



4 JANUARY 2020

ALERT

COMMUNITIES OF THE RIVER RAPOSO IN THE RURAL AREA OF BUENAVENTURA ARE AT RISK DUE TO POTENTIAL CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN THE ELN AND THE JAIME MARTINEZ COLUMN.

In the lower region of the River Raposo, in the rural area of the Special District of Buenaventura, the Jaime Martinez column, a dissident group of the FARC is present. Since approximately one year ago, in the upper region of this this same river, the ELN (National Liberation Army) has also had an intermittent presence. The territory is collectively titled by Black Communities of the River Raposo Community Council, where there are a total of 13 communities and approximately 2,300 inhabitants. This past 2nd of January, 2020, around 3pm, members of the ELN arrived in the community of Tigre, located in the lower area of the river Raposo, and stated that they would take control of the entire river.

An unidentified boat that came up the river was attacked with bullets. There was only one motorist that was travelling in it, who came ashore and jumped out. It is unknown what happened to him. He was attacked as it was assumed he was part of the Jaime Martinez column. In the same community, various people from other villages, which were visiting family members or bathing in the river, were detained, and later let go. In the early morning of January 3rd, in the community of Cocalito, two boats arrived with what appears to be members and reinforcements of the Jaime Martinez column. Yesterday, 20 people from the community of Guadualito, located below Tigre, were displaced due to fear of a possible confrontation. It is possible that similar situations are arising or could arise in other rivers of Buenaventura.

This alert in the Territory of the Pacific Region, is additional to the recent alerts about Bojaya, the threats by the Clan Golfo against Leyner Palacios, leader and human rights defender, and the announcement made by paramilitaries to take territorial control of the Lower San Juan and the Lower Calima in Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca, and the San Juan Coastal Zone, Department of Choco.

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