

Maximum Alert

Ongoing Murder of the Indigenous Community in the Department of Cauca



Bogotá, January 25th, 2022. With profound concern and pain, we have received information on the armed attack against the Nasa Indigenous community in the department of Cauca, during which Albeiro Camayo Güeito—former Regional Coordinator of the Indigenous Guard—was murdered. The incidents appear to have been in retaliation for the expulsion of the Jaime Martínez armed Mobile Column, carried out by the *neeh we'sx* authority in compliance with their autonomous rights on the afternoon of Monday, January 24th, 2022.

With Albeiro, three *kiwe thegnas* (Indigenous Guards) have already been murdered in under two weeks, presumably by the same group. The other two individuals are Breiner David Cucuñame and Guillermo Chicame. Given this context, a maximum alert has been declared throughout the Indigenous territories of Cauca.

The armed actors have the obligation to respect International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law, specifically Article 3, common to the four Geneva Conventions, which requires the civilian population to be excluded from war: “Persons taking no active part in the hostilities... shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without adverse distinction” (Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions).

As International Civil Society Organizations we join and back the alert declared by the Nasa Indigenous community and request that the diplomatic corps present in Colombia urge the national government to implement efficient and effective measures to protect the Indigenous communities of Cauca, including the comprehensive implementation of

the Final Peace Agreement signed with the FARC-EP in November 2016. In addition to calling for the Human Rights Ombuds Office, in fulfillment of its constitutional mandate, to immediately travel to the territory and issue the appropriate and necessary Early Alerts.



Comunidad Internacional en Alerta por una Cauca en Paz

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