

August 14, 2024

To International Public Opinion and the Negotiation Teams for the Colombian Government-ELN  
Peace Talks

**The international community urges the resumption of peace negotiations involving the Colombian Government and the ELN, the extension of the ceasefire agreement, and the effective implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the 2016 Colombia Peace Agreement.**

*The Global Network - Ethnic Peoples and Peace and the Institute of Peoples, Territories, and Pedagogies for Peace in collaboration with the Ethnic Commission for Peace and the Defense of Territorial Rights together with organizational with individual members of the international community, signatories noted below:*

We are writing to express our firm conviction that it is indispensable that the Colombian government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) return to the peace negotiating table, and that an extension of the bilateral ceasefire agreement signed between the Colombian national government and the National Liberation Army (ELN), which expires on August 3, 2024, be signed and implemented as soon as possible. This is vital for the fulfillment of the commitments established in the framework of a "total peace", which allows for the creation of conditions, which should focus on the integrity and well-being of Afro-Colombian, indigenous, peasant communities located in rural areas, and of women, girls, boys and young people, who continue to be affected by the presence of multiple armed groups in their ancestral territories, illegal extractive interests and the continuous threats of violence, displacement and dispossession, which have arisen from the escalation of the conflict and the territorial dispute of the conflict.

We express great alarm at the escalation of violence in Colombia that continues to disproportionately attack indigenous and Afro-Colombian leaders, communities and territories, including the assassination attempts that have occurred in the first half of the year, including the attack against the father of Vice President Francia Marquez, subsequent attacks against the Vice President's personal vehicle; attacks against Armando Valbuena, Secretary of the high-level Instance of Ethnic Peoples IEANPE and his security team. On March 17 of this year, Carmelina Yule Paví, Kiwe Thegna, leader of the Nasa people of the Toribio indigenous reservation in Cauca and former coordinator of the Women of the Territory program, was murdered. On June 27, Eyber Danilo Poto Pazu, son of the vice-minister of Ethnic Peoples of the Ministry of Equality Nelson Lemos, was kidnapped and murdered. These are just some of the recent examples of direct attacks against prominent ethnic leaders.

Since the signing of the Peace Agreement with the FARC EP signed in 2016, until December 31, 2023, 1,410 leaders have been killed, 30% are of ethnic origin, including 313 indigenous and 104 Afro-descendants<sup>1</sup>. One of the main causes of threats and assassinations derives from the political participation of ethnic leaders. This scenario is reflected in IEANPE's Report 3<sup>rd</sup>, in which it makes visible multiple facts that violate the human rights of ethnic populations in rural areas, causing confinements and massive displacements that disproportionately affect ethnic peoples, being the Afro-Colombian people the most harmed, with respect to the victimizing fact of forced displacement, and which represents 36% of the total number of victims at the national level.

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<https://www.elespectador.com/colombia-20/paz-y-memoria/acuerdo-de-paz-indigenas-y-afrodescendiente-s-asi-van-los-avances-y-rezagos-del-capitulo-etnico/>

Colombian public opinion and the international community must pay special attention to the harsh realities and humanitarian crisis faced by ethnic communities as a result of the armed conflict in the Colombian Pacific, a historically excluded region affected by systematic and structural racism and for which the National Government and the negotiating teams of the ELN-Government peace talks have established important and concrete commitments to address the humanitarian crisis that start from community participation, 19 months have passed since the beginning of the public announcement of this process and many more years of suffering of the ethnic and peasant communities that seek strategies to resist the violence in their own territories that remain in conflict seeking the survival of their peoples.

In view of the above, we raise our concerns below:

- The continued effects of illegal mining and drug trafficking on ethnic communities and territories have led illegal armed actors to reach ancestral territories, affecting biological diversity and community security.
- Lack of implementation of individual and collective protection measures for indigenous black and peasant communities.
- The apparent unilateral decision by the Colombian government to reduce the geographic area of attention to the humanitarian crisis agreed upon by the Government-ELN negotiating teams, leading to the exclusion of the Naya, Baudo, Dagua, Yurumanguí, Raposo, Cajambre, Anchicaya, Mayorquin river basins.
- The lack of necessary funding available to address the humanitarian crisis in these regions, which was evidenced by the Humanitarian Caravan that took place in January 2023 (approximately 19 months ago) and which stems from the political will of the current government.
- The urgent need to consolidate the Humanitarian Agreements to protect the civilian population.
- The need to advance in the effective implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the 2016 Agreements.

Armando Wouriyu Valbuena, IEANPE's Secretary General, points out that, "in all indicators related to the ethnic chapter there are serious delays. We are talking about a backlog of between 82 and 85% if we compare the different sources of information". The report states that 38% of the indicators show no progress at all, while 41% show intermediate progress, and only 21% have been completed<sup>2</sup>, thus evidencing the low implementation of the Ethnic Chapter. The lack of effective implementation has led not only to the perpetuation and even aggravation of systematic violence against the rural and unarmed civilian population but also to an upsurge in violence, despite the progress achieved and efforts made under the current government of Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez.

Thus, we, the signatories of this communiqué:

1. We request the parties involved in the peace talks between the Government and the ELN to unfreeze the negotiating table and establish an extension of the bilateral ceasefire agreement between the parties that expired on August 3.
2. We request the Colombian government to ensure that the Ethnic Chapter is a priority within the framework of the Total Peace policy.

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<sup>2</sup>

<https://ieanpe.com/2024/06/06/ieanpe-presenta-iii-informe-de-balance-sobre-la-implementacion-del-capitulo-etnicodel-acuerdo-final-de-paz/>

3. We request that the commitments made in the framework of the Government-ELN peace talks related to humanitarian relief and protection measures in the indigenous and black communities in the regions of the critical Calima-San Juan zone, move forward and be implemented as a matter of urgency.
4. We strongly request the call for the inclusion of the Women, Family, and Generation approach safeguards in the compliance monitoring and supervision tools<sup>3</sup> as established in the Peace Agreement.
5. We request the international governments that maintain relations with the Colombian Government to urge the Colombian National Government and the UN Security Council to support the effective implementation of the Ethnic Chapter, and in particular the individual and collective protection measures for indigenous and black communities to remain or return to their ancestral territories in the regions affected by the conflict.

The urgency of this call is especially pertinent given the territorial overlap between the territories occupied by ethnic peoples and where the armed conflict is concentrated, as both are located on borders that "connect to international trade where we have major competing interests," as Patricia Tobón noted.<sup>4</sup> The international community must consider mitigating the global causes of conflict in the region, including large-scale global extractive industries, global illegal economies in drug trafficking, and large-scale infrastructure projects, among others.

We support the IEANPE Secretary General's call that the implementation of the Peace Agreement with an ethnic approach is a matter of State and not of government. His reminder of the particularities of ethnic communities and territories in government projects and administration, and a call to guarantee translation services into their own languages in all actions of State institutions with ethnic communities, and to guarantee the permanent participation of ethnic communities with voice and vote.<sup>5</sup>

Signed,

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<https://codhes.org/2023/05/31/mujeres-de-pueblos-etnicos-exigen-implementacion-del-capitulo-etnico-de-paz-y-su-inclusion-en-procesos-de-paz/>

<sup>4</sup>

<https://www.elespectador.com/politica/patricia-tobon-yagari-ley-de-victimtas-ahora-si-a-reconocer-la-institucionalidad-indigena-en-colombia/>

<sup>5</sup>

<https://ieanpe.com/2024/06/06/ieanpe-presenta-iii-informe-de-balance-sobre-la-implementacion-del-capitulo-etnicodel-acuerdo-final-de-paz/>

## Organizations/Institutions

1. Red Global - Pueblos Etnicos y Paz
2. Comisión Étnica para la Paz y la Defensa de los Derechos Territoriales
3. Instituto de Pueblos, Territorios y Pedagogías para la Paz
4. NOMADESC
5. Asociación Paz con Dignidad
6. Human Conet
7. Consejo Nacional de Paz Afrocolombiano (CONPA)
8. Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN)
9. Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
10. International Insitute for Race and Equality
11. Red Internacional Diplomacia Feminista por la Paz
12. Mujeres Volviendo a la Raíz
13. Rice University - Laura Correa
14. Colombia Acuerdo de Paz NGP
15. Proceso de Comunidades Negras - Palenque Regional el Congal
16. Gestapaz
17. CONAFROsc - Bolivia
18. Equipo Claretiano ante la ONU
19. Corporacion Cultural Ecologica Mujer Tejer y Saberes
20. Apuesta Solidaria AC
21. Grupo de Investigacion y Editorial Kavilando // Red InterUniversitaria por la Paz -REDIPAZ-
22. Operaciones Ochamen
23. SOVIC-PANAMA Agrupacion de Victimas y Refugiados que Viven en Panamá
24. Colombian Action Solidarity Alliance
25. Centro de Atención Integral Psicopedagogico Individual
26. Agenda Nacional Política Trans de México
27. Mujeres Políticas
28. ADF
29. Alianza Iniciativa de Mujeres Colombianas por la Paz - IMP
30. Asociación de Afrodescendientes Nelson Mandela
31. Corporación Campo de Concentración 3y4 Álamos
32. Centro Memorial Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
33. Guerreras Al Poder A.C
34. Invisibles por la Paz - Chile-Colombia
35. Ethnic Consulting SAS
36. Universidad Intercultural de los Pueblos
37. Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
38. Confederazione Colombia viva Italia e Italia
39. New York University Peace Research and Education Program
40. African Canadian Association of Ottawa
41. FOR Peace Presence
42. Afrolatin@ Forum

43. Fundación Estudio, Mediación, Paz y Resolución de Conflictos (CEMPROC)
44. Rad Nacional de Mujeres Afrocolombianas Kambirí
45. Universidad de Rutgers (EEUU) - Yesenia Barragan
46. Abajo Fronteras - Lilia Ferrer-Morillo
47. Acción Permanente por la Paz - John P. Walsh
48. Justice Horizon Initiative - Tatiana Devia
49. ESAP - Amanda Romero
50. Corporación Consejo Provincial de Paz del Oriente Antioqueño - Jaime Eduardo Bsutamante Escobar
51. ASOVICA - Nancy Peña Moreno
52. A/M/O/R.org - Elizabeth Castaneda Sanchez
53. Los Afro de Tabaco - Édgar Enrique Arregoces
54. University of Pennsylvania - Jeanne Lieberman
55. Cátedra Alfredo Molano Bravo - Gladys Jimeno
56. Hunter College and the CUNY Graduate Center - Dr. Mary Roldán, PhD
57. The New School - Aura Angelica Hernandez Cardenas
58. University of New Mexico - Mark Campbell
59. Community Peacemaker Teams
60. Fundación de Diaconía PAZOS - Rev. Jairo Barriga Jaraba
61. Gustavo Adolfo Lugo Vallecilla - Consejero Nacional de Planeación - Sector Población Negra, Afrocolombiana, Raizal y Palenquera
62. Asociación de Campesinos Afro del Magdalena Medio
63. ASOCODITA
64. CODHES
65. ONG Despertar Tumaco
66. Consejo Nacional de Paz AfroColombiano
67. Asociación de Mujeres AINI
68. Recipaz Colombia
69. Casa de Juan
70. Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective - Colombia Program
71. Life of Pachamama
72. Movimiento Social Para Cívico “para vivir con dignidad y en paz en la territorio” de Buenaventura
73. Hamilton College - Marcelo Carosi
74. School of Peace and Conflict Studies, Kent State University - Dr. Sara Koopman
75. Accountability Research Center, American University - Jonathan Fox
76. Goethe University Frankfurt - Slađana Branković
77. Regis College, Weston, MA - Lucia Ortiz
78. CMU - Felipe Gómez
79. Los Afro de Tabaco - Édgar Enrique Arregoces

- 80. Pilar Riaño, The Social Justice Institute, University of British Columbia
- 81. Virginia Benítez Makumba  
Comunidad de Religiones de Matriz Afro
- 82. University of Ottawa - Marie-Christine Doran
- 83. Black Alliance for Peace - Haiti/Americas Team
- 84. Austin Cole - Zone of Peace Campaign (Secretariat Member)
- 85. Ricardo Peñafiel - Université du Québec à Montréal
- 86. MADRE
- 87. World BEYOND War

**Individuals**

- 88. Sheila Gruner
- 89. Cristina Rojas
- 90. Kendall Mitchell
- 91. Aída Quiñones Torres
- 92. Carlos Maca Palechor
- 93. Maria Miyela Riascos Riascos
- 94. Dalia Mina Valencia
- 95. Graciela Uribe
- 96. Yensy Cundumi-Zuniga
- 97. Maria Eneida Rivas Lozano
- 98. Mercedes Sanchez
- 99. Alicia Lira Matus
- 100. Sandra Liliana Sarria Flórez
- 101. Ramira Marquez Cuero
- 102. Laura Rossi
- 103. Claudia Tovar Guerra
- 104. Mainmouna Sankhé
- 105. Alejandra Llano
- 106. Georges Moukouti Onguédou

- 107. Monica Leonor Mosquera Garces
- 108. Norma Jackson
- 109. Rudy Amanda Hurtado Garcés
- 110. María Adela Antokoletz
- 111. Ajo N'Go Rosine
- 112. Guei Koula Arthur
- 113. Felipe Puerta Cuartas
- 114. Laura Wyper
- 115. Marco Aurelio Álvarez
- 116. Joanna Boampong
- 117. Arturo Escobar
- 118. Melba Villamizar Rodriguez
- 119. Matilde Ester Maestra Rivera
- 120. Mario Palabra Uscamayta
- 121. Jo-Marie Burt
- 122. Ana María Bidegain
- 123. Eleanor Douglas
- 124. Alfonso Ibarra R.
- 125. Albenis Tique
- 126. Jill Clark-Gollub
- 127. Gayle Broad
- 128. Victoria Sanford
- 129. Joanne Rappaport
- 130. Daniel Castelblanco
- 131. Adelaida Tamayo
- 132. Les W. Field
- 133. William Castilla
- 134. Yaneth Pedreros Munoz
- 135. Dr. Vivian Jimenez Estrada
- 136. Clara Angel Ospina
- 137. Jeiner Arizela Angulo - PCN
- 138. Linithd Aparicio Blackburn
- 139. Juan Gabriel Tokatlian
- 140. Deiner Ángel Alegria Balanta
- 141. Mary Ogenyi-Igoche

142. Carlos Maca Palechor
143. Diego Rosselli
144. Arturo Grueso Bonilla
145. Michael Birenbaum Quintero
146. Cruz Bonlarron Martínez
147. Sonia Caicedo Ocoró
148. Ernesto Medrano
149. Coletta Youngers
150. Juan David Amaya
151. Marcelo Grueso
152. Ariel Rosebel Palacios
153. Constanza López Baquero
154. Luz Adriana Giraldo
155. Luz Aida Castilla Sinisterra
156. Mauricio Archila
157. Roberto Mauricio Rodríguez Saavedra
158. Amanda M. Smith
159. Marcos S. Scauso
160. Samantha Wherry - Activista Colombiana en Washington D.C.
161. Camillo Castillo
162. Mabel Otalora
163. Sahada Alolo
164. Diana Barrero
165. Dolores Figueroa Romero
166. Jane Omollo
167. Jonas T. Aboanor
168. Patricia Botero-Gómez
169. Diana Cortes-Evans
170. Patricia Garzon Ardila
171. Dr. Alejandro Rusconi
172. Linda Blackaby