



Public Statement Quibdó, March 1, 2021

Humanitarian Mission in Alto Baudó

From February 22 to 25, a joint humanitarian mission was carried out in the municipality of Alto Baudó, Chocó department. The Dioceses of Istmina - Tadó, Quibdó, and Apartadó; the Inter-Ethnic Solidarity Forum of Chocó; the Indigenous Departmental Working Group; the Association of Community Councils of Alto Baudó (ACABA), the UN Office for Human Rights; the Pacific Regional Coordination; the National Social Pastoral Secretariat; the Norwegian Refugee Council; Swefor; and delegates from the Swedish and Norwegian Embassies participated.

The humanitarian mission was carried out to accompany the territorial ethnic communities and corroborate their difficult security situation in the context of the armed conflict, in order to make them visible and have an impact at different levels.

The following human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law were documented:

1. Social and territorial control by armed actors.
2. Forced recruitment of children and adolescents.
3. Installation of anti-personnel mines.
4. Threats and accusations against leaders and communities.
5. Selective assassinations and the murder of Luz Ayda Conchave Lana in the context of confrontations between armed actors within the Miácora Indigenous community.
6. Violation of internal regulations and community autonomy.
7. Limitations on mobility and productivity.

These violations by the armed actors have generated confinement, displacement, overcrowding, hunger, weakening of organizational processes, fear, anxiety, and a feeling of abandonment.

Additionally, the weak presence of the Colombian State is evident, which does not guarantee basic rights in terms of health, education, decent housing, productivity and marketing, recreation and sports, food security, and public services. The communities feel abandoned by the national, departmental, and municipal governments. They also feel a lack of commitment and control by other state institutions.





In light of the serious humanitarian crisis experienced by the communities of Alto Baudó, we make the following appeals:

To the National Government: guarantee the human rights of Alto Baudó's residents and do not continue to militarize the territory as a privileged response to the reality of the armed conflict. It is urgent that the peace accord be duly implemented with an ethnic territorial approach and that the Humanitarian Agreement ¡Ya! be accepted for Chocó. Support a peaceful solution to the armed conflict. Guarantee the protection mission that the Public Forces must offer, avoiding situations of collusion between members of the public forces and illegal actors in Alto Baudó and other municipalities in Chocó.

To the Governor's Office of Chocó: Provide due attention to the victims of the armed conflict. Guarantee quality education services through the permanence and sufficient assignment of teachers, provision of teaching materials, and improvement of educational infrastructure. The Departmental Health Secretariat should exercise vigilance and control over the public health entity, so that they provide timely care through medical personnel and the necessary supplies. Together with the National Ministry of Health, improve and build the required infrastructure.

To the Municipality of Alto Baudó: to have greater presence and accompaniment within the communities. Manage productive projects with greater coverage and relevance. Guarantee the provision of electric energy service in communities that have been deprived of this service for long periods of time.

To the political leaders and the ruling class of Alto Baudó and the department of Chocó: establish continuity policies with long and medium range plans that allow the overcoming of the historical lag in regional development. It is absolutely necessary to avoid the selfish competition of partisan politics that entails enormous expenses in electoral campaigns and squandering of resources in the exercise of power.

To the Attorney General's Office and the Comptroller's Office: to exercise due disciplinary control over public officials who do not comply with their responsibilities and to carry out adequate fiscal control over the public resources of this municipality.

To the Prosecutor's Office: to provide results on investigations into crimes in the areas of public order and administrative corruption.

To the Constitutional Court: to follow up more rigorously on compliance with the rulings and orders issued on issues of human rights violations and the humanitarian crisis in Chocó, and particularly in favor of Alto Baudó.

To the International Community: continue to make visible the humanitarian, economic, social and environmental crisis in Alto Baudó and the entire department of Chocó. In order to really diminish





the war in Colombia, drug consuming countries need to undertake serious efforts so that the drug trafficking boom can disappear.

To the illegal armed groups: respect the lives of the people, abandon all actions that violate international humanitarian law, renounce illegal and violent actions, and respond positively to the call of civil society to sincerely and decisively assume processes of dialogue and submission to justice in order to overcome the armed conflict. We again ask the ELN for the immediate release of Mr. Tulio Mosquera Asprilla.

The Catholic Church and ethno-territorial organizations deeply regret the pain experienced by the communities of Alto Baudó. Beyond the statistics and headlines, we have felt the suffering and anguish of the Baudó people. We will continue to accompany the hope of the Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples who are crying out for a future in peace and quality of life. The struggle for a territory of abundant wealth contrasts with the impoverishment and abandonment of its people. We implore the God of life for the resilience necessary to resist and the light of the Spirit to find the desired paths of social inclusion and fraternity.

Firmado en el original,

Javier Arrieta Gonzales
Mesa Indígena del Chocó

+ Mario de Jesús Álvarez Gómez
Obispo de Istmina - Tadó

Abid Manuel Romaña Mena
Foro Interétnico Solidaridad Chocó

+ Hugo Alberto Torres Marín
Obispo de Apartadó

Pbro. Jesús Albeiro Parra Solís
Coordinación Regional del Pacífico

+ Juan Carlos Barreto Barreto
Obispo de Quibdó

