

****UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION****

Statement

Support for the U.S. House of Representatives' decision to prohibit appropriating funds for aerial fumigation of illicit crops in Colombia

September 30, 2021

On September 21, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a series of amendments to the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), prohibiting U.S. funds from being used for the aerial fumigation of illicit crops in Colombia. The signatures below endorse this decision and call upon the U.S. Senate to maintain this stance.

Furthermore, we call on the U.S. Congress to ensure funds are not allocated to finance any activities related to aerial fumigation with glyphosate during collaborative efforts between the State Department and Colombia.

We also call on the Colombian Congress to not authorize the allocation of public resources for military air operations in the 2022 annual budget, which would be used to implement chemical warfare techniques to spray against illicit crops.

The Colombian state has used aerial fumigation as a weapon of war within the supply reduction strategy, which has negatively affected ecosystems, the societal social fabric, and increased the victimization of communities; aerial fumigation has been carried out over territories inhabited by Indigenous, Afro-descendant and campesino communities, violating their human rights and destroying the natural environments they inhabit.

In 2015, aerial fumigation with glyphosate was suspended in the country under measures of precaution. In 2017, the Constitutional Court conditioned its use through specific requirements by means of the Ruling T-2361¹. The arrival of Iván Duque to the presidency (2018-2022) has been characterized by his multiple maneuvers to reinstate the practice of aerial fumigation, bypassing what was established in the 2016 peace accord. Simultaneously, the Duque administration prioritized the implementation of forced eradication of illicit crops by the security forces, rather than by voluntary crop substitution.

¹ Constitutional Court. Sentence T-236/17.

<https://www.corteconstitucional.gov.co/relatoria/2017/T-236-17.htm>

The substitution plan was reduced to partial payments to families enrolled between 2017 and 2018, who to date have not received allocations for productive projects or access to land to cultivate or relocate. The government excluded more than 200,000 families who have expressed their willingness to join the Comprehensive National Substitution Plans, including those who signed collective pact commitments. In addition, the substitution policy has not made progress in agreements with ethnic communities, who are plagued by the operations of drug trafficking groups, and has failed to guarantee security for the leaders committed to the crop substitution process.

During the protests that began on April 28, 2021, various social, youth, campesinos, Afro-Colombian, and Indigenous organizations joined the movement to demand the fulfillment of the agreements reached by the government in regards to aerial fumigation and forced eradication, since they pose a serious risk to those in rural areas and exacerbate violence in these regions². The country has enormous concerns about the reinitiation of this strategy, which includes the use of toxic chemicals in warlike operations.

We demand these obligations be fulfilled with the integral rural development programs and the concerted substitution of illegal economies, prioritizing dignified life alternatives for the most impoverished families.

Signatures of Organizations and individuals

High Level Ethnic Instance,
National Indigenous Organization of Colombia ONIC,
National Conference of Afro-Colombian Organizations, C.N.O.A.
National Association of Peasant Reserve Zones ANZORC,
Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca CRIC,
Comisión Étnica para la paz y la defensa de los derechos humanos (Ethnic Commission for Peace and the Defense of Human Rights),
Proceso de Unidad Popular del Suroccidente Colombiano PUPSOC,
Marcha Patriótica,
Foro Interétnico Solidaridad Chocó- FISCH,
National Afro-Colombian Peace Council (CONPA),
Jose Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR)

² Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission. Washington, December 2020.
https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/_cache/files/a/5/a51ee680-e339-4a1b-933f-b15e535fa103/AA2A3440265DDE42367A79D4BCBC9AA1.whdpc-final-report-2020-11.30.pdf

Regional Peace Space of Cauca: Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca, CRIC, Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres, Comité de Integración del Macizo Colombiano, CIMA, Asociación Integración Committee of the Colombian Massif, CIMA, Association of Indigenous Councils of Northern Cauca, ACIN, Afro-Colombian of Indigenous Councils of Northern Cauca, ACIN, Union of Afro-Colombian Organizations of Cauca, UOAFROC, the Cajibío Campesino Campesino de Cajibío, Corporación COMUNITAR, Community Councils of the Caucan Pacific, COCOCAUCA
COCOCAUCA, Corporación de Destechados, CODESCO, Comité Municipal de Mujeres, ACIT, Red de Iniciativas de Paz desde Peace Initiatives from the Grassroots, Francisco Isaías Cifuentes Human Rights Network, Association of Community Action Boards of San José del Guaviare, COCCAM Cauca, COCCAM Tumaco, Acción Técnica Social ATS, Association for the Miranda Peasant Reserve Zone, Asociación Campesina del Sur de Córdoba, Elementa DD.HH, Asinatrancampic, Asociación Porvenir Campesina de Llorente, Proceso Ascamcat, Coccam Algeria,

Redhpana: Recompas, Asocoetnar, Aciesna, Unipa, Resguardo indígena Piguambí Palangala, Asociación de Consejos Unidos de Magüi Payán, Voces del Pacífico, Palenque Afro Urbano de Tumaco, Mesa Municipal de Mujeres de Tumaco, Mesa Municipal de víctimas de Tumaco, Asociación piernas cruzadas de Barbacoas, ABC Pazcific, Consejo comunitario Bajo Mira y frontera, Consejo Comunitario Río Tablón dulce, Consejo comunitario rescate las varas, Consejo comunitario la esperanza, Consejo comunitario La Nupa, Consejo comunitario veredas unidas por un bien común, Consejo comunitario el esfuerzo pescador, Consejo comunitario Acapa, Consejo comunitario pro defensa, Consejo comunitario Unión de Cuenca, Asociación Luz de esperanza, Asociación de mujeres líderes ASMUL, Colectivo socio jurídico Orlando Fals Borda, Nilson Estupiñán Arboleda, Corporación Viso Mutop, Centro de Pensamiento desde la Amazonía Colombiana A la Orilla Del Río, Comisión Intereclesial de justicia y paz Somos Génesis, Deache, Sin Olvido,

Sin Olvido Tierra,
Universidad de Paz INDEPAZ,
Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz CINEP,
Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular CODHES,
MamaCoca,
Fundación Paz y Reconciliación,
Corporación Geoambiental Terrae,
Red de solidaridad entre los pueblos

.... Following...

WOLA (United States) Washington Office on Latin American Affairs
International Observatory for the Rights of Peoples (members from 15 countries around the world)
Echoes of Colombia Migration and Refugee, Australia
Defend the Peace DLP International

Defend Peace: A pluralist movement that was formed at the request of the negotiators and signatories of the Final Peace Accord for the signatories of the Final Peace Agreement for the end of the conflict in Colombia signed at the Teatro Colón in November 2016 and ratified in November 2016 and ratified by the Colombian State. Included are some names that expressed support for this statement on behalf of DLP members.

- - Álvaro Villarraga Sarmiento, Former member of the Special Legislative Commission and director of the Fundación Cultura Democrática
- Fundación Cultura Democrática
- - Andrés Chica Durango, Cordoberxia Foundation, Human Rights Network of Southern Córdoba.
- - Ángela María Robledo Gómez, Academic and politician, former Representative to the House of Representatives.
- - Ángel Cardona, International Peace Bureau - IPB.
- - Antonio Sanguino Páez, Co-President of the Peace Commission. Senate.
- - Armando Novoa García, Constitutional lawyer and former CNE magistrate.
- - Camilo González Posso, former Minister of State, President of Indepaz.
- - Carlos Alberto Benavides Mora, Professor, Universidad Externado de Colombia. Area of economics, labor and society.
- and society.
- - Carolina Albornoz, National Coordinator of PAX FOR PEACs.
- - Carolina Naranjo, Human Rights&Reconciliation
- - César López, Artist

- - Clara López Obregón, Former peace negotiator with the ELN and former Minister of Labor
- - Daniel García-Peña, Former High Commissioner for Peace and opinion columnist
- - Daniel Poveda, Vice President of the Economics Alumni Chapter of the Universidad de los Andes.
- - Danilo Rueda, Human Rights Ombudsman, Director of the Justice and Peace Commission
- - Daría Fajardo Montaña, professor at the Universidad Externado de Colombia, former member of the Historical Commission on the conflict and its victims
- of the conflict and its victims created in the Havana peace talks.
- - Darío Villamizar, Writer and researcher.
- - David Flórez, Lawyer, human rights defender and peace activist.
- - Diana Sánchez Lara, Director of MINGA Association
- - Donka Atanasova, Social leader, former director of security of Bogota and current director of
- participation promotion of the institute of participation and community action.
- - Eduardo Díaz Uribe, Former Minister of Health and former Director of the Agency for the Substitution of Illicit Crops.
- Agency for the Substitution of Illicit Crops.
- - Esmeralda Vargas Vallejo, Psychologist and defender of the rights of children and adolescents.
- - Fabio Arias, CUT leader, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores.
- - Fernando Sarmiento, Director RedProdepaz.
- - Gerardo Jumi, General Counsel-ONIC
- - Gimena Sánchez, Director of the Andes Washington Office on Latin America-WOLA
- - Gloria Arias, Columnist and Peace Advocate
- - Gloria Cuartas Montoya, Human Rights Advocate
- - Gloria Moreno, Journalist
- - Gonzalo Sánchez Gómez, Former Director of the Centro de Memoria Histórica and University Research
- Gustavo Gallón, Human Rights Ombudsman - Director of the Colombian Commission of Jurists CCJ
- - Henry Acosta Patiño, Peacebuilder DLP
- - Irma A. Perilla Piñeros, Director of Thought and Social Action - PAS
- Iván Cepeda Castro, Facilitator of the peace process with FARC Former peace facilitator with the ELN and senator of the Polo Democrático Alternativo (Alternative Democratic Pole)
- Senator of the Polo Democrático Alternativo
- - Iván Marulanda Gómez, Senator, Alianza Verde Party
- - Jaime Caycedo, Secretary General of the Colombian Communist Party

- - Jaime Díaz, Director Podion Corporation
- - Jaime Navarro Wolff, Secretary General, Alianza Verde Party
- - Javier Betancourt, ONIC
- - Jesús Abad Colorado López, Journalist and Documentary Photographer
- - John Sudarsky, Social Capital Researcher and former senator of the Green Party
- - Jorge Alberto Tovar, Peace activist, Secretary of Social Development Department of Caldas
- - Jorge Enrique Rojas, Former Secretary of Social Integration
- - José Luciano Sanín Vásquez, Director of Corporación Viva la Ciudadanía - Attorney at Law
- - José Noé Ríos Muñoz, Former peace negotiator with the ELN and former vice minister
- Juan Fernando Cristo Bustos, Former peace negotiator with the FARC Former peace negotiator with the ELN and former Minister of the Interior.
- former Minister of the Interior
- - Juan Mayr Maldonado, Ecologist, former Minister of Environment and former Ambassador to Germany.
- Member of the National Conciliation Commission. Former negotiators with the ELN in the Santos government.
- - Liliana Estupiñán Achury, Network of Latin American Women Constitutionalists and academic of the
- Universidad Libre
- - Lisandro Duque Naranjo, Film director and opinion columnist.
- - Luis Eduardo Celis, Analyst on peace and armed conflict issues.
- - Luis Emil Sanabria Durán, National Network of Citizens' Initiatives for Peace and against WarREDEPAZ
- - Luis Ignacio Sandoval Moreno, Asociación Democracia Hoy DEMHOY.
- - Luis Torres, Peacebuilder, DLP.
- - Luisa Fernanda Jaramillo, Ethnic Representative of the Comunes party.
- - Manuel Guzmán Hennessey, General Director Tthink Tank KLN Latin America and Professor at the Universidad del Rosario
- Rosario University
- Marco Romero, Director of Codhes and Professor at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia
- - Marcos Calarcá. Representative to the House of Representatives, Common Party
- - María Cepeda Castro, DLPI, Vamos por los derechos International
- - Marina Gallego, Feminist, national coordinator of Ruta Pacifica de las Mujeres (Peaceful Route of Women)
- - Marino Córdoba Berrio, President Afrodes

- - Mauricio Rodríguez Múnera, Former chief negotiator with ELN (August - October 2016), university professor and journalist.
- university professor and journalist
- - Medófilo Medina, Professor
- - Olga Amparo Sánchez Gómez, Casa de la Mujer, feminist activist, peace advocate
- - Oscar Sánchez, Director Educapaz
- - Pablo Catatumbo, Former peace negotiator and Senator of the Comunes party
- - Patricia Lara Salive, Journalist and author
- - Piero De Benedictis, musician,
- - Maureen Maya, journalist and writer. Piero for PEACE Foundation
- - Pilar Trujillo, Sociologist, environmentalist and peace advocate.
- President of the Comunes party
- Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri, President of the Comunes party.
- - Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Director of the Corporation for Research and Social and Economic Action,
- CIASE.
- - Sara Tufano, Sociologist and columnist for El Tiempo.
- Sergio Marín, Former peace negotiator and Comunes party leader.
- - Socorro Ramírez, Former negotiator with the ELN, retired professor of the National University and member of Puentes Ciudadanos Colombia Venezuela.
- of Puentes Ciudadanos Colombia Venezuela.
- - Sonia Eljach, Former Presidential Advisor for Human Rights.
- Soraya Bayuelo, Premio Nacional de Paz y Coordinadora del Colectivo de Comunicaciones Montes de María
- Temistocles Ortega, Senador de Cambio Radical y exgobernador
- Wilson Arias, Senador Polo Democrático Alternativo
- Yiya Gómez, Activista por la Paz - Comunicaciones Viva la Ciudadanía

Signatures Continue.....