



## Consejo Laboral Afrocolombiano CLAF - Cartagena

Resolución 137 del 5 de Julio de 2017 del Ministerio del Interior  
Nit. 900.611.648-9  
Dirección: Cartagena de Indias  
Teléfonos Móviles: 314 5130698 - 301 7100086

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### SYSTEMIC RACISM.

#### A Rooted Practice within the National Police of Colombia.

On December 15, once again, an Afro-descendant was a victim of police violence in Cartagena, Colombia; on this occasion it was Kendrick Sampson, a citizen of the United States, resident of Los Angeles, California; artist and activist in the Black Lives Matter movement. Kendrick Sampson could not enjoy his stay because members of the National Police, also black, harassed him, beat him, withheld his documents and deprived him of his liberty for several hours in a police station.

This is yet another outrage that adds to the long list of abuses committed against Afro-descendants by members of the police: against the lawyer Dr. Alcides Arrieta, the physician Dr. Benjamín Luna, the community leader Miguel Salgado, and the young athlete Harold David Morales who was killed.

The civil authorities of Cartagena should do something so that the National Police correct this model or practice of abusive action, but in truth, the citizens do not believe that the police are capable of trying, much less of achieving it.

These mistreatments and abuses by the police against Afro-descendants are a replica on a smaller scale of what happens within the police ranks, against their own members, by their superiors; There human rights are violated more than in any other institution, there racism is a permanent, open and visible practice. The discrimination and humiliation that officers wield against their subordinates create the conditions for the latter to take to the streets like enraged dogs.

A broad national debate is needed, with participation from the Government, Congress, Academic Institutions and Civil Society in order to transform this systemic problem of racial abuse and violence.

To the members of Black Lives Matter we express our outrage at the abuses committed against Kendrick Sampson; You know and we know that today more than ever a Continental Agenda against Racism is urgently needed.



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National Executive Council.

Cartagena, December 17, 2020

**ARLEY MENA SERNA**  
National president

**legal representative**



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