

International civil society organizations pay tribute to the Thuthenas (Counselor) Miller Correa, reject his assassination, and make an urgent call for the protection and life guarantees for the Indigenous peoples of Cauca



Bogotá, March 17, 2022. The international civil society organizations signed onto this statement reject the assassination of Miller Corea, which occurred on Monday, March 14 in Popayán, Cauca department. He was the Chief Counselor of the Association of Indigenous Councils of Northern Cauca (*Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca*, ACIN), the authority of the Tacueyó Indigenous reservation, and coordinator of the Nasa life plan project.

We stand in solidarity with his family, with the ACIN, and with the Nasa people who are victims of this systematic extermination.

This new aggression against the Indigenous peoples of Cauca is only an addition to the long list of attacks against human rights defenders and signatories of Colombia's 2016 peace accord, which according to figures from Indepaz from March 7 are 36 and 7 respectively.¹ So far in 2022, there have been 20 massacres with 61 victims.

We demand that pertinent authorities conduct investigations that allow us to identify and bring to justice the material and intellectual authors responsible for this atrocious crime.

¹ <https://indepaz.org.co/lideres-sociales-defensores-de-dd-hh-y-firmantes-de-acuerdo-asesinados-en-2022/>

The assassination constitutes an attack against the collective processes and the defense of mother earth led by the Indigenous communities of Cauca.

Likewise, we call on state entities to duly address the constant messages of concern and requests for protection from the Indigenous communities and social leaders, in light of the permanent threats against them for their work defending human rights and the rights to autonomy, land, and territory.

We encourage the international community present in Colombia, the diplomatic corps, and the United Nations system to urge the Colombian government to provide a prompt, effective, and comprehensive response to the difficult humanitarian and human rights situation in Cauca in accordance with the commitments binding the Colombian state, emanating from international treaties on these matters.

As international civil society organizations, we reiterate our commitment to the thriving people of Cauca, and we are on constant alert for a unitary Cauca and a country at peace.



Comunidad Internacional en Alerta por una Cauca en Paz

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Espacio de Cooperación para La Paz