators, 24% to paramilitaries, 16% to post-peace agreement groups, 8% to the National Liberation Army -ELN-, 4% to individual perpetrators, 4% to the security forces, 2% to criminal gangs, 0.6% to State institutions and 0.4%

to criminal alliances. The figures show a change in the trend of alleged perpetrators, as unknown individuals once again top the list with 195 incidents, while paramilitary groups, who in the first half of 2022 were in first place, are now in second place with 114 incidents. On the other hand, the post-peace agreement groups, with 75 incidents, came in third place, and in fourth place, with a notable but unfortunate increase, was the ELN, with 36 incidents.





Events attributed to unknown perpetrators increased by 19% (31 more events), 87 were threats, 50 were murders, 40 attacks, 6 forced disappearances, 5 thefts of information, 4 forced displacements and 3 kidnappings.

Regarding the facts where the alleged responsibility is attributed to paramilitary groups, the result showed a significant decrease of 43% (58 facts less) compared to the first half of 2022, this change in the trend could have occurred due to the increased control of different paramilitary structures and their establishment in territories where they were previously waging territorial disputes, which causes the deployment of the entire repertoire of violence to be unnecessary. The records found 94 threats, 8 murders, 10 forced displacements, 1 attack and 1 forced disappearance. The most affected departments were Santander (40 incidents), Antioquia (22 incidents), Bolívar (13 incidents) and the Capital District (12 incidents). In the 13 regions affected by these armed groups, the following structures were identified: The Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia - AGC - which in some regions operated under this name in general and in others under the Julio César Vargas Structure, Luis Alfonso Peralta Structure and the Aristides Meza Block; aggressions were also recorded by the Black Eagles, the Conquistadores de la Sierra Self-Defense Forces and the Clan de Oriente.

For cases in which post-peace agreement groups were responsible, there was an increase of 27% (16 more incidents) and 57 threats, 8 murders, 7 forced displacements, 2 kidnappings

and 1 forced disappearance were found. The department of Cauca remains the most affected with 31 incidents, followed by Valle del Cauca with 21 incidents, Nariño with 20 incidents, Bolívar with 2 incidents and Arauca with 1 incident. The indigenous leadership continues to be the most affected by these structures. In the affected regions, the presence of the Dagoberto Ramos Mobile Column, the Jaime Martínez Mobile Column and the Carlos Patiño Front belonging to the Western Coordinating Command -CCO; the 37th Front of the Central General Staff -EMC-; the Second Marquetalia and the Oliver Sinisterra Front belonging to the same structure were identified.

As mentioned above, the aggressions committed by the National Liberation Army -ELN- which is involved in a negotiation process with the Colombian State presented an increase equivalent to 177% (26 more facts) compared to the same period of 2022, the types of aggressions committed were 28 threats, 6 murders, 1 attack and 1 forced disappearance. The regions of occurrence were Cauca with 26 incidents, Norte de Santander with 5 incidents, Arauca with 2 incidents, Antioquia, Nariño and the Capital District with 1 incident each. The aggressions were committed on behalf of the ELN in general and in some cases as the Manuel Vásquez Castaño Eastern War Front and the Édgar Amílkar Grimaldo Barón Front.

It is worth emphasizing the significant increase in the alleged responsibility of both the ELN and the post-peace agreement groups, structures that are in negotiation and rapprochement



processes, respectively, with the National Government in the framework of Total Peace. In this order of ideas, the increase in aggressions attributed to them may be related to the recurrent strategy used to demonstrate their military strength and capacity to affect in negotiation scenarios.

The number of acts allegedly committed by individual perpetrators increased by 750% (15 more acts), from 2 acts in 2022 to 17 in 2023, corresponding to 7 murders, 7 attacks and 3 threats.

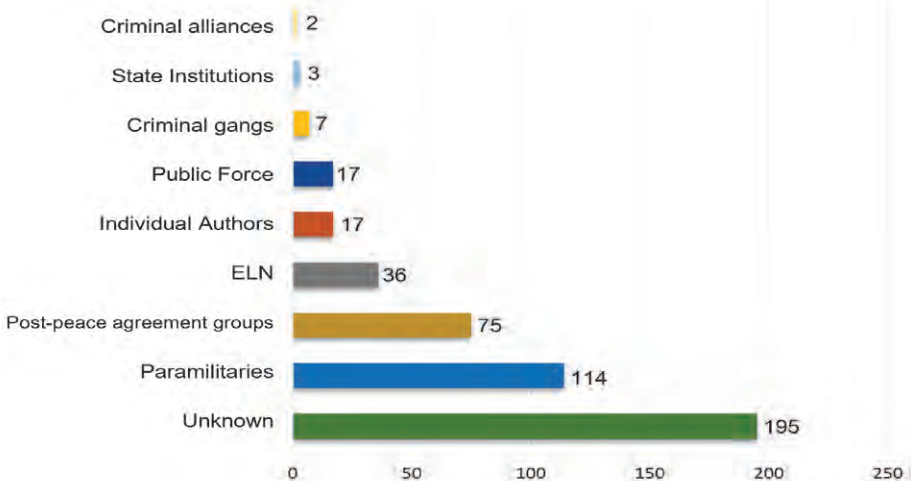
On the other hand, there was a 15% decrease in the number of recorded aggressions for which the public security forces were responsible (3 fewer incidents), corresponding to 7

arbitrary detentions, 6 threats, 3 attacks and 1 judicialization.

As for criminal gangs (which during January-June 2022 were not registered as alleged perpetrators), 4 murders and 3 threats were recorded in Norte de Santander, Atlántico, the Capital District and Valle del Cauca, attributed to them. The groups identified are the Tren de Aragua, Los Costeños, Los Niches and the Oficina de Tuluá (Tuluá Office).

State institutions did not present any variation in the number of aggressions and would be responsible for 2 prosecutions through the Attorney General's Office and 1 threat through the National Protection Unit (Unidad Nacional de Protección -UNP-).

**Alleged perpetrators of aggressions
SIADDHH figures January - June 2023**

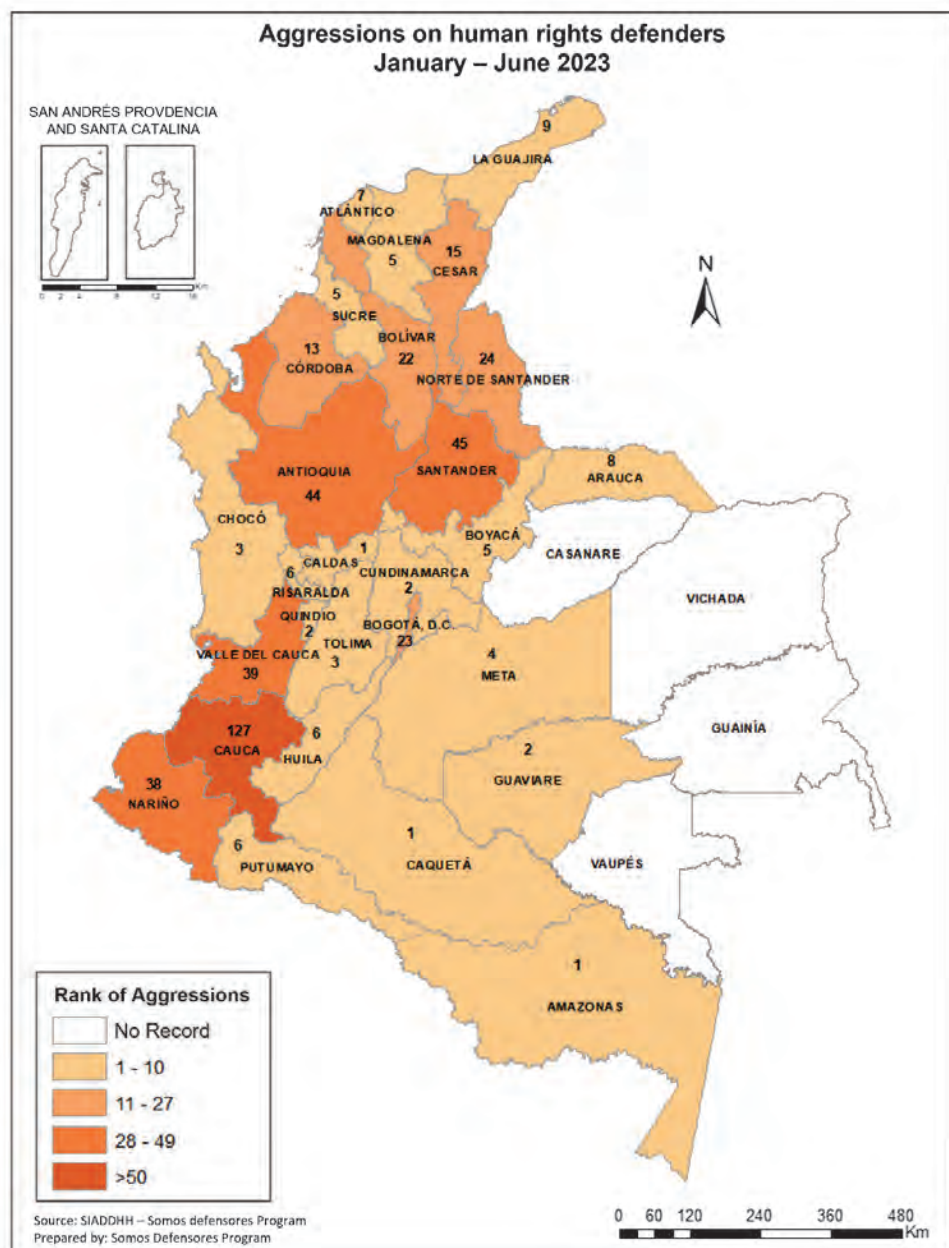




Finally, criminal alliances showed a decrease of 67% (4 fewer acts), and specifically the group known as the

Border Commandos (Comandos de la Frontera) was responsible for 2 murders.

Aggressions by department





As in the first half of 2022, aggressions against human rights defenders occurred in 27 departments and in the Capital District, which means that the events in which human rights defenders and social leaders were victims occurred in 85% of the national territory.

The departments where the highest number of aggressions occurred were Cauca (127 events), Santander (45 events), Antioquia (44 events), Valle del Cauca (39 events) and Nariño (38 events), Norte de Santander (24 events), Distrito Capital (23 events), Bolívar (22 events), Cesar (15 events) and Córdoba (13 events).

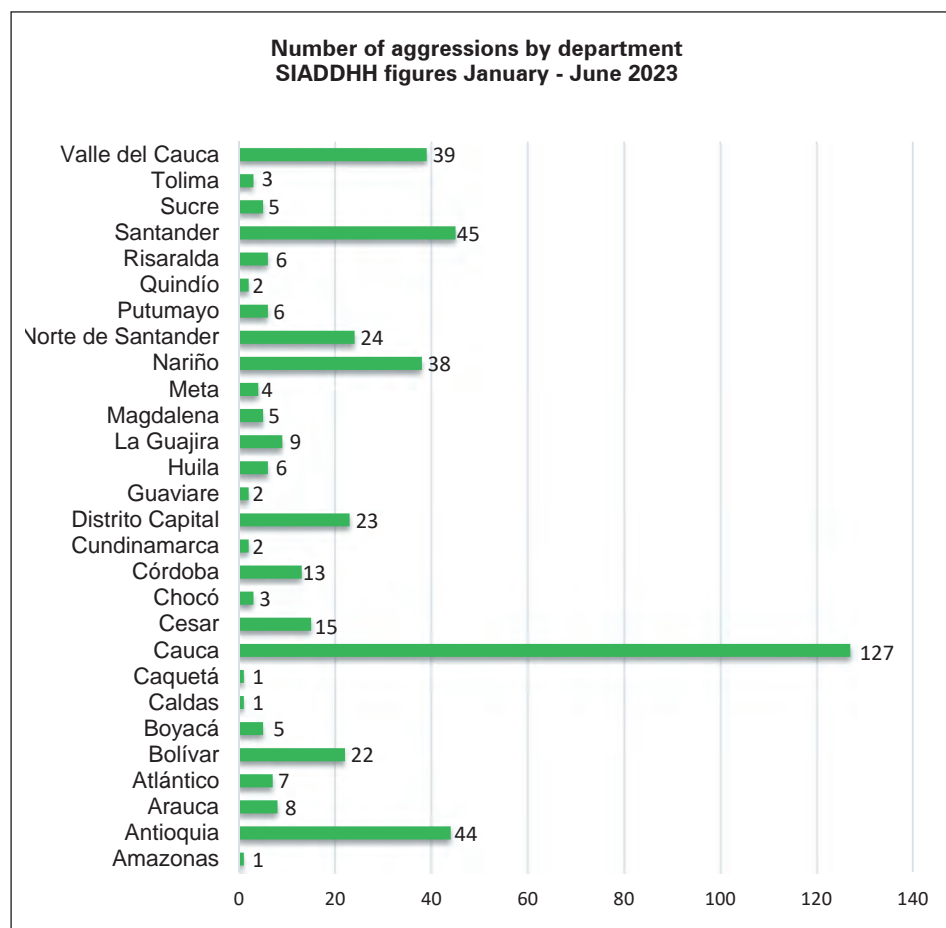
Once again, Cauca recorded the highest number of aggressions, despite showing a decrease of 11% with 15 fewer incidents compared to the first half of 2022. The department of Santander continued to increase by 7%, with 3 more incidents, and moved from third place in 2022 to second place in 2023. In Antioquia, aggressions decreased by 25% with 15 facts less than in 2022. Valle del Cauca, which decreased the number of cases in the previous year, was in fourth place in this period of analysis and showed an increase of 30% with 9 more incidents.

Meanwhile, the department of Nariño, which in 2022 was in ninth place, moved up to fifth place during the

first half of 2023 and recorded a considerable increase in aggressions, equivalent to 192%, with 25 more incidents.

Norte de Santander presented an increase equivalent to 71% with 10 more cases. In the same line, the Capital District, which the previous year recorded a decrease in aggressions, in 2023 showed an increase in attacks of 21% with 4 more incidents.

The following three departments are noteworthy: Bolívar which during the first semester of 2022 was not mentioned among the regions with the highest number of aggressions, this time it appears with an increase of 83% going from 12 to 22 facts. A similar situation occurred in Cesar, where aggressions increased by 36% from 11 to 14 incidents. And finally, Córdoba, where the increase is alarming as it is equivalent to 550%, going from 2 to 13 incidents.



Aggressions by type of leadership

During the period between January and June 2023, 13 types of leaderships were affected. Of the 438 people attacked, 137 were indigenous, 62 community, 59 community, 46 human rights activists, 42 peasants, 34 environmental, 18 victims, 10 Afro-descendants, 10 LGBTIQ+, 7

youth, 6 trade union, 4 students and 3 women's rights defenders.

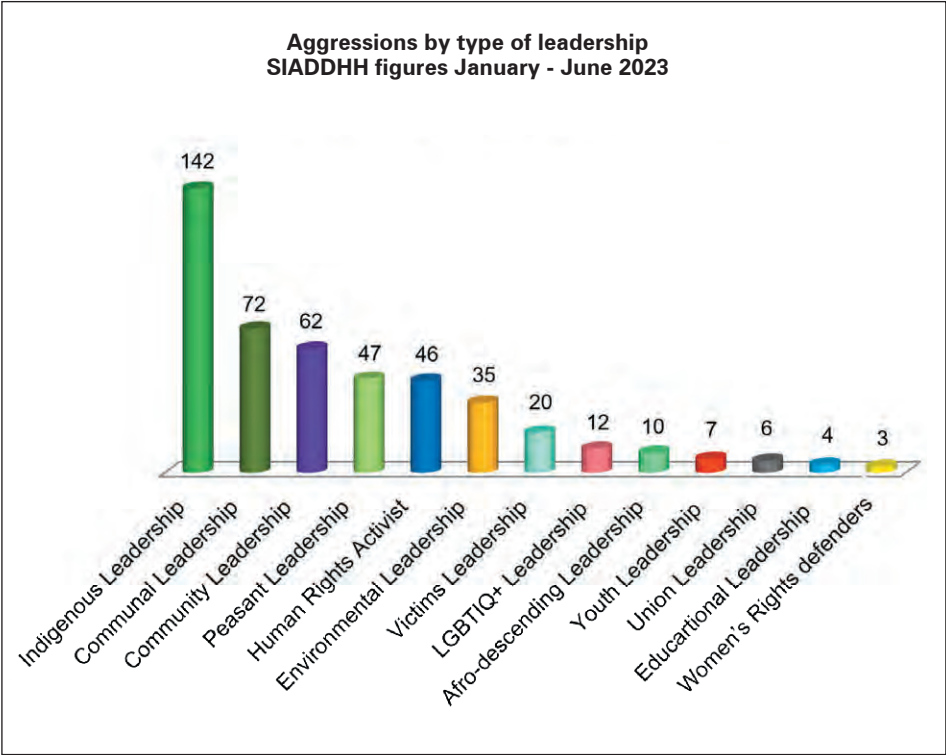
Of the 466 aggressions, indigenous leaders continue to be the most assaulted despite the decrease registered, attacks went from 158 events in the first half of 2022 to 142 events in this period, 16 less than the previous year. The number of aggressions against communal leaders, which



ranked second, increased from 44 events in 2022 to 72 in 2023. In addition, aggressions against community leaders were confirmed with 62 incidents, peasants with 47 incidents, human rights activists with 46 incidents, environmental activists with 35 incidents, victims' leaders with 20 incidents, LGBTIQ+ leaders with 12 incidents, Afro-descendants with 10 incidents, youth leaders with 7 incidents, union leaders with 6 incidents,

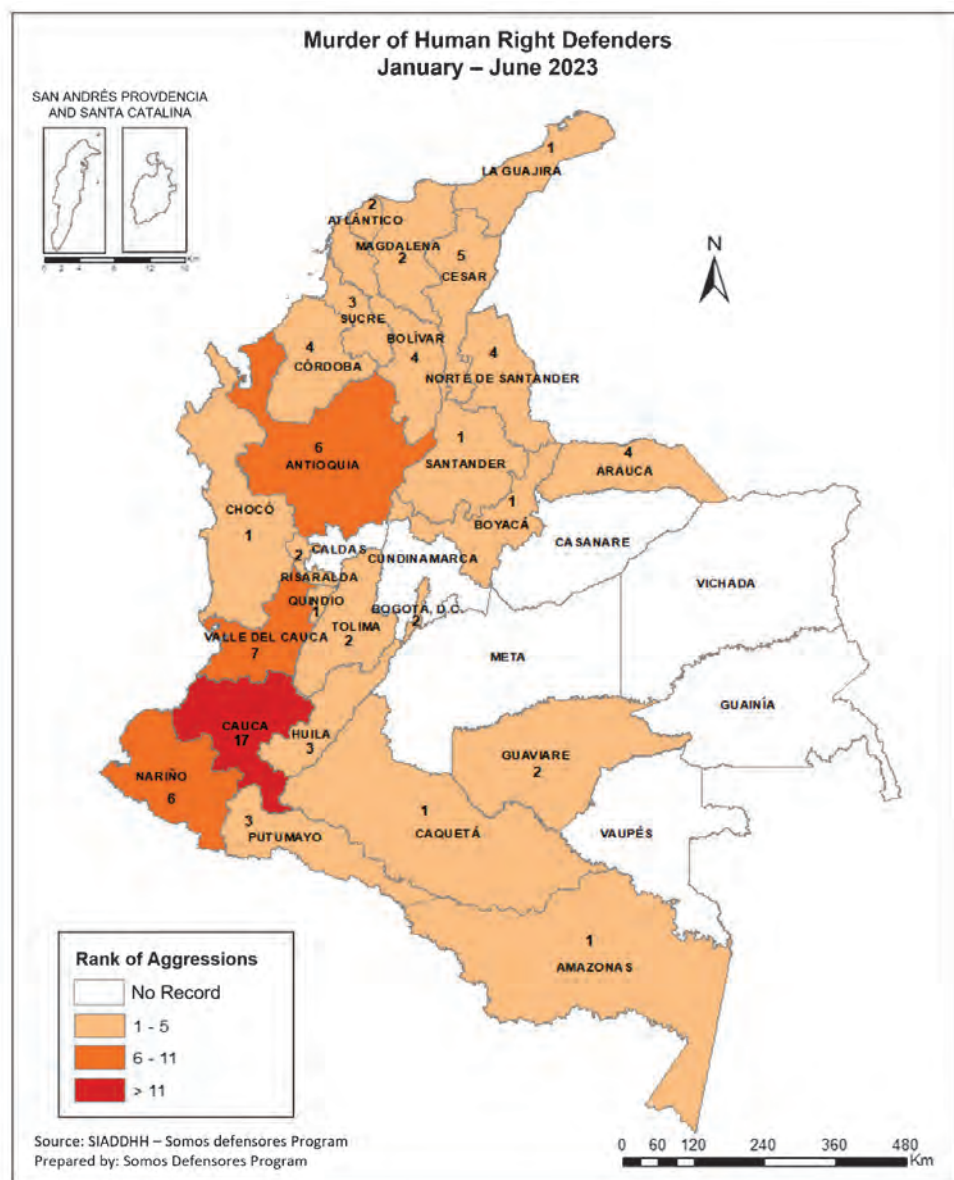
student leaders with 4 incidents and women's rights defenders with 3 incidents.

The increase in aggressions against community leaders is particularly noteworthy, a situation that may have occurred due to their participation in regional electoral processes as campaign activists or through candidacies.





Murder of human rights defenders





During the first semester of 2023, the Somos Defensores Program through SIADDHH confirmed 85 murders, a figure that represents a decrease of 14% with 14 fewer events compared to the same period of 2022. The registry showed that April and June with 17 cases each were the months with the highest occurrence of this type of aggression, followed by March with 16 cases, May with 14 cases, January with 13 cases and February with 8 cases.

Of the 85 documented cases, 15 victims were women (18%) and 70 were men (82%). With respect to the same period of the previous year, these data show that murders of women leaders and defenders increased by 50% (5 more cases), highlighting the risk faced by women leaders in contexts of heightened conflict dynamics. On the contrary, cases of leaders and defenders registered a 21% decrease (19 cases less).

Regarding gender-related killings, which refer to those where the possible motive is the victim's gender identity, 2 cases were registered during the period, which occurred against LGBTIQ+ leaders. One took place in Antioquia and the other in Valle del Cauca. In one case a knife was used and in the other a firearm, one of them was carried out with violence.

Regarding the 15 murders perpetrated against women defenders and leaders, the events occurred in the following regions: Cauca (3), Antioquia (2), Bolívar (2), Guaviare (2), Norte de Santander (2), Córdoba (1), Capital District (1), Nariño (1) and Valle del

Cauca (1). The registry also showed that 4 were community leaders, 3 were community leaders, 3 were LGBTIQ+ leaders, 2 were indigenous leaders, 1 was a victims leader and 1 was a union leader.

As for the alleged perpetrators, in 9 cases they were unknown, in 2 cases the perpetrators were individuals, in 2 cases post-peace agreement groups (Frente Carlos Patiño and Segunda Marquetalia), in 1 case paramilitaries (AGC) and 1 case was committed by criminal gangs.

In 9 cases a firearm was used, in 3 cases it was a knife, and in 3 cases the type of weapon used remains unknown.

As for attacks constituting attempted homicide, 52 acts were recorded, with an increase of 93% (25 more acts) compared to the first half of 2022. Of these, 12 were committed against women and 40 against men. In 30 incidents, physical injury was involved. Firearms were used in 34 incidents, 3 involved a knife, 2 were caused by anti-personnel mines, 1 involved a blunt object, and 1 involved a chemical burn (acid attack) against a female leader; in 11 cases the type of weapon used is unknown.

Murders by department

The 85 murder cases occurred in 24 departments and the Capital District, which is equivalent to 76% of the national territory. The department of Cauca ranked first with 17 incidents; Valle del Cauca came in second place with 7 incidents; followed by An-



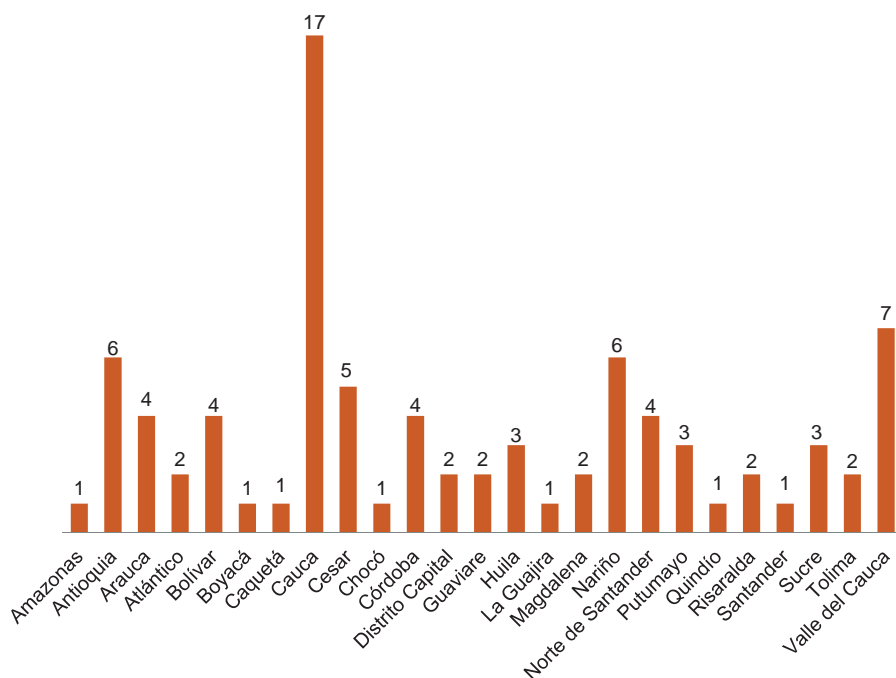
tioquia and Nariño with 6 incidents each; Cesar with 5 incidents; Arauca, Bolívar, Córdoba and Norte de Santander with 4 incidents each; Huila, Putumayo and Sucre with 3 incidents each; Atlántico with 3 incidents each; Huila, Putumayo and Sucre with 3 incidents each; Atlántico, Distrito Capital, Guaviare, Magdalena, Risaralda and Tolima with 2 incidents each; and finally, Amazonas, Boyacá, Caquetá, Chocó, La Guajira, Quindío and Santander with 1 incident each.

In 60 cases firearms were used to commit the murders, in 13 cases knives were used, in 2 cases the murders were committed with blunt objects, in 1 case by blows, in 1 case by

anti-personnel mines and in 8 cases the type of weapon used is unidentified.

In 7 cases the persons were victims of forced disappearance prior to the murder; these events took place in Cauca (5), Arauca (1) and Córdoba (1). There were acts of torture in 2 cases, in 7 cases the murder was committed with brutality, in 14 cases the victims were previously threatened, in 15 cases others were affected and, contrary to previous periods, no cases occurred in the context of massacres. In 4 of the cases the victims were beneficiaries of protection measures.

Murders by department
SIADDHH figures January - June 2023



Territorial concentration of selective violence

Of the 85 murders, there is a special concentration in departments where this type of aggression is most committed, such as Cauca (17 cases), Valle del Cauca (7 cases), Antioquia (6 cases), and Nariño (6 cases).

As we have already mentioned in previous analyses, in these departments there is a concentration of factors that have triggered critical security conditions, affecting social processes and communities and, in this context, their leaders and human rights defenders. The presence for decades of different armed actors, the territorial disputes between them, the strategic location for the war, the illegal economies of some sub-regions of these departments and the precarious pre-

sence of the State, are some of the reasons that have led to the highest number of selective murders in these departments for years.

However, in order to have a clearer understanding of the territorial impact of this type of aggression, it is necessary to focus on the occurrence of these events at the subregional and municipal levels. Thus, according to our findings, the municipalities with the highest number of murder cases during the first half of 2023 were Tumaco, Nariño; Jambaló, Cauca; and Tame, Arauca. These are followed by other municipalities in Valle del Cauca (2 municipalities), Cauca (2 municipalities), Antioquia (1 municipality), Huila (1 municipality), Norte de Santander (1 municipality), Cesar (1 municipality) and the Capital District.





Early Alert 019-23², published by the Ombudsman's Office in May of this year, identifies that there is a risk to the life and work of human rights defenders in "706 municipalities and 16 non-municipalized areas in 32 departments of the country". 120 of these

municipalities are at extreme risk, 258 at high risk, 203 at medium risk and 125 at low risk. In these territories, the presence and interference of different illegal armed groups and organized crime is identified as a potential threat factor³.

Table 16. Number of municipalities with Presence-Action-Transit-Interference of illegally armed and adverted organized crime groups

GROUPS	No. of Municipalities
ELN	224
AGC (Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia)	392
Iván Mordisco FARC dissident factions	180
Segunda Marquetalia FARC dissident factions	69
Border Commandos FARC dissident factions	14
Other FARC dissident factions	38
Unidentified armed group	65
Organized crime groups / Post AUC armed groups / Other armed groups (EPL)	195

Source: SAT. Own elaboration

Source: Ombudsman's office. AT 019-23

According to the Ombudsman's Office, there are three important threat factors that influence violence against human rights defenders and social leaders in different municipalities: the presence of illegal armed groups and criminal organizations, the type of area of advocacy of the defenders or organizations attacked, and the impact of differential approaches.

These elements are present in the three municipalities with the highest number of aggressions according to our information system. In two of them there is an important mark of

the ethnic focus of the leadership (Tumaco and Jambaló) and, in addition, in all of them there is a clear presence, transit, action or interference of illegal armed actors. According to the Early Warning itself, the following actors are identified in these municipalities:

- Tumaco: Central General Staff and Second Marquetalia

² <https://alertasstg.blob.core.windows.net/alertas/019-23.pdf>

³ Ombudsman's Office. TA N° 019-23. National Early Risk Alert on the work of human rights defenders, social leaders, their organizations and collectives. Human Rights Defenders (HRDD), social leaders, their organizations and collectives. Page 76. Available at: <https://alertasstg.blob.core.windows.net/alertas/019-23.pdf>



- Jambaló: ELN and Central General Staff
- Tame: AGC, ELN, Central General Staff

In other words, in these territories there are several risk factors that explain why they are the municipalities where most murders were concentrated in the first half of 2023. This leads to the fact that, according to the Ombudsman's Office, Tumaco and Tame are at extreme risk and Jambaló is at medium risk.

As for the other municipalities that register more than two murders, there are four with an extreme risk level, four with a high risk level and one with a medium risk level. This is a clear indication that the places with the highest number of murders of human rights defenders and social leaders are marked by a high concentration of violence, especially by the actions of illegal armed groups.

Municipality	# PSD murders	AT 019-23	AT 030-23
Tumaco	4	Extreme risk	Extreme risk
Jambaló	3	Average risk	High risk
Tame	3	Extreme risk	Extreme risk
Balboa	2	Extreme risk	Extreme risk
Bogotá D. C.	2	High risk	High and extreme risk
Buenaventura	2	Extreme risk	Extreme risk
Caldono	2	Extreme risk	Extreme risk
Cali	2	Extreme risk	High risk
Medellín	2	High risk	High risk
Tello	2	High risk	Extreme risk
Tibú	2	High risk	Extreme risk
Valledupar	2	Average risk	High risk

The record of murders in these municipalities included in the Alert, worryingly, shows how the warned risks continue to materialize, taking the lives of leaders who play an important role for communities that are so affected by the dynamics of violence.

Recently, the Ombudsman's Office also published Early Alert 030-23⁴, on possible threats in the scenario of regional elections and, unfortunately,

⁴ Ombudsman's Office. TA N°030-23. Regional Elections 2023. Available at: <https://alertasstg.blob.core.windows.net/alertas/030-23.pdf>



ly, the risk level increases for almost all municipalities that concentrated the highest number of murders in the first half of 2023. Except for Cali, which in the TA on social leadership appears in Extreme risk and in the last one in High risk, the other municipalities remain in Extreme risk or go from Average risk to high and from High risk to extreme.

With these warnings about the risks at the municipal level, which have a marked coincidence, it is urgent that adequate and sufficient preventive measures be taken to guarantee the rights of communities and human rights defenders in the upcoming elections.

Leadership affected in the murders

In the leaderships affected by the 85 murders, the communal leadership remains in first place with 23 cases, 7 less than the previous year; the community leadership with 21 cases, 1 more than the previous year; the indigenous leadership remains in third place with 15 cases, 15 less than the previous year; the peasant leadership in the same position and with 9 cases maintains the figure of the previous year; Afro-descendant with 4 cases, one more than in 2022; LGBTIQ+ with 4 cases, 2 more than in 2022; youth and victims with 3 cases each and 2 more than in 2022 each; environmental with 1 case, presented 4 less than the previous year; human rights activists with 1 case, 3 less than the previous year and trade union with 1 case, 2 less than in 2022.

Murder of human rights defenders according to leadership type	January-June 2022	January-June 2023
Communal leadership	30	23
Communitary leadership	20	21
Indigenous leadership	21	15
Peasant leadership	9	9
Afrodescending leadership	3	4
LGBTIQ+ leadership	2	4
Youth leadership	1	3
Victims leadership	1	3
Environmental leadership	5	1
HR Activist	4	1
Union leadership	3	1
Grand total	99	85



Alleged perpetrators of the murders

Of the 85 murder cases documented, the information showed that 50 were allegedly committed by unknown

persons, 8 by post-peace agreement groups, 8 by paramilitary groups, 7 by individual perpetrators, 6 by ELN guerrillas, 4 by criminal gangs and 2 by criminal alliances.

Alleged perpetrators of the murders	January-June 2022	January-June 2023
Unknown	69	50
Post-Peace Agreement groups	11	8
Paramilitary groups	9	8
Individual actors	0	7
ELN	3	6
Criminal gangs	0	4
Criminal alliances	2	2
Grand total	99	85

Individual threats

During the first semester of 2023, the SIADDHH registered 279 individual threats, which makes it the most used aggression against human rights defenders, since it represents 60% of the total number of aggressions, which corroborates that within the repertoire of violence it is the most used mechanism to instill fear in social leaders and, thus, hinder or stop the normal development of their activities within the organizational processes. As in 2022, there was a decrease in these events equivalent to 2% (7 fewer events) in relation to the same period of the previous year; however, this figure is not representative if we consider that there is still a high number of threats.

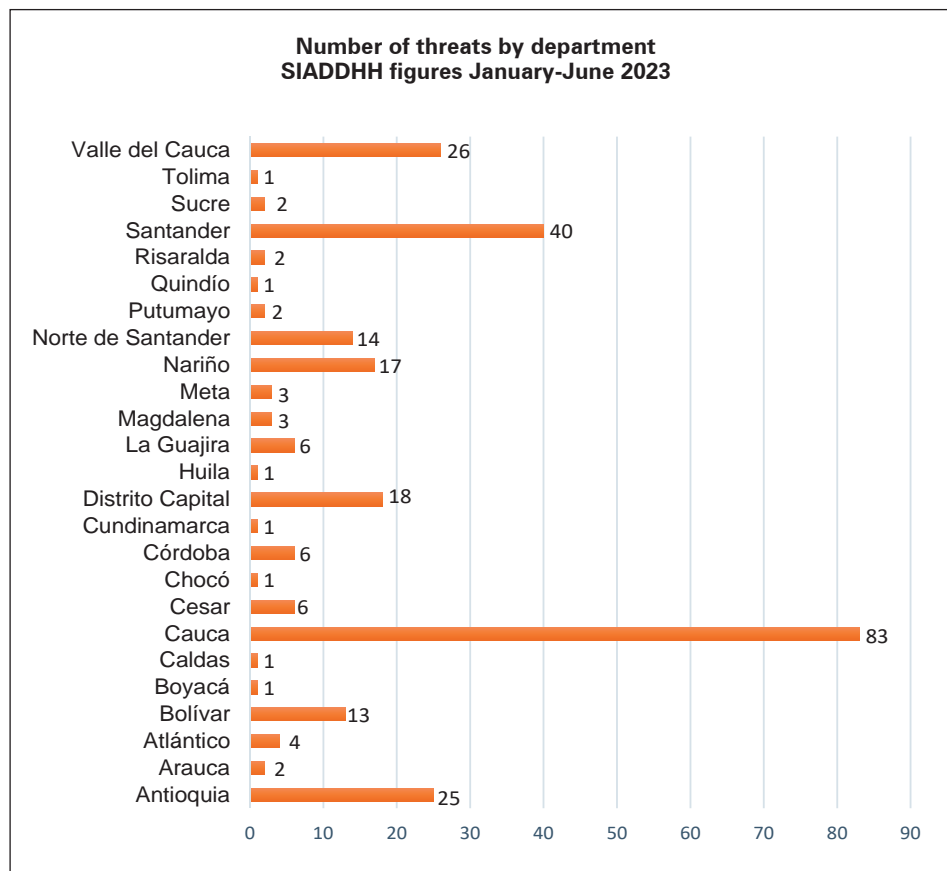
Threats by department

Threats occurred in 24 departments and in the Capital District, affecting 76% of the country, which shows an increase of 26% in the affected regions (5 more) with respect to the same period of the previous year. As for the regions with the highest occurrence of events, the same 5 as in 2022 remain, with some variation in the number, Cauca with 83 threats remains in the first place, followed by Santander with 40, Valle del Cauca with 26, Antioquia with 25 and the Capital District with 18. The other regions where threats occurred were: Nariño with 17 events; Norte de Santander with 14 events; Bolívar with 13 events; Cesar, Córdoba and La Guajira with 6 events each; Atlántico



with 4 events; Magdalena and Meta with 3 events each; Arauca, Putumayo, Risaralda and Sucre with 2 events

each; and, finally, Boyacá, Caldas, Chocó, Cundinamarca, Huila, Quindío and Tolima with 1 event each.



Alleged responsible of threats

Of the 279 threats confirmed in the period January - June 2023, it was found that in 33% (94 facts) paramilitary groups were allegedly responsible; in 31% (87 facts) unknown perpetrators; in 20% (57 facts) post-peace agreement groups; in 10% (28 facts) the ELN; in 2% (6 facts) it was the

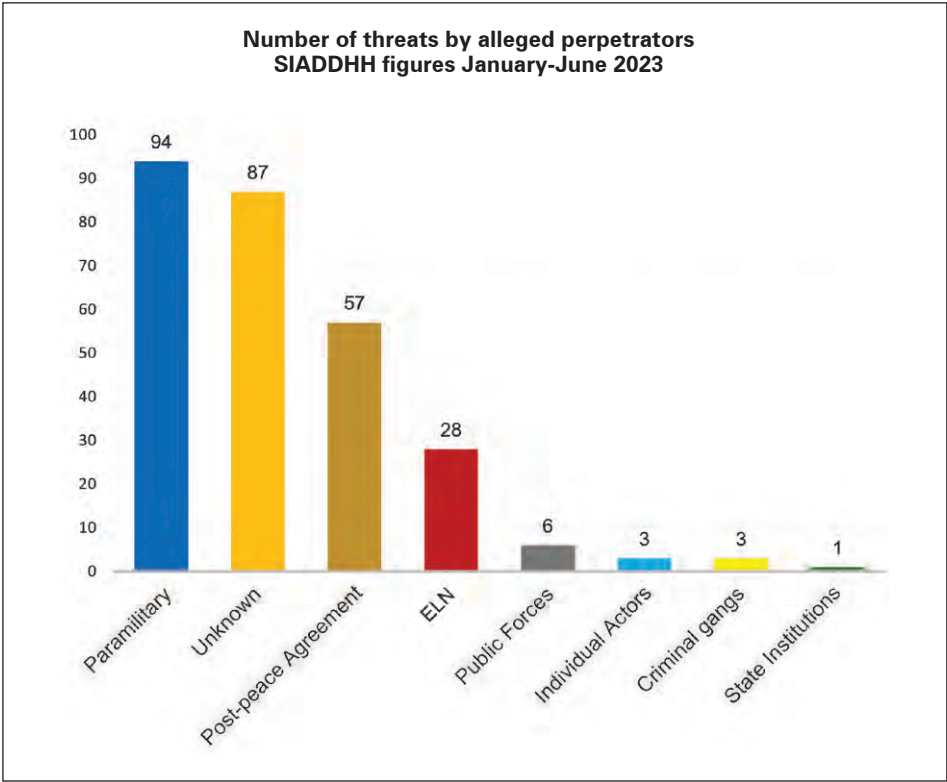
public forces; in 1.5% (3 events) were individual perpetrators; 1.5% (3 events) were criminal gangs; and finally, 1% (1 event) were State institutions.

With the above figures, although paramilitary groups remain in first place as alleged perpetrators, there was a 40% decrease in their responsibility with 63 fewer incidents compared



to the first half of 2022. Similarly, unknown perpetrators remain in second place, although their actions increased by 45% with 29 more incidents. With respect to post-peace agreement groups, there was a 26% decrease with 10 fewer incidents. Threats from the ELN increased by a worrying 211%, with 19 more incidents, a situation that is noteworthy in the context of the peace negotiations with the national government.

The Public Forces recorded a decrease of 54%, with 7 fewer incidents. Individual perpetrators increased their responsibility by 50% with one more act. Criminal gangs that in 2022 had no record of threats, this time were responsible for 3 facts, similar situation occurred with state institutions that in 2022 did not register responsibility in threats and in this period appear with 1 fact.



Types of threats

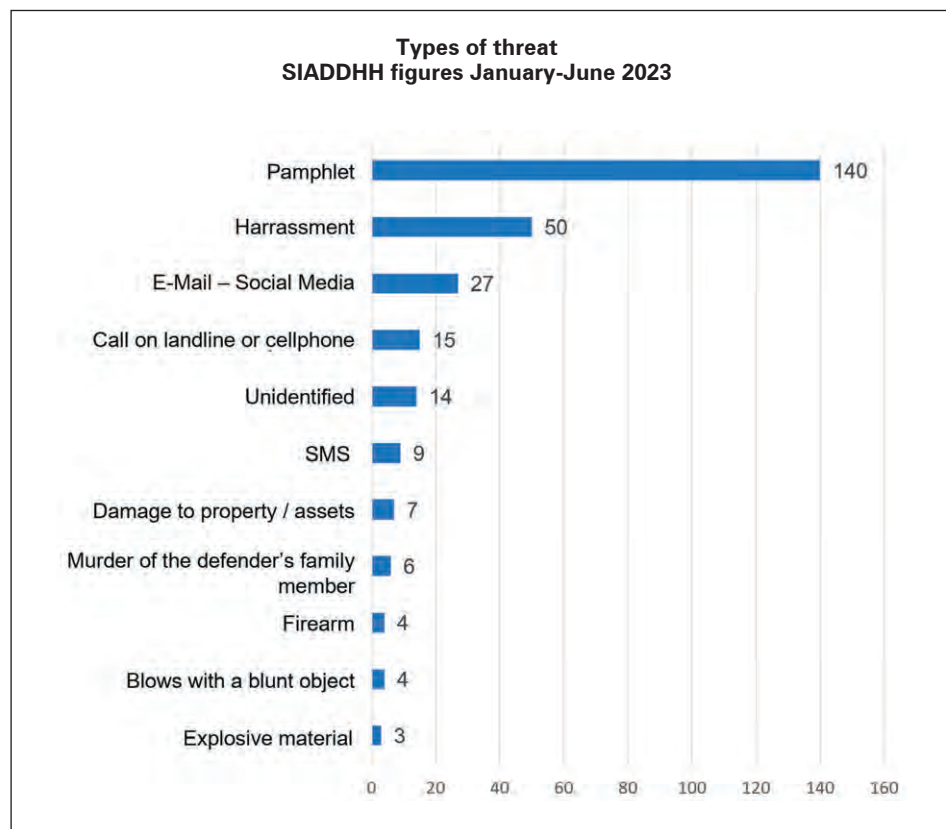
As part of the threats, the alleged perpetrators used various forms to insti-

ll fear in the victims, with the aim of influencing them to cease their social and human rights actions.



The pamphlet (140 cases) remains as the most recurrent method to send intimidating messages to social leaders, followed by harassment (50 facts), e-mail or social networks (27 facts), calls to landlines or cell phones (15 facts), text messages (9 facts), damage to property (7 incidents), murder or attempt against a family member (6 incidents), blows with a blunt object (4 incidents), intimidation with a firearm (4 incidents) and the use of explosive material (3 incidents), in 14 incidents the form of threat was not identified.

der or attempt against a family member (6 incidents), blows with a blunt object (4 incidents), intimidation with a firearm (4 incidents) and the use of explosive material (3 incidents), in 14 incidents the form of threat was not identified.



As it is evident from the elements presented in the analysis of this period, human rights defenders and social leaders in Colombia face great challenges to advance towards a deactivation of the violence that affects them, especially in the current context marked, on the one hand, by peace negotia-

tions with different armed actors who may escalate their actions in order to establish recognition as groups with capacity in the negotiations and, on the other hand, by the regional elections that have increased the visibility of human rights defenders and in the same sense, their risks.

CONCLUSIONS

Further developments and clarifications in relation to the Total Peace policy are decisive for advancing towards a decrease of the violence faced by communities in most of the territories and of the aggressions against human rights defenders and social leaders.

In this context, it is essential to move forward with the legal framework applicable to high-impact armed structures; advancing talks with these groups without having the legal certainty of how they will be treated could end up wearing them out very quickly and unleash an escalation of violence by organizations such as the Shottas and the Espartanos in Buenaventura and the criminal gangs in Medellín.

Likewise, it is necessary to have clarity on the route being worked with the Gaitanista Self-defense forces of Colombia -AGC-, taking into account that it is one of the armed organizations with the greatest presence and power in different territories.

Taking into account the lessons learned from the ceasefires that took place in the first half of the year is fundamental for future ceasefires with organizations such as the ELN, the EMC and others. In this regard, clarity on the mechanisms for monitoring and verification of the violations committed and transparency in the information on their compliance are fundamental.

The ceasefires agreed upon must effectively contribute to a de-escalation of violence in the territories and allow for humanitarian action to lessen the suffering that communities in different territories have been enduring. It is important to ensure that these ceasefires do not become an instrument for the armed actors to expand their presence and gain advantages that will enable them to gain territorial control.

Moving towards the formulation and implementation of a public policy for the exercise of the work on human rights defense built in a participatory manner is a fundamental element for the medium and long term to have safe and favorable environments for the defense of human rights, which requires not only a strong inter-institutional articulation, but also the dialogue and harmonization of this policy with the Total Peace and security and defense policy.

The effective implementation of the recommendations of the Early Warnings is also an important factor aimed at mitigating risks and preventing aggressions against human rights defenders and social leaders, which is even more relevant in the context of regional and local electoral campaigns.

It is important to draw attention to a 15% increase in aggressions against women defenders and leaders, as well as those allegedly committed by



the AGC against women environmental leaders and defenders in the department of Santander.

The recurring trend of unknown perpetrators being the ones with the highest percentage of alleged perpetrators of the assaults is worrisome and brings with it greater difficulties for the investigative exercise.

The increase in the record of aggressions allegedly attributable to the ELN is a situation that deserves adequate attention in the framework of the ongoing negotiations.

Attention should also be drawn to the increase in aggressions in the departments of Bolívar, Cesar and Córdoba.

Although the report shows a 14% decrease in murders compared to the same period of the previous year, the cost in human lives continues to be excessive, not only for the families,

but also for the processes of which they were a part and for society as a whole.

There is a territorial concentration in the murders, mainly in the departments of Cauca and Antioquia, which is repeated and should be considered in the investigations of these crimes.

The normalization of threats as the most recurrent aggression contributes to their persistence and in many cases leads to very worrying patterns of repetition against the same people.

In summary, selective violence persists in the country with its different repertoires and forms of expression, generating deep wounds in democracy and Colombian society. While progress is being made towards Total Peace, the communities continue to wait for guarantees for their lives and for the conditions to exercise the right to defend human rights.



Human Rights defenders murdered between January - June 2023 -SIADDHH-

Nº	DATE	DEPARTMENT OF THE FACTS	MUNICIPALITY OF THE FACTS	NAME OF THE VICTIM	GENDER	ORGANIZATION TO WHICH THEY BELONGED	TYPE OF LEADERSHIP	ALLEGED RESPONSIBLE - CATEGORY
1	21/2023	Cauca	Santander de Quilichao	Mariela Reyes Montenegro	Female	Leader of the Union of Public Services Autonomous and Decentralized Corporations and Territorial Institutes of Colombia Workers and Employees, -Sintraemses-, Santander de Quilichao subdirectore. Secretary of Women in the sub-directorate.	Union leader - defender	Unknown
2	4/1/2023	Magdalena	Santa Marta	Yurgen Emir Trujillo Carrascal	Male	Community leader of the Cristo Rey neighborhood.	Community leader - defender	Unknown
3	7/1/2023	Valle del Cauca	Ginebra	Cristian Fernando Salinas Chocué	Male	Community leader. Activist during the national strike of 2021.	Community leader - defender	Unknown
4	14/1/2023	Putumayo	Puerto Leguizamó	Jaime Álvarez Romero	Male	Leader of the Indigenous Councils Association of Leguizamo and Alto Predio Putumayo (ACILAP). Leader of the "Monaya Nuevo Amanecer" community of the Muri indigenous people.	Indigenous leader - defender	Criminal alliances
5	17/1/2023	Sucre	Morroa	Genivero José Méndez Buelvas	Male	Cultural manager, co-founder of the music festival Voces de la Luna (Moon voices).	Community leader - defender	Unknown
6	18/1/2023	Antioquia	Medellín	José Humberto Sierra Soto (La Gata)	Female	LGBTIQ+ leader	LGBTIQ+ leader - defender	Unknown
7	21/1/2023	Caquetá	La Montañita	Samuel Sabi Dorado	Male	Secretary of the Reina Baja village Community Action Board	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
8	22/1/2023	Cauca	Páez	José Isaias Yandi Pachio	Male	President of the Alto Palmar Communal Action Board, Riochiquito township.	Communal leader - defender	Post-peace agreement groups
9	24/1/2023	Sucre	Toluviéjo	Alfredo Arrieta Vitola	Male	LGBTIQ+ leader. President of the Cieneguita Township Community Action Board.	LGBTIQ+ leader - defender	Unknown
10	24/1/2023	Antioquia	Yarumal	Arley Jaramillo Monsalve	Male	Community leader in Yarumal	Community leader - defender	Paramilitary



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11	28/1/2023	Nariño	Tumaco	Berna Nastaciús Paí	Male	Indigenous Guard India Sabaleta community. Indigenous Reservation AWA The Great Sahalo. ORIPAP	Indigenous leader - defender	Unknown
12	30/1/2023	Santander	Mogotes	Luis Gerardo Vásquez Pimiento	Male	Citizen overseer	Community leader - defender	Unknown
13	31/1/2023	Cauca	Rosas	Edilisan Andrade Avirama	Female	Member of the Maciceña Women's Process and of the regional guard of the Colombian Massif Integration Committee -CIMA-	Peasant leader - defender	Post-peace agreement groups
14	1/2/2023	Risaralda	Guática	Rubiel Antonio Zapata Valencia	Male	Community leader	Community leader - defender	Unknown
15	4/2/2023	Norte de Santander	Tibú	José Antonio Santiago Pérez	Male	President of the Socuavo Norte Community Action Board. Departmental delegate of ASOJUNTAS.	Communal leader - defender	ELN
16	5/2/2023	Bolívar	Cantagallo	Jorge Adolfo Cardenas Fajardo	Male	Fiscal of the Chaparral Village Community Action Board	Communal leader - defender	Paramilitary
17	11/2/2023	Nariño	Mallama	Moisés Marcos López Enríquez	Male	Governor of the Gran Mallama Reservation until 2021 - Pastos people. Currently legal representative of the AICO political party	Indigenous leader - defender	Unknown
18	18/2/2023	Magdalena	San Sebastián de Buenavista	Milton Rocha Peña	Male	Peasant leader in the municipality of San Sebastián	Peasant leader - defender	Paramilitary
19	26/2/2023	Valle del Cauca	Cali	Shaina Vanessa Pretel	Female	Member of AfroResistance. Trans leader.	LGBTIQ+ leader - defender	Unknown
20	26/2/2023	Bolívar	San Pablo	Rosa Elena Celix Guañarita	Female	Vice-president of the Guayaques Village Victims' Association	Victims leader - defender	Unknown
21	27/2/2023	Arauca	Tame	Abelardo Duarte Moncada	Male	Community leader. Former president of the El Rosario village Community Action Board.	Community leader - defender	ELN
22	3/3/2023	Nariño	Tumaco	Marlon Hernando García Pascal	Male	Indigenous guard for the El Gran Sahalo reservation	Indigenous leader - defender	Post-peace agreement groups

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23	9/3/2023	Valle del Cauca	Buga	Andrés Felipe Herrera Mosquera	Male	Activist during the National Strike. Comunes Party activist	Youth leader - defender	Unknown
24	10/3/2023	Cesar	Palititas	Yeisson Jácome Jácome	Male	President of Nueva Granada Community Action Board.	Communal leader - defender	Individual actors
25	14/3/2023	Atlántico	Baranoa	Rodolfo José García Sierra	Male	Vice-president of the La Esperanza Neighborhood Community Action Board	Communal leader - defender	Individual actors
26	15/3/2023	La Guajira	Riohacha	Néstor Enrique Martínez Brito	Male	Community Defender of the Ombudsman's Office	Afro-descending leader - defender	Paramilitary
27	15/3/2023	Cauca	Caldono	Wilson Andrés Bomba Piamba	Male	Indigenous authority of the San Lorenzo indigenous reservation. Councilman of the Caldono municipality.	Indigenous leader - defender	Post-peace agreement groups
28	17/3/2023	Atlántico	Soledad	Miguel Ángel Arrieta Mendoza	Male	Community leader	Community leader - defender	Criminal gangs
29	19/3/2023	Cauca	Puerto Tejada	Weimar Possú Díaz	Male	Legal representative of the Palenque Monte Oscuro Peasant Community Council	Afro-descending leader - defender	Unknown
30	19/3/2023	Chocó	Quibdó	José Eduardo Cárdenas Mosquera	Male	President of the Sub-Estación Neighborhood Community Action Board	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
31	21/3/2023	Cesar	Valledupar	Albert Camilo Mendoza Corzo	Male	Prosecutor of the Local Council of Elders of CKV (Community of Kankuanos de Valledupar).	Indigenous leader - defender	Individual actors
32	21/3/2023	Putumayo	Puerto Caicedo	Diego Jair Orbes Mecha	Male	Prosecutor of the Jerusalén Community Action Board	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
33	24/3/2023	Nariño	Ricaurte	Raúl Antonio Nastacuas	Male	Prosecutor of Guasucabá reservation. Peace signatory.	Indigenous leader - defender	ELN
34	25/3/2023	Boyacá	Maripí	Gonzalo de Jesús Parra Forero	Male	Founder of the artisanal miners association of Soatá ASOMIPAZ. Active member of JAC Guarumal sector.	Peasant leader - defender	Individual actors



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35	26/3/2023	Nariño	Tumaco	Mariela Marínes Gaviria	Female	President of the Buchely Community Action Board.	Communal leader - defender	Post-peace agreement groups
36	27/3/2023	Nariño	Tumaco	Linder Stiven Rodríguez Sepulveda	Male	Youth leader and cultural manager	Youth leader - defender	Unknown
37	30/3/2023	Antioquia	Abejorral	Jhon Jairo Valencia Soto	Male	Community leader	Community leader - defender	Unknown
38	2/4/2023	Norte de Santander	Teorama	Lenis Yaneth Salazar Vera	Female	Member of the Mobility Committee, women's associations and the San Pablo Community Action Board.	Community leader - defender	Individual actors
39	2/4/2023	Antioquia	Santa Bárbara	Jaime León López Carmona	Male	Amores Callejeros (Stray's love) Animal Protection Foundation	Environmental leader - defender	Unknown
40	5/4/2023	Cauca	Balboa	Herney Muñoz Muñoz	Male	Member of the sports committee of the La Planada township	Community leader - defender	Post-peace agreement groups
41	9/4/2023	Valle del Cauca	Cali	Luis Alberto Quiñones Cortés	Male	Legal representative of the Community Council La Voz de los Negros (The voice of the Black), Magüí Payán	Afro-descending leader - defender	Unknown
42	9/4/2023	Cauca	Guapi	Juan Hilario Bangüero Colorado	Male	Member of the Alto Guapi Community Council	Afro-descending leader - defender	Unknown
43	10/4/2023	Cesar	Valledupar	Alfonso Hernando Medina	Male	President of the Villa Haydith Neighborhood Community Action Board	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
44	11/4/2023	Norte de Santander	San Cayetano	Diana Carolina Rodríguez Madrigal	Female	Delegate of the conciliation committee of the La Florida Community Action Board and delegate to Asojuntas.	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
45	13/4/2023	Bogotá Distrito Capital	Bogotá Distrito Capital	Gustavo Muñoz Mujimbay	Male	Member of the organizational process of the Tocaimita sector in Usme.	Community leader - defender	Criminal gangs
46	14/4/2023	Quindío	Quimbaya	Reinel Ospina Delgado	Male	Treasurer of the La Carmelita Community Action Board, Quimbaya.	Communal leader - defender	Unknown

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47	15/4/2023	Bogotá Distrito Capital	Bogotá Distrito Capital	Luisa Isabel Moreno	Female	President of the Santo Domingo Neighborhood Community Action Board	Communal leader - defender	Criminal gangs
48	16/4/2022	Arauca	Puerto Rondón	Hernando Montoya Melo	Male	JAC delegate to Asojuntas.	Communal leader - defender	ELN
49	17/4/2023	Antioquia	Nariño	Jairo de Jesús Zuleta Álvarez	Male	Active member of the Morro Azul Village Community Action Board.	Communal leader - defender	Paramilitary
50	17/4/2023	Antioquia	Medellín	Soreli Johana Echavarría Cañas	Female	Community Mother	Community leader - defender	Individual actors
51	18/4/2023	Cauca	Caloto	José Isaias Quiquánas Musicué	Male	Tacueyó Traditional Medicine	Indigenous leader - defender	ELN
52	23/4/2023	Bolívar	Cartagena	Samir Antonio Zarate Lugo	Male	Secretary of the Villas de Aranjuez Neighborhood Community Action Board	Communal leader - defender	Individual actors
53	25/4/2023	Córdoba	Ciénaga de Oro	Mary Cruz Petro Villalba	Female	Treasurer of the Cantagallo Zenú Chapter	Indigenous leader - defender	Paramilitary
54	30/4/2023	Tolima	Chaparral	Carlos Andrés Torres Gutiérrez	Male	Member of the Municipal Youth Council of Chaparral.	Youth leader - defender	Individual actors
55	2/5/2023	Cauca	Balboa	Diego Fernando Papamiña Chilito	Male	President of the Puerto Rico Community Action Board, Argelia	Communal leader - defender	Post-peace agreement groups
56	3/5/2023	Cauca	Jambaló	Jhon William Vargas Peña	Male	Indigenous guard of the Pitayó reservation	Indigenous leader - defender	Unknown
57	4/5/2023	Córdoba	Momil	Gustavo Rafael Gonzalez Salgado	Male	President of the Santa Rosa Neighborhood Community Action Board of Chinú municipality.	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
58	7/5/2023	Risaralda	Mistrató	Carlos Osorio Jaramillo	Male	Traditional doctor and indigenous leader of the Dachijoma community in the municipality of Anserma.	Indigenous leader - defender	Unknown



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59	9/5/2023	Valle del Cauca	Buenaventura	Johan Marcelo Montaña Montaña	Male	Member of the Active and Pending Buenaventura Group.	Community leader - defender	Unknown
60	11/5/2023	Sucre	Sincelejo	Jhon Freddy Rueda Rodríguez	Male	Legal representative of the Citizen's Overseeing Office for the Mobility of Colombia.	Community leader - defender	Unknown
61	12/5/2023	Bolívar	Carmen de Bolívar	Dania Sharith Polo Solorzano	Female	Leader belonging to the "LGBT Collective" of Carmen de Bolívar.	LGBTIQ+ leader - defender	Unknown
62	16/5/2023	Guaviare	Calamar	Yenifer Córdoba Henao	Female	Member of the Barranquilla Inspection Community Action Board and the Movimiento Vamos por los Derechos (Let's Go for Rights Movement). Candidate to the Calamar Council.	Community leader - defender	Unknown
63	18/5/2023	Norte de Santander	Tibú	Sergio Luis Castro Carrillo	Male	Community Leader, Council Pre-candidate for Colombia Humana	Community leader - defender	Unknown
64	19/5/2023	Arauca	Tame	Herinsol Libardo Mora Rodríguez	Male	President of the Guavarín Community Action Board and ASQUINTAS delegate for the municipality of Sacama.	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
65	24/5/2023	Cauca	Jambaló	Libia Quiguanás Casso	Male	Traditional doctor of the Jambaló indigenous reservation.	Indigenous leader - defender	Unknown
66	26/5/2023	Valle del Cauca	Buenaventura	Hermes Carreño Cortés	Male	Former President of the Gamboa Neighborhood Community Action Board	Community leader - defender	Unknown
67	28/5/2023	Córdoba	Puerto Libertador	Wladimiro Tirado Vega	Male	Member of the Peasant Association of Southern Córdoba and PNIS beneficiary.	Peasant leader - defender	Paramilitary
68	31/5/2023	Cauca	Corinto	Hugo Horacio Burgos Ramírez	Male	Member of the Peasant Association of the Páramo de las Tinajas, member of the Association of Peasant Workers of Valle del Cauca and member of the Municipal Council for Rural Development of Pradera.	Peasant leader - defender	Unknown
69	3/6/2023	Cauca	"La Vega"	Guido Idelber Gómez Hoyos	Male	Elected President of the El Paraíso Township Community Action Board, Villanueva neighborhood, member of the Colombian Massif Integration Committee (Comité de Integración del Macizo Colombiano -CIMA-).	Peasant leader - defender	ELN

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70	5/6/2023	Cesar	Bosconia	Daniel Escorcia Carranza	Male	Active member of the Municipal Board of the Curumani Victims Participation.	Victims leader - defender	Unknown
71	5/6/2023	Cauca	El Tambo	Jairo Enrique Tombé	Male	President of the Quillacé Community Action Board.	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
72	5/6/2023	Putumayo	Puerto Asis	Luis Gabriel Martínez Pérez	Male	Community leader, affiliated to the El Quebradón Village Community Action Board.	Community leader - defender	Criminal alliances
73	6/6/2023	Amazonas	La Pedrera	Custodio Yucuna	Male	Curare community health promoter in the Curare Los Ingleses reservation and community leader.	Indigenous leader - defender	Unknown
74	10/6/2023	Arauca	Tame	Marcelino Martínez Cuadros	Male	Member of the National Peasant Association José Antonio Galán Zorro -ASONALCA-, founder of the Veredal Committee of the Intendencial Association of Peasant Users -AIUC-. Member of the committee of the village Brisas de Cuiño.	Peasant leader - defender	Post-peace agreement groups
75	11/6/2023	Tolima	Fresno	Francisco López	Male	President of the Holdown Village Community Action Board	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
76	12/6/2023	Córdoba	San Pelayo	Emiro Nel Sanchez Medrano	Male	Member of the Land Restitution Foundation - FUWIRTCAN -.	Victims leader - defender	Paramilitary
77	12/6/2023	Cauca	Jambaló	Marcelino Dagua Baicué	Male	Traditional doctor from the Jambaló reservation	Indigenous leader - defender	Unknown
78	14/6/2023	Guaviare	Miraflores	Blanca Alicia Marín	Female	Puerto Nare JAC Treasurer	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
79	15/6/2026	Valle del Cauca	Tuluá	Alejandro Forero Valderrama	Male	Citizen overseer of the UNP and pre-candidate for the Tuluá City Council.	Community leader - defender	Criminal gangs
80	19/6/2023	Cauca	Caldono	Alexander Chocué Peña	Male	Indigenous authority of the Ikh Tukh Reservation (Siberia Lagoon)	Indigenous leader - defender	Unknown
81	19/6/2023	Cesar	El Copey	Temistocles Beltrán	Male	Community leader of El Copey, pre-candidate for the Council of El Copey.	Peasant leader - defender	Unknown



Nº	DATE	DEPARTMENT OF THE FACTS	MUNICIPALITY OF THE FACTS	NAME OF THE VICTIM	GENDER	ORGANIZATION TO WHICH THEY BELONGED	TYPE OF LEADERSHIP	ALLEGED RESPONSIBLE - CATEGORY
82	20/6/2023	Cauca	Suárez	Sebastian Lucumí Mina	Male	Member of the La Toma community council and member of the Cimarrona Guard.	Afro-descending leader - defender	Post-peace agreement groups
83	23/6/2023	Huila	Tello	Armando Mosquera Trujillo	Male	President of the Mesa Redonda Village Community Action Board	Communal leader - defender	Unknown
84	26/6/2023	Huila	Gigante	Nelson Medina Muñoz	Male	Member of the Association of People Affected by the El Quimbo Hydroelectric Project -Asoquimbo- and of the Puerto Seco Fisher- men's Association.	Peasant leader - defender	Unknown
85	26/6/2023	Huila	Tello	Pablo Enrique Ro- dríguez	Male	Former president of the Anacleto García Township Community Action Board	Community leader - defender	Unknown

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