Señor Gustavo Petro Urrego

Presidente de la República de Colombia

Carrera 8 No. 7 - 26

Bogotá

Dear Mr. President,

Receive warm greetings from Amnesty International. We are a global movement of more than 10 million people engaged in research, campaigns, and advocacy on human rights violations in over 160 countries. For decades, we have monitored and documented the human rights situation in Colombia. We are writing to express our concern about the ongoing risk faced by the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó.

For decades, Amnesty International has closely followed the situation of the Peace Community, an organization which provides for the defence of life and territory. In March it celebrates its 27th anniversary. Due to its constant struggle, the Peace Community has received recognition and support from the international civil society.

While the Peace Community persists in inhabiting and protecting its territory, and refusing to take part in an armed conflict that seeks to drag them in, they are confronted with attacks and threats that have been extensively documented over the years, both by civil society organizations and by the Colombian justice system. In fact, in recent days, we received the disturbing news of the murder of two members of the Peace Community, a woman and a young person. The Peace Community, in its public communication regarding this matter, asserts that it had already denounced those responsible for the murder.

On the occasion of its anniversary, in recognition of the work of the Peace Community and with deep concern for the guarantee of their rights, we are sending this communication to request the following:

* Take all measures to ensure that Colombian institutions respect the decisions and territory of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó.
* Implement real plans to deactivate armed violence against the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, including taking measures to prevent collusion between organized armed groups and Colombian security forces to the detriment of the community.
* Coordinate the intervention of the National Executive institutions responsible for ensuring the territorial integrity of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, especially the entities accompanying land processes, fulfilling commitments to the Community and the territory.
* Take measures to end impunity regarding human rights violations committed against the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó and its members.

Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, as well as that of many other human rights defenders and communities who still face risks, threats, and attacks today.

Yours sincerely,