

**WE DENOUNCE THE LATEST THREATS AGAINST INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-DESCENDANT
ORGANISATIONS IN CAUCA AND THE ASSASSINATION OF MILLER CORREA, ACIN
ADVISOR**

Bilbao (Basque Country), 16 March 2022

The undersigned Basque public institutions and human rights and Colombia solidarity organisations denounce the threats received on 7 March by Indepaz (Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz), CRIC (Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca), ACIN (Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca) and ACONC (Asociación de Consejos Comunitarios del Norte del Cauca), declaring them military targets by the Black Eagles' Bloque Sur Occidente.

These organisations and groups have participated in the various Basque Protection Programmes for Human Rights Defenders¹. The Basque Delegation for monitoring the human rights situation in Colombia has held different meetings with them, the last one in January of this year². Furthermore, these organisations are widely supported by Basque cooperation through different solidarity initiatives. We are therefore committed to special monitoring and surveillance of their collective situation.

We strongly condemn the assassination of community leader Miller Correa, ACIN advisor, which joins the list of 39 leaders assassinated so far this year³, 1,326 since the signing of the peace agreement in 2016. We express our full solidarity with his family and with ACIN, whom we sincerely accompany in their pain and in their demand for truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition.

Therefore, WE REQUEST the competent authorities to:

1. Clarify the facts by means of an unbiased investigation that will lead to the material and intellectual perpetrators of these acts of violence.
2. Strengthen and implement real and effective guarantees, both individual and collective, for the protection of the life and territory of Afro-descendant, indigenous and peasant peoples of Cauca and the rest of the country.
3. Recognise and promote the Humanitarian Agreements agreed upon by rural communities, which have the support of a broad range of social and institutional sectors and are a safeguard for the civilian population where there are different armed actors in dispute.

¹ The Basque Programme for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders is a political solidarity tool that aims to contribute to the protection of human rights defenders at risk. Led by the Basque Government - from the Directorate for Human Rights, Victims and Diversity and with the support of the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation, it has the support of the Basque Parliament, the participation of Basque cooperation organisations and the coordination of Zehar-Errefuxiatuekin.

² <https://zehar.eus/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Comunicado-delegación-vasca-Colombia-2022.pdf>

³ Nomadesc Association figures

Finally, we reiterate our SUPPORT and SOLIDARITY to human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, black people and peasant communities, the main victims of violence and conflict. We recognise their commitment to the construction of a peaceful country with social justice and demand respect for LIFE and PERMANENCE in their ancestral territories.

Signatories:

- Basque Government:
 - o Directorate of Human Rights, Victims and Diversity
 - o Basque Agency for Development Cooperation -- eLankidetza
- Basque Parliament:
 - o Euzko Abertzaleak - Basque Nationalists
 - o EH Bildu
 - o Basque Socialists - Euskal sozialistak
 - o Elkarrekin Podemos - IU
- Platforms:
 - o Coordinating Committee of NGOs in the Basque Country
 - o Eskubidez (Forum of Human Rights and Peace Education Associations)
- Human rights and cooperation organisations:
 - o Alboan
 - o Aldarte
 - o Asociación de Amigas y Amigos de la RASD de Álava - Association of Friends of the SADR of Alava
 - o Emigradas sin Fronteras
 - o Gernika gogoratuz
 - o Mugarik Gabe
 - o Mundubat
 - o Paz con Dignidad – OMAL
 - o Paz y Solidaridad Euskadi
 - o Zehar-Errefuxiatuekin
- Academia:
 - o Pedro Arrupe Human Rights Institute (University of Deusto)
 - o Hegoa, Institute for International Cooperation and Development Studies (University of the Basque Country)