



## **It is urgent to guarantee the life of the Awa People on the Pacific Coast of Nariño**

The undersigned organizations and congress members reject the violent acts of which the Awá people have been victims in the department of Nariño, particularly in the townships of Junín, Buenavista and El Diviso (Barbacoas); the townships of La Guayacana and Llorente (Tumaco) and the municipality of Ricaurte.

We urgently call on local and national authorities and the international community to implement the necessary measures to stop the upsurge in violence and the constant violations of human rights to which the Awá community, and especially young people, have been subjected before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to press releases and reports from the Association of Authorities of the Indigenous Unity of the Awá People, UNIPA, since the signing of the Peace Agreement, there have been more than 100 indigenous people from the community who have been threatened, almost 40 leaders have been assassinated, and more than 7 massive displacements with more than 800 people who have had to leave their territory.

The situation of the Awá people has worsened during the COVID19pandemic. According to UNIPA records, from February 2020 to date, at least 30 violent acts have occurred against the Awá people, caused by legal and illegal armed groups, including murders (11), massacres (2), threats (9), massive displacement (3), extortion (2), confrontations between armed groups (2) and harassment (1).

In particular, it is worth mentioning that at least 7 Awa leaders of UNIPA have been threatened recently. In addition, although not counted, there are known cases of sexual violence, forced recruitment and illegal searches. For its part, the organization Cabildo Mayor Awá de Ricaurte, CAMAWARI, denounced on August 18th the massacre of three young Awá from the community of El Aguacate, in the resguardo of Pialapi Pueblo Viejo.

In the territory of the Awá People in Nariño there are about 10 illegal armed groups. In the midst of the pandemic, they are constantly intimidating members of the community, stealing their food, destroying their belongings, and intimidating the indigenous guard that is trying to monitor and establish the necessary controls to prevent the spread of the virus. On the other hand, the Police and the National Army are also not respecting the measures established by the Awá authorities and are ignoring the controls of the indigenous guard.

Such situations, in addition to having left fatalities and injured people such as children and pregnant women, have also triggered a humanitarian crisis that currently has many families without the basic conditions to live and with psychological effects that have not been addressed.



In view of the above-mentioned facts, the organizations and congress members who signed the petition urgently request:

1. President Ivan Duque Marquez, to comply with the Peace Accord that contains the Integral Program of Security and Protection for the communities and organizations in the territories, which includes integral protection measures. It is worth mentioning that in the ethnic chapter, the Awa People are expressly contemplated as a collective subject of prioritized rights, and therefore, the strengthening of their own security systems must be guaranteed.

Likewise, we request the President of the Republic to comply with the social investment that is urgently needed for the Pacific Coast of Nariño, especially for the indigenous communities.

2. To the different entities in charge of complying with the Constitutional Court's Order 620/2017 so that, at the head of the Vice Presidency of the Republic, progress is made on the requests that have been made by the indigenous population of the Pacific Coast of Nariño, especially the one related to the constitution of the Consultation Table with the Awa People, presided by the Vice President, Minister of the Interior, and Minister of Finance, so that urgent provisional measures are adopted for the protection of the communities.

The Constitutional Court has repeatedly recognized the Awa Indigenous People as one of the peoples whose survival and physical existence are at risk.

3. To the Ministry of the Interior to demonstrate progress in the implementation of the Plan for the Ethnic Safeguarding of the Awa People, as set out in Order 004-2009 and the Provisional Urgent Plan for Reaction and Contingency in the framework of Order 174-2011.

Also to respect the right to prior consultation, given the government's intentions to continue with forced eradication and glyphosate fumigation.

4. To the Ministry of Defense to stop the persecution and illegal searches against the Awa People, as well as the forced eradication operations, which on occasion have ended in tragedy for the indigenous community.
5. To the Attorney General's Office to carry out the necessary investigations to clarify and find those responsible for the violent acts reported by UNIPA and CAMAWARI. Also that within the framework of its functions, it should process the necessary protection measures to safeguard the integrity, life and dignity of the Awa people.
6. To the National Protection Unit, UNP, to respond to the call of UNIPA and to finance and support the collective protection measures within the framework of its own Protection



- System which was presented in 2016, but from which there is no progress. At the same time, it is requested that measures should be implemented with a gender perspective that guarantees the lives of the seven Awa women leaders and human rights defenders who are under threat.
7. To the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, JEP, so that in the framework of Case 002 - in which it prioritized the territorial situation of Ricaurte, Tumaco and Barbacoas - it decrees, in an informal way, collective precautionary measures to prevent the Awa People and its members from suffering irreparable damage; furthermore, to protect them as victims of the armed conflict, to guarantee their participation in the process and the restoration of their rights.
  8. To the National, Departmental and Municipal Governments to implement the necessary measures to guarantee the life and human rights of the indigenous Awa community and to prevent any other violent act by both legal and illegal armed groups.
  9. To the international community to carry out the necessary follow-up for the compliance of the international treaties signed by Colombia, in addition to the follow-up of the MC 61/11 Cautionary Measures for the Awa people granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR.
  10. To all the state authorities mentioned in the Early Warning No. 045 of 2019 to follow the recommendations made by the Ombudsman's Office, which has been alerting about the human rights violations of the Awa community for months. In addition, the Ombudsman's Office has been pointing out the situation of risk faced by the leaders of the Unidad Indígena del Pueblo Awá (UNIPA), Cabildo Mayor Awá de Ricaurte (CAMAWARI), the Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas Eperara Siapidaara de Nariño (ACIESNA) and the associations of indigenous victims in the municipalities of Tumaco, Barbacoas and Ricaurte.
  11. To the legal and illegal armed actors so that international humanitarian law is respected, and consequently, that all types of attacks, threats, harassment, and pressure on the protected population such as the Awa indigenous people cease.

We reiterate the urgency of complying with these requests and those that have been made on other occasions by UNIPA, CAMAWARI, the Ombudsman's Office and other international organizations, so that Colombia does not continue to regret any more murders and massacres that have been announced.

**#NosEstánMasacrando**  
**#SOSPuebloAwá**



## #ProtejanAlPueloAwá

### SIGNED BY:

#### Organizations:

1. Asociación MINGA
2. Colectivo Orlando Fals Borda
3. Colombia Diversa
4. Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz
5. Comité de Solidaridad con Presos Políticos
6. Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES)
7. Corporación Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo
8. Corporación Humanas
9. Corporación Colombiana de Juristas
10. Corporación Jurídica Libertad
11. Corporación Jurídica Yira Castro
12. Corporación Reiniciar
13. Fundación Nydia Erika Bautista
14. Humanidad Vigente
15. Movimiento por la Paz
16. Red Nacional de Mujeres
17. Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres
18. Sisma Mujer
19. Vivamos Humanos

#### Congress members:

20. Abel David Jaramillo Largo
21. Ángela María Robledo
22. Antonio Sanguino
23. Guillermo García Realpe
24. Gustavo Bolívar
25. Iván Marulanda
26. Jorge Eduardo Londoño
27. María José Pizarro