

URGENT ACTION

RISK OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN CHOCÓ

Aulio Isarama Forastero, Indigenous governor of the Catru Dubaza Ancoso reservation in Alto Baudó, Chocó department, was killed by armed men, allegedly members of the National Liberation Army (Ejército De Liberación Nacional, ELN). The community is at risk of forced displacement following this violence.

The Dialogue and Consultation Roundtable of the Indigenous Peoples of Chocó reported the killing of Indigenous leader **Aulio Isarama Forastero**, which occurred on the evening of 24 October after being intercepted by armed men who identified themselves to the community as members of the ELN. The Roundtable also reported the abduction of **Jhon Eriberto Isarama Forastero**, a teacher from the same Indigenous reservation, on 7 October, whose whereabouts are still unknown. The Indigenous reservation is in great danger, as the armed group threatened to kill anyone who reported these incidents.

The Chocó Indigenous Roundtable reports that despite the bilateral ceasefire agreement since 1 October signed between the ELN and the Colombian government, “to date measures have still not been taken to guarantee the real and effective protection of the communities”. The killing of Isarama Forastero is the second killing of an Indigenous governor in less than one month, following the killing of Ezquivel Manyoma, leader of the Medio Baudó municipality, on 7 October, by paramilitary groups identified as the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia), in the presence of his family and other members of the community.

Given these incidents and the constant threats, the members of this Indigenous reservation face the risk of collective forced displacement. According to information from the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), there have been 21 incidences of displacement registered in this department this year.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling for a comprehensive state presence in the municipality of Alto Baudó which guarantees the right to life, physical integrity and security of the Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in zones at risk due to the presence of armed groups;
- Demanding individual and collective protection measures which guarantee the life and physical integrity of Indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders and human rights defenders, in consultation with them and in accordance with their wishes;
- Requesting a comprehensive response from the government in relation to their plans for prevention and protection of Indigenous communities who are displaced or at risk of displacement, in compliance with the ruling of Constitutional Court Order 004 of 2009.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 DECEMBER 2017 TO:

President

Juan Manuel Santos
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Email: contacto@presidencia.gov.co

**Salutation: Dear Mr. President/
 Estimado Señor Presidente**

Director of Unit for Attention and Reparation of Victims

Yolanda Pinto
 Calle 16 # 6-66. Edificio Avianca Piso 19
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 4261111

Salutation: Dear Mrs.

**Director/Estimada Señora Directora
 And copies to:**

Ombudsman

Carlos Alfonso Negret
 Carrera 9 Núm.16 - 21
 Bogotá D. C., Colombia
 Asuntosdefensor@defensoria.gov.co

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR NESTOR OSORIO, Embassy of Colombia, 3 Hans Crescent SW1X 0LN, 020 7589 9177 / 020 7589 5037, Fax 020 7581 1829, egranbretana@cancilleria.gov.co,

www.colombianembassy.co.uk, Salutation: Your Excellency

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 178/17. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr23/7032/2017/en/

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 16 August, Amnesty International released a public statement on the situation in Chocó, expressing concern at the grave humanitarian situation in the department (see: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr23/6946/2017/en/>).

In the first half of 2017, Indigenous communities in Chocó complained that there have been at least two paramilitary incursions in their territories. The first took place on 6 March and caused the massive displacement of families and the confinement of nearby communities in Peña Azul (for more information, see: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AMR23/5826/2017/en/>). The second took place on 18 April in the collective territory of Jiguamiandó, near the Pueblo Nuevo Humanitarian Zone (for more information, see: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AMR23/6082/2017/en/>).

Crimes against international law and human rights violations persist in the department of Chocó, including the selective killing of members of Afro-Colombian communities and Indigenous peoples, forced collective displacements, the confinement of communities and forced recruitment of boys and girls.

Indigenous peoples in Chocó live facing constant threats and violence from paramilitary armed groups, so in 2009, the Constitutional Court of Colombia issued Resolution 004, urging the Colombian government to take measures, with an ethnic perspective, to design and develop a public policy on enforced displacement, aiming to protecting life, freedom and cultural diversity, among other rights.

Amnesty International has already publicly denounced the increase in the number of killings of Indigenous leaders in Colombia, highlighting the shortcomings in the implementation of the peace process. “The situation of extreme risk which Indigenous communities in Colombia face is alarming. These crimes highlight one of the main challenges in the implementation of the peace process: the protection of the communities living in the areas which have been most affected by the armed conflict and the need to guarantee that these deplorable acts do not go unpunished” (for further information, see: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/04/colombia-ola-deasesinatos-de-indigenas-resalta-fallas-de-implementacion-del-proceso-de-paz/>).

Further information on UA: 178/17 Index: AMR 23/7356/2017 Issue Date: 26 October 2017