



Bogotá D.C.—Cúcuta—Catatumbo, North Santander, April 12, 2021

Public Statement by the Catatumbo Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Working Group

We demand respect for the life and integrity of social leaders in the region

The **Catatumbo Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Working Group** urgently calls for the respect of the **life and integrity** of social leader **Juan Carlos Quintero**, a member of the Catatumbo Campesino Association (Asociación Campesina del Catatumbo, ASCAMCAT).

We **denounce** the illegal April 12 **detention** by **armed actors** of Juan Carlos Quintero, two members of his security detail, and two members of the International Action for Peace (IAP) in the rural area of **Teorama**, North Santander department. The incident occurred in El Aserrió towards the road that leads to El Tara municipality.

We call on all armed actors to respect the guarantees of social leadership and **to materialize the will to advance and consolidate the Humanitarian Agreement** for Catatumbo, as expressed in public statements, and to commit **to IHL norms** as an urgent way to safeguard the lives, integrity, and freedom of the civilian population.

We reiterate, today more than ever, that it is still necessary to accept and apply the Humanitarian Accord's content and achieve humanitarian minimums amid the armed conflict.

As the Humanitarian Working Group, we reaffirm **our good practices** as an entity for **humanitarian advocacy** to achieve a complete, stable, and lasting peace in the Catatumbo region.

CATATUMBO HUMANITARIAN AND PEACEBUILDING WORKING GROUP
