

International civil society organizations reject the assassination of Indigenous leader María Bernarda Juajibioy and request the Colombian state take concrete actions to protect the lives of the Indigenous peoples of Putumayo at risk of extermination.



Bogotá, Colombia. March 23, 2021—It is with deep sorrow that we report the murder of María Bernarda Juajibioy, the mayor and leader of the Cabildo Camentzá Biyá, and her one-year-old granddaughter. This tragedy occurred six days after the session of the Territorial Working Group on Guarantees for the Work of Social Leaders—chaired by Minister Daniel Palacios. According to information circulated in the media, the victims were killed by hired hit men on March 17 at approximately 6: 45 p.m. They burst into the path of the motorcycle, which Bernarda Juajibioy was riding along with three other women.

This atrocious crime joins the long list of violations against the Indigenous peoples neighboring the Guamuez Valley in Putumayo department. The presence of the illegal armed group identified as "Comandos de Frontera" dissidents of the 48th front of the FARC has been reported, according to visual and written information that has been circulated by several media outlets.

All our solidarity with the family of the leader and with the Kamentsá people in these painful moments.

We express our deep repudiation and indignation at these acts of physical and cultural extermination and urge the Colombian State, as a guarantor of human rights, to take all necessary measures to guarantee and protect the lives and human rights of Indigenous peoples, subjects of special constitutional protection.

As members of the international community, we will continue to be attentive to the situation in this department and will continue to insist that the Colombian government fully implement the peace accord, particularly the ethnic chapter, as a measure to protect and strengthen the rights of Indigenous peoples and their leaders.

**International Community on Alert for a Putumayo in Peace
#QuePareLaMatanza (#StopTheKilling)**