



PROGRAMA SOMOS DEFENSORES

PROGRAMA NO GUBERNAMENTAL DE PROTECCIÓN A
DEFENSORES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

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The Non-governmental program for the Protection of Human Rights defenders – We are Defenders, is a protection space that looks to develop an integral proposal to prevent attacks against and protect the lives of those who run risks for their work as human rights defenders, as well as those who represent the interests of social groups and communities affected by the violence in Colombia.

The We are Defenders programs is made up of the following organizations:



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PRESENTATION

2011 was a year of contrasts. At the beginning of the year, the Colombian government created great expectations in the country, especially in the political, human rights and social sectors, with its tone of conciliation and inclusive political thought. Additionally, towards the end of the year, a new and robust normative package reorganized the executive to respond to the challenge of integrally protecting social leaders, human rights defenders, journalists, unionists, victims and other persons at risk.

But in contrast with these initially positive institutional transformations, human rights work in Colombia gave signs of being even more persecuted and attacked than in previous years, accompanied by an evident tendency of leaders and defenders to increasingly denounce attacks.

The push for the political guarantees for the work of human rights defenders, the Victims' Law, the restitution of land, the Law of Citizen Security, the dismantling of the DAS and the judicial processes against those responsible for illegal wiretapping, the discussions about military jurisdiction, the almost unstoppable advance of the mining locomotive and the new stigmatizations against social and human rights organizations by high government officials, all were part of the national scene which human rights defenders faced in order to make their rights, and those of their communities, respected.

Added to this of course is the internal armed conflict that has been worsening, due to the military offensive against the insurgency which resulted in the deaths of some of its highest military and political bosses, accompanied by a paramilitary rearming that is only getting stronger and in some zones of the country is practically out of control. The government continues to qualify this rearming as 'isolated violence' from criminal bands – BACRIM for short in Spanish – associated to drug trafficking.

In short, for human rights defenders 2011 was a contradictory year. Therefore this annual report for the year 2011 from the Information System of Aggressions against Human Rights Defenders – ISAAHRD – from the We are Defenders program, looks to give a complementary look at the national scene, which will allow different groups inside and outside Colombia to have some elements to evaluate just how true the changes in our country regarding human rights and their defenders are.

Just as a preview to what this report will divulge, human rights defenders were the victims of an overwhelming violence in 2011: 49 were assassinated. While in Bogotá norms were discussed and put in place, the regions bleed because of the assassinations, threats, arbitrary detentions, attacks and disappearances against defenders.

This cruel reality forces us to ask the public, are we doing enough to protect those who defend our human rights? Where is the prosperity for human rights defenders in Colombia?

At this moment, we would like to the agencies, organizations and international delegations that directly or indirectly support our work in protection and communication in 2011.

Our most sincere thanks go to the Norwegian Embassy, the German international cooperation agency MISEREOR, FASTENOPHER, Amnesty International, Terre des Hommes - Schweiz, Protection Desk Colombia – PD COL¹, the International and National Campaign “For the Right to Defend Human Rights in Colombia”, Diakonia Sweden, Oxfam, the human rights, peace and development platforms in Colombia, MOVICE, DIAL, the Colombian Commission of Jurists, Benposta Boys’ Nation and especially the Asociación MINGA.

Lastly, we would like to thank CINEP/PPP and their data base for the technical assistance that they have given us since the creation of our information system at We are Defenders, which was extended throughout all of 2011.

¹ This Protection Table in Colombia, created in 2009, is the fruit of an alliance between Social Action and Thinking (Colombia) and Protection International (Brussels).



CHIAROSCURO:

Politics and the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in 2011

Last year was one of changes, but not sufficient enough to be able to integrally protect the lives of the men and women who defend human rights in Colombia.

Spaces like the National Table of Guarantees, where the government and representatives of social and human rights organizations have been in discussions since 2010 about the physical and political security of human rights defenders, have advanced but not at the rhythm desired. Both the government and civil society organizations have centered their attention on the search for political guarantees using this table to discuss critical issues such as prevention, investigation and protection.

In a preliminary balance on this process carried out in May 2011, the change of national government had had favorable effects as national level government officials and some regional ones as well had

recognized the work of human rights defenders.

The passing of the Victims' law, as well as the public declarations from the Ministers of the Interior and of Agriculture who expressed their decision to respect and protect victims who were looking to get their land back, represented a different position compared to that of the previous national government. In departments such as Nariño and Santander, the governors sent out positive institutional messages regarding the role of defenders in society.

These public demonstrations led one to think that the relationship was going down a good road and that real respect, justice, and protection would go from words to reality.

But the murder of social leader Ana Fabricia Córdoba and the attacks against more than 100 defenders in the first six months of the year arose doubts in the usefulness of the process.

Therefore in June the dialogue was suspended until concrete means to guarantee the legitimate exercise of human rights defense were in place.

Although in order to reinstate the dialogues the government implemented in August 2011 a new strategy (carrying out 14 regional committees to evaluate risks for defenders – RCERs – in the participating regions in the National Process of Guarantees, which was accepted by civil society), in essence the difficulties remained: the guarantees are still being avoided. Let's see why:

- The official declarations after 2011 have been the responsibility of minister Germán Vargas Lleras who in the reactivation of the process of guarantees carried out in Cauca, and in two RCERs, one in Barranquilla and another Bogotá, recognized the work of human rights defenders and social leaders and warned local officials of the responsibility to protect that corresponds to them. We see these kinds of statements very positively.

- Nevertheless, the process continues to have numerous problems, such as the fact that the Public Prosecutors office has not given any response regarding investigations being carried out into the aggressions against human rights

defenders. While at the same time, exhaustive investigations based on testimonies from demobilized fighters and military intelligence, such as those being carried out against defenders David Ravello Crespo from the organization CREDHOS and Winston Gallego Pamplona from the Corporation Sumapaz, Carmelo Agamez from MOVICE, and Principe Gabriel Gonzales from the Committee for Solidarity with Political Prisoners, just to cite a few, continue advancing.

These situations, amongst others, are just a few of those that have not allowed the Guarantee process to have the desired results and show that human rights defenders in Colombia continue to be exposed to situations of extreme risk.

The statistics in this report are just an example of this dangerous reality.

Wave of Stigmatizations

Yet again, the reappearance of stigmatizing statements coming from high public officials against national and international organizations that both defend human rights and support the reparation and land restitution processes for victims, strained and made the work of human rights defenders in 2011 more difficult at least on a political level,

Such is the case of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers Collective and the public accusations against them for supposedly presenting false victims during the international process against the Colombian State for the massacre of Mapiripán, Meta, which was carried out by paramilitaries with the support from the Army, for which the State was condemned.

Another case was the alleged false displacement of peasants from the Las Pavas farm who currently are demanding their land back.

In these two cases, the action of human rights defenders were delegitimized as they were pointed to as having made 'businesses' based on lies, which then caused a public stigmatization of victims who were demanding their rights be respected, because they all were 'robbing the State of its finances.'

This situation, which was thought to be overcome due to the tone of the new government, opened the door for political and armed actors from the extreme right to consider as unviable the government policies such as the Victims' law and land restitution, and to give support to new attacks against social and human rights organizations.

This perspective has been consolidated with the creation of the new Agency for the Judicial Defense of the Nation.

The agency will allow the Colombian state to confront more than 260,000 judicial processes whose economic pretensions total more than 500 billion USD².

It is worth remembering that various of these lawsuits were filed by human rights organizations in representation of the victims of grave human rights violations and violations of International Humanitarian Law.

Although the State has the right to protect national finances, it also is a state responsibility to respond to the failures in terms of protection as a result of its omissions.

Therefore, the action of this new agency should be observed by human rights organizations.

Investigations against the DAS

In a different vein, in 2011, important investigations were carried out by the Colombian justice system against ex officials from the previous government, who were presumably responsible for illegal wire-tapping carried out by the

² <http://www.semana.com/nacion/nueva-agencia-gobierno-enfrentara-demandas-estado/166803-3.aspx>

DAS, and of which various human rights defenders were victims.

Cases like the sentencing to 25 years of the former director of the DAS, Jorge Noguera, for collaboration with paramilitaries and his participation in the murder of professor and human rights defender Alfredo Correa de Andreis and also the ex secretary of the President's office, Bernardo Moreno, who is in jail for the investigation being carried out against him for his participation in illegal wire-taps, are both examples of these judicial processes.

Additionally another case is that of an ex director of the DAS, María del Pilar Hurtado, who is currently in Panamá after being granted asylum and was asked for in extradition by the Colombian justice system, so that she respond to the charges of grave accessory to criminal activity, abuse of public position, grave violation in communications, and ideological falsehood in a public document, for which she is charged as a coauthor.

Hurtado completes the barrage of officials investigated for carrying out illegal wire-taps under the Uribe government.

Nevertheless, despite the investigations against those who illegally intercepted communications from

judicial officials, journalists and human rights defenders, recent reports and international visits to Colombia show how this form of persecution may be continuing:

"Non-governmental organizations mention the expedition of a new intelligence law, Law 263 of 2011, whose principle content has to do with the mechanisms for the advancement of the correction, updating and removal of data process in each one of the intelligence organisms; procedures for the creation and passing of reports to the organisms that carry out intelligence and counter-intelligence activities; the creation of an commission of assessment for the depuration of intelligence databases and archives which would set the criteria for the putting in march of a system for the depuration of intelligence and counterintelligence databases and archives.

According to the opinion of the human rights organizations interviewed, this new law has no real substantial variations compared to the previous law, but on the contrary, it has elements that are even less favorable such as the increase in the time in reserve, the weakening of the mechanisms of control and the limitations on the mechanisms of guarantees.

*The commission proposed for the depuration of archives is transitory and only can formulate recommendations.”*³

In the same vein, it is important to remember the findings of the International Mission for the Verification of the Situation of Human Rights Defense in Colombia, carried out in November 2011 by 40 human rights defenders from 15 countries all over the world, who stated after following the case of the wire-taps pointed out, “The reports that we have received consistently, recently and in all of the regions visited about the robbery of computers and other information systems regarding cases and work of human rights defenders worry us.

We have learned as well during our visits to the regions that these cases are systematically labeled as normal ‘robbery’ by the authori-

ties and that there has been no advances in finding and trying those responsible.”⁴

The political situation for the exercise of human rights in Colombia can be catalogued as a ‘chiaroscuro,’ difficultly navigating between the institutional attempts at dialogue with civil society and constructing a public policy for protection, and a growing stigmatization that originates from high public officials as well as the wave of violence against men and women who daily and almost anonymously risk their lives to defend their rights and those of their communities.

The challenge of integral protection is path filled with obstacles, and we just hope that the so much promised ‘prosperity’ for the defense of human rights in Colombia does not continue to arrive too late.

³ Human Rights Defenders in Colombia: How is the Government protecting their rights? International Service For Human Rights. <http://www.ishr.ch/council/376-council/1244-ishr-launches-report-on-human-rights-defenders-in-colombia>

⁴ Informe Preliminar - Misión Internacional de Verificación sobre la Situación de la Defensa de los DH en Colombia. Campaña Nacional e Internacional “Por el derecho a defender los derechos humanos en Colombia” <http://www.colombiadefensores.org/noticias/item.asp?n=14256>

NEW NORMATIVE VIEW OF PROTECTION IN COLOMBIA

As was mentioned earlier in this annual report, 2011 was a year of changes, especially in the norms, decrees and laws that control the way in which the Colombian government protects social leaders, human rights defenders, unionists, journalists and other persons in risk of attacks due to their work for peace, human rights and their sacred constitutional rights.

Last year the national government under responsibility of the Minister of the Interior created and organized the National System of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, and modified the Inter-sector Commission of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law through Decree 4100 of 2011.

With this decree the government procured the articulation of guidelines on measures for the prevention, attention, assistance and integral reparation of the victims of the internal armed conflict, and also looks to coordinate the norms, policies and entities on a national

and territorial level to promote the respect and guarantee of human rights and the application of International Humanitarian Law.

Additionally, the government created the National Unit of Protection – UNP in Spanish – through the decree 4065 of 2011.

This is a special administrative unit on the national level whose objective is “to articulate, coordinate and execute the service of protection to those whom the national government determines by virtue of their activities, conditions or political, public, social, humanitarian, cultural, ethnic, gender, as victim of violence, displaced or human rights defender status is in a situation of extraordinary or extreme risk of suffering an attack against their life, integrity, liberty and/or personal security or due to the exercise of a public position or other activities that can generate extraordinary risk, such as being a union leader, working for an NGO, or with or for displaced persons, and to guarantee the opportuni-

ty, efficiency and suitability of the measures granted.”⁵

The programs of the Public Prosecutors Office, the Attorney General’s Office and the Program of Protection for Victims and Witnesses of the Justice and Peace Law are not included from the field of application of the UNP.

With the UNP created, and through the decree 4912 of 2011, the “Prevention and Protection of the rights to life, liberty, integrated and security of persons, groups and communities of the Ministry of the Interior and the National Protection Unit” Program was organized.

This new decree abolished its predecessors (1740 and 3375 of 2010), which determined the measures of protection for persons in risk. With decree 4912, the UNP, ascribed to the Ministry of the Interior, will be in charge of carrying out the risk evaluations that only the National Police previously did. This job will be in the hands of the Risk Evaluation and Measures Recommendations Committee – REMRC – supported by a Preliminary Valuation Group.

In general, we can highlight from Decree 4912 of 2011 the following:

- It has five basic parts: Strategies, Measures, Responsibilities, Procedures and Commitments.

- The UNP assumes protective responsibilities that were once under jurisdiction of the now dismantled DAS, but will also receive at least 600 ex DAS officials, which is worrying due to the well-known histories of these officials.

- The decree fuses the mechanisms of protection for public officials and other groups in possible risk, under the tutelage of the UNP.

- The decree establishes two kinds of measures: prevention and protection, depending on the level of risk, and includes preventive and protective actions for communities in risk as well.

The preventive measures include the elaboration of contingency plans, self-protection courses, patrols, and police magazines.

The protective measures include protection plans with bodyguards, physical resources such as bulletproof vests, mobilization methods and support for temporary relocations.

- Clearer and more direct responsibilities are established for local and regional authorities in terms

⁵ Minister of the Interior. Decree 4065 of 2011

of protection. The creation of departmental protection units that look to contribute to the decentralization of the effective response from the State in terms of protection.

- The decree allows for the possibility of hiring private companies at the same time that public services are received, but that these companies must operate within the schematics that will be laid out under the Ministry of the Interior, even though in reality they were just transferred from the old DAS.

- The decree creates a protection sub-direction in charge of executing the protective measures in coordination with the National Police.

This means that the agreements with private companies to have mobile bodyguards are over. Starting January 1, 2012 a group of bodyguards connected directly to the UNP will be in charge of this protective work

- New functions to analyze the risk not only to persons but to communities, organizations, groups and territories are assigned to the UNP.

The Unit will have to support preventive actions that the Ministry of the Interior carries out as well as other competent entities in the

se cases. It also must monitor the measures implemented.

These functions were previously part of the protection team of the Ministry of the Interior's Human Rights Office.

- Psychological assistance will be provided when the persons who need protection required it.

- In the risk evaluation, reports by social and human rights organizations will be taken into account as supports to assess risk.

- The risk evaluation reports will be presented to the REMRC for the adoption of the protective measures.

For now the REMRC is maintained as well as the representation of the beneficiary organizations.

Other Norms

Although it was not put into place in 2011, it is important to highlight Directive 12 from the Public Prosecutors Office, whose objective is to establish directives for public officials with the goal that in the exercise of their functions, they guarantee the right of human rights defenders to carry out their work.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Develop-

pment, under the Victims' Law (Law 1448 of 2011), issued the Ministerial Directive 01 of 2011, through which the Ministry established guidelines for the cases of those demanding their land be returned to them who are at risk and threatened due to the exponential increase of murders and threats against leaders demanding their lands be returned to them.

Finally, the National Public Prosecutor's Direction emitted Memo No. 30 of 2011, with which the Direction determines the 'investigative strategies in the cases carried out against human rights defenders.' The document looks to create better practices with regards to judicial operations in order that the investigations are more

committed to finding the truth, as well as more objective, impartial and respectful of due process, without stigmatizing the work of human rights defenders.

At a first glance, looking at the large normative package created by the Colombian government regarding protection, one would think that the situation of aggression against human rights defenders would be decreasing, or that the work of protection by the State would be much stronger, which would be reflected in lives saved, and threats against and the uprooting of human rights defenders avoided.

Nevertheless, the reality in the regions outside of Bogotá is exactly the opposite.





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ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Information System on Attacks against Human Rights Defenders – ISAAHRD

According to the registry of the Information System on Attacks against Human Rights Defenders – ISAAHRD – from the non-governmental program for the defense of human rights defenders We are Defenders,⁶ during 2011, 239 human rights defenders were victims

of aggressions as well as 116 social and human rights organizations were victims of some type of aggression that put the lives of their members in risk and created obstacles to their legitimate and legal work of defending human rights in Colombia.

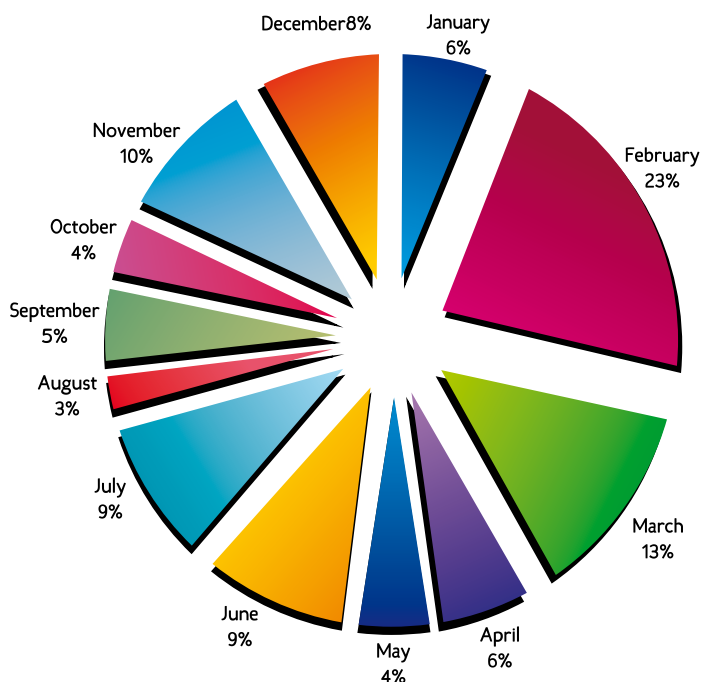
⁶ This System registers information directly known of by the We are Defenders Program and uses as a direct source the social organizations and NGOs that report cases to the program.

INDIVIDUAL AGGRESSIONS

The We are Defenders program has registered with extreme worry an increase of 36% in individual attacks against human rights defenders compared to 2010. Between January and December 2010, the Information System reported 174 defenders attacked; in the same period in 2011, there were 239 cases.

When we refer to the statistics of aggression per month, we see that the highest number of cases registered occurred in February 2011 with 54 cases, or 23% and in March with 32 cases, for a total of 13%. November is next with 24 cases (10%), June and July with 22 each (9%) and December with 21 cases for 8%.

Number of Individual Victims by Month
January - December 2011



It is just in this context of increasing attacks against human rights defenders and social leaders that the groups involved in the human rights, peace and democracy platforms decided to suspend in the National Table of Guarantees in June because it did not make sense that even though there were permanent dialogues between civil society, national government and international accompaniment groups, the situation continued to get worse.

“Defenders, indigenous and victims leaders, and those who lead processes of land restitution were those most attacked in 2011.”

International organizations like Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Latin America Working Group, Center for Justice and International Law, Center for International Policy in the United States y Amnesty International in Europe have stated that the threats, assassinations and attacks continue in Colombia against those who defend human rights.⁷

In the second half of the year, and as a result of the critical situation during the first half of the year, an international commission visited

Colombia in November to witness in the field the conditions of defending human rights in eight regions in the country.

This international verification mission was composed of 40 defenders from 15 countries, amongst them representatives, jurists and human rights activists, all invited by the *National and International Campaign for the Right to Defend Human Rights in Colombia*, with the intention of monitoring the report from the special delegate on the situation of human rights defenders of the UN.

The mission, after dozens of interviews with leaders, defenders, and local, regional and national authorities concluded in its preliminary report⁸:

- The attacks against defenders continue to remain in impunity.
- The protection that leaders and defenders receive is inadequate.
- The stigmatizations continue against those who defend human rights.
- There is evidence that state intelligence organisms continue to be used against defenders.

⁷http://www.wola.org/es/noticias/defensores_colombianos_de_derechos_humanos_siguen_sufriendo_amenazas_ataques_acoso_y_escuch

<http://www.es.amnesty.org/actua/acciones/colombia-defensores-amenaza-muerte/>

⁸<http://www.colombiadefensores.org/noticias/item.asp?n=14256>

- The legal persecution of defenders is a mechanism that continues to be implemented to mitigate their work.

as well as the annual reports by Front Line Defenders¹⁰ and Human Rights Watch.¹¹

Many of these findings were confirmed as well by the report published by the International Service for Human Rights in January 2012⁹

With regards to attacks by gender, of the 237 attacks in 2011, 77% were against men and 23% against women.

Attacks by Gender	Number
Women	54
Men	185
Total Individual Attacks	239

When looking at the historic trends of the statistics of attacks registered by the ISAAHRD, we can see that in the last three years, the attacks reported are more than in the 2002 – 2008 period.

The information registered in 2011 shows seven types of attacks against defenders in Colombia: assassination, threats, physical attacks, arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances, the arbitrary use of the legal system and injuries.

This increase, under analysis by the We are Defenders Program, may be attributed to a better possibilities of denunciation by social and human rights organizations, as well as the gradual consolidation of information that in previous years was very difficult to obtain due to the high levels of violence and the fear that leaders and defenders from the regions suffered, which lead to a fear of denunciations due to reprisals.

Of the attacks registered in 2011, 59% were threats, 20% assassinations, 10% arbitrary detentions, 7% physical attacks, 3% forced disappearances, and 1% for both other injuries and the arbitrary use of the legal system.

Compared to 2010, the program points to the cases of extreme worry that the increase of threats (109 to 140), assassinations (32 to

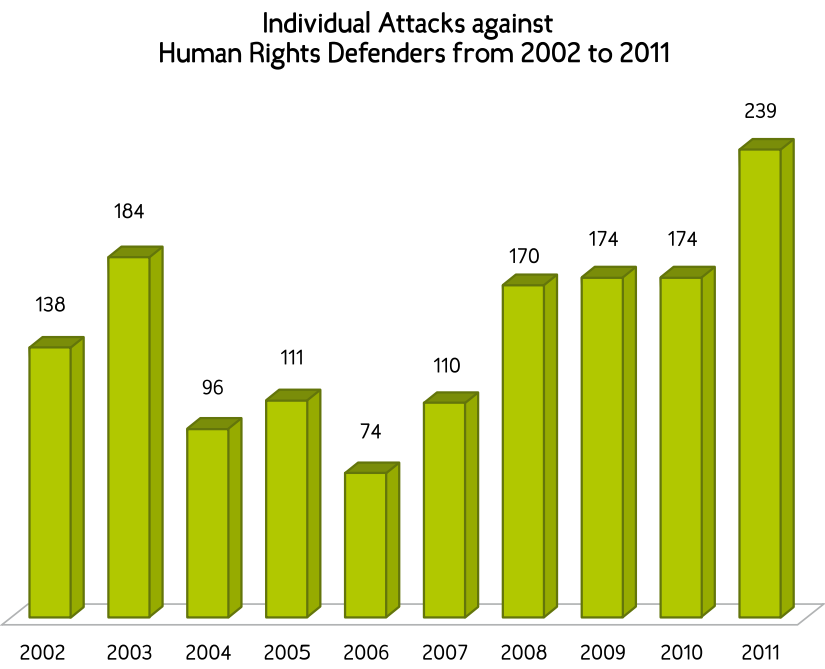
⁹ <http://www.ishr.ch/council/376-council/1244-ishr-launches-report-on-human-rights-defenders-in-colombia>

¹⁰ <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es>

¹¹ <http://www.hrw.org/es/world-report-2012/colombia>

49), arbitrary detentions (11 to 23) and the reappearance of forced disappearances represent.

“On average in 2011, a human rights defender was attacked every 36 hours in Colombia”



ATTACKS ACCORDING TO THE KIND OF VIOLENCE

Type of Individual Attacks	Number
Threats	140
Assassinations	49
Forced Disappearances	6
Physical Attacks	17
Arbitrary Detention	23
Arbitrary Use of the Legal System	1
Other Attacks and Injuries	3
Total Individual Attacks	239

Assassination of human rights defenders

Despite that in the last few years, the murder of human rights defenders has not stopped, 2011 was the year in which the statistics

crossed the limit. According to the ISAAHRD, 49 social leaders and human rights defenders were assassinated. Their names, as a recognition of their work and so they may not be forgotten and so that justice be applied, continue:

Department	Municipality	VICTIM	Organization	Type of Defender	Presumed Responsible
Antioquia	Itagüí	RICARDO ALBERTO SIERRA	Defensoría del Pueblo	Land restitution leader	Unknown
Antioquia	Medellín	CARLOS ANDRES VALENCIA	Estudiantes Universidad de Antioquia	Student Leader	Unknown
Antioquia	Medellín	DAVID DE JESÚS GOEZ RODRÍGUEZ	Asociación de Víctimas ASOVIRESTIBI	Land restitution leader	Unknown
Antioquia	Carmen de Viboral	WILLIAM ANDRES ALVARES OROZCO	Junta de acción comunal de la Vereda la cristalina	Community Leader	Unknown
Antioquia	Zaragoza	LUÍS HERNÁNDEZ TORRES	Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas Senú	Indigenous Leader	Paramilitaries
Antioquia	Zaragoza	JORGE MEJÍA ESTRADA	Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas Senú	Indigenous Leader	Paramilitaries
Antioquia	Zaragoza	STIVEN ALBERTO MEJÍA BEDOYA	Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas Senú	Indigenous Leader	Paramilitaries
Antioquia	Zaragoza	JUAN CAMILO MEJÍA BEDOYA	Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas Senú	Indigenous Leader	Paramilitaries
Antioquia	Zaragoza	LEXTER ENRIQUE GRACIANO PÉREZ	Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas Senú	Indigenous Leader	Paramilitaries
Antioquia	Medellín	ANA FABRICIA CORDOBA	Asociación de Líderes Hacia Adelante Por Un Tejido Humano de Paz (LATEPAZ)	Victims Leader	Unknown
Antioquia	Urrao	FERNANDO TEQUIA	Cabildo Indígena Katio - Resguardo La cristalina	Indigenous Leader	Unknown
Antioquia	Carepa	JAIRO ANTONIO VARELA ARBOLEDA	Organización Nacional de Población Desplazada Desarraigada Independientes (Opddi) y representante legal de la Organización Regional Córdoba y el Urabá (Cordeu)	Land Restitution Leader	Unknown
Antioquia	Vigía del Fuerte	JOHN DOBIANA MECHENE	Organización Indígena de Antioquia	Indigenous Leader	FARC
Antioquia	Vigía del Fuerte	FABIO DOMICÓ	Organización Indígena de Antioquia	Indigenous Leader	FARC
Antioquia	Taraza	FREDY JIMÉNEZ	ASOCCAB	Community Leader	Paramilitaries
Antioquia	Urrao	BROCARDON ANTONIO SALAZAR GAVIRIA	Vereda Orobugo Medio	Community Leader	FARC
Antioquia	Segovia	DORA LILIANORA LILIANA OCHOA SERNA	SINTRAOFAN	Union Leader	Unknown
Bolívar	Turbaco	KEILA ESTHER BERRIO ALMANZA	Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas	Womens' Leader	Others
Caldas	Marmato	JOSÉ REINEL RESTREPO JHS.	Parroquia de Marmato	Religious Leader	Unknown
Cauca	Santander de Quilichao	EFRAIN VELASCO VALENCIA	Asociación de Cabildos Indígena del Norte del Cauca ACIN	Indigenous Leader	Unknown
Cauca	Tacueyo	EDGAR FABIÁN SILVA IPIA	Asociación de Cabildos Indígena del Norte del Cauca ACIN	Indigenous Leader	Public Forces
Cauca	Tacueyo	MANUEL IPIA	Asociación de Cabildos Indígena del Norte del Cauca ACIN	Indigenous Leader	Public Forces

Cauca	Cajibío	SILVESTRE IPIA	Movimiento Campesino de Cajibío	Peasant Leader	Unknown
Cauca	Santander de Quilichao	LUIS EVER CASAMACHIN YULE	Pueblo Indígena Nasa	Indigenous Leader	Paramilitaries
Cauca	Guapi	JOSÉ MARIA CADENA	Consejo Comunitario Guapi Bajo	Afro-Colombian Leader	Paramilitaries
Cauca	El Tambo	LUIS EDUARDO GARCIA SOLARTE	Confederación Agrosolidaria and Casa de la Juventud del Tambo, Cauca	Community Leader	Unknown
Cauca	Jambaló	RUBÉN DARÍO TAQUINAZ	Pueblo Indígena Nasa	Indigenous Leader	FARC
Cauca	Santa Rosa	DAGOBERTO MONTILLA	Junta de Acción Comunal vereda san José los azules	Community Leader	Unknown
Chocó	Carmen del Darien	JOSÉ FRANCISCO VALDIRI	Territorio Colectivo de Curvaradó	Peasant Leader	Paramilitaries
Córdoba	Montelibano	NELIDA DEL CARMEN FUENTES HERNANDEZ	Pueblo Indígena Zenú	Indigenous Leader	Los Urabeños
Córdoba	Montería	LUIS DIAZ VILLA	SINTRAUNICOL	Union Leader	Unknown
Córdoba	Tierralta	NEBURUBI CHAMARRA	Pueblo Indígena Embera	Indigenous Leader	Unknown
Córdoba	Planeta Rica	JOSÉ GASPAR	AFROVIDES	Indigenous Leader	Unknown
Córdoba	Ayapel	HERNÁN LOPERNÁN LÓPEZ RIVERA	Asociación de Minero de Ayapel Córdoba	Union Leader	Unknown
Córdoba	Ayapel	MARTHA GAIBAO	Asociación de Desplazados de la Apartada ASODESLAP	Victims Leader	Unknown
Distrito Capital	Bogotá	PEDRO MARTÍNEZ ARÉVALO	Junta de Acción Comunal de Rincón el Valle	Community Leader	Unknown
Nariño	Barbacoas	BOLIVAR GUANGA	UNIPA	Indigenous Leader	Paramilitaries
Nariño	Pasto	JOHN EDISON RAMÍREZ SALAZAR	Fundación de Género Trans del Sur	LGBT Leader	Unknown
Norte de Santander	Villa del rosario	CARLOS ADRIAN GALLEGO	CONAP Nororient	Victims Leader	Unknown
Putumayo	San Miguel	LUZ MERY ROA ROA	Junta de acción comunal de la Vereda Dios Peña	Community Leader	Paramilitaries
Putumayo	Mocoa	ALEXA GÓMEZ POLANIA	Alianza de Mujeres del Putumayo - Tejedoras de vida	Victims' Leader	Unknown
Putumayo	Mocoa	ELADIO YASCUAL IMBAQUÍN	Asociación Nacional de Usuarios Campesinos-ANUC y Coordinador de la MOE	Peasant Leader	Unknown
Sucre	San Onofre	ANTONIO MENDOZA MORALES	Asociación de Desplazados de San Onofre y Los Montes de María	Land Restitution Leader	Unknown
Tolima	Chaparral	HÉCTOR OROZCO	Asociación de Trabajadores Campesina del Tolima – ASTRACATOL	Peasant Leader	Unknown
Tolima	Chaparral	GILDARDO GARCÍA	Asociación de Trabajadores Campesina del Tolima – ASTRACATOL	Peasant Leader	Unknown
Valle del Cauca	B/ventura	HUGO ULCUÉ	Asociación de Cabildos Indígena del Norte del Cauca ACIN	Indigenous Leader	Unknown
Valle del Cauca	Florida	MARCO ANTONIO CASAMACHIN GUINAS	Pueblo Indígena Nasa	Indigenous	FARC

Of the 49 assassinations, 86% were men (42 victims) and 14% were women (seven victims).

Antioquia was the department most affected by the murder of defenders with 17 leaders assassinated. Next were Cauca with nine; Córdoba with six; Putumayo with three; Nariño, Risaralda, Tolima, Sucre, and the Valle del Cauca with two; and Chocó, Bolívar, Bogotá, and Norte de Santander with one.

There are clearly some departments and zones in the country that definitely need a punctual review.

Such is the case of Antioquia and Córdoba, as these two departments alone – which are geographic neighbors – account for 23 murders.

Particularly we would like to point out Córdoba where only six attacks were reported in 2011, but all of them were murders.

Another zone worth pointing out is southwest Colombia, including the departments of Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Nariño and Putumayo,

where 16 murders were reported. It must be remembered that the two areas mentioned (Antioquia/Córdoba and the southwest) are zones in which there have been incredibly high levels of armed confrontation, presence of legal and illegal armed actors, illegal economies, and national and international interests due to the exploitation of natural resources.

The defenders of human rights and social leaders are the ones who bravely confront this hostile context while trying to defend themselves as well as the rights of their communities.

Looking at the presumed responsible parties for the deaths of these 47 defenders, there was a large increase in the participation of paramilitary groups compared to the cases reported in 2010, as well as an increase in the participation of unknown actors:

To close this section of the report, we would like to point out the severity of the fact that there was such a high number of defenders murdered in 2011, amongst those the 19 indigenous victims, followed

Presumed Responsible Actor	2010	2011
Paramilitaries	5	13
FARC	7	5
Unknown	20	28
Public Forces	-	2

by peasant, community, victims' and land restitution leaders and defenders which add up to a total of 21 victims according to the information received at the We are Defenders program.

"On average during 2011, a human rights defender was assassinated every eight days in Colombia."

Individual Threats

The Black Eagles (Las Águilas Negras), Los Rastrojos, Los Urabeños, Los Paisas, and United Self-defense Forces of Colombia, among others threatened 101 leaders and defenders in Colombia in 2011.

Also, 26 threats from unknown parties and 13 presumed to be from the National Army were registered by the ISAAHRD.

It is important to point out that, defenders and leaders belonging to victims' organizations, displaced communities and land restitution organizations were those most threatened in 2011.

Our information system identified the Bogotá capital district as the city where the highest number of threats against human rights defenders was registered with a total of 32, followed the Valle del Cauca with 21 threats, Caquetá with 16. Atlántico, Risaralda and Sucre all

registered 10 threats each, and in Meta nine were registered.

Threatening pamphlets, telephone calls, text messages and e-mails were the most common ways that the legitimate and legal work of human rights defenders was threatened in 2011 according to the ISAAHRD.

Forced Disappearance

In 2011, forced disappearances against human rights defenders reappeared.

Six defenders were disappeared and until now there is no information about their whereabouts or lives:

- SANDRA VIVIANA CUELLAR GALLEGU, 26, is an environmental rights defender disappeared Thursday February 17, in the city of Cali.

- ANA JULIA RENTERIA and MIGUEL SANTOS RENTERIA CAICEDO a married couple and community leaders in the Community Council of the Delta of the Cajambre River disappeared Wednesday March 2, 2011, in the village of Guayabal on the Cajambre River in Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca.

- JHON FREDY GARCÍA (17), ROBINSON TAICUS (14) and FABIO

TAICUS (15) in the morning of the 16th of September took off on foot to the Indigenous Territory of Pulgande Tronquería Palicito, and when at the high point near the San Juan Bautista sector by the Nambí River in Nariño were detained by FARC members.

These young disappeared leaders had been participating in the training process for indigenous leadership for political and community strengthening that UNIPA is carrying out with support from UNICEF.

Arbitrary Detentions and the Arbitrary Use of the Legal System

It is important to highlight the increase in the acts of arbitrary detention against human rights defenders that the We are Defenders program registered in 2011.

From the 11 cases registered in 2010, the total jumped to 23 in 2011.

Additionally, this form of aggression is the first step in the arbitrary

use of the legal system against defenders in which baseless processes and judicial cases are created such as in the case of Príncipe Gabriel González Arango, a well-known human rights defender in northeast Colombia who was detained by the SIJIN and National Police in August 2011 in Pamplona, Santander and sent to jail.

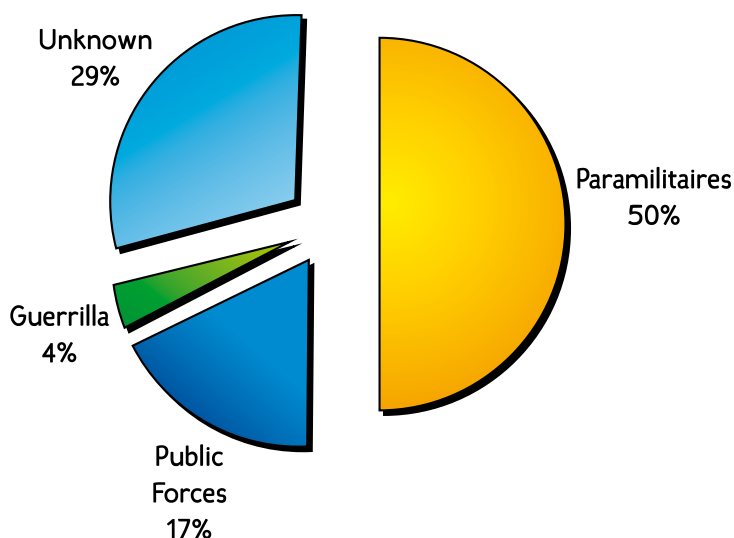
This defender in 2009 received the Human Rights First prize in the United States for his work in exposing the degrading treatment of political prisoners.

Príncipe Gabriel was detained and sent to trial in 2011, accused of belonging to the FARC, up against charges that intended to show that his work as a human rights defender was his job for the guerrilla.

Nevertheless, after 19 months of detention he was released when the 8th Circuit Judge in Bucaramanga confirmed his innocence and exonerated him of all charges.

PRESUMED RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Presumed Responsible Party of Individual Attacks
January - December 2011



With regards to those responsible for carrying out the 239 attacks documented here, the ISAAHRD registered paramilitaries as authors in 50% of the cases, while in 29% of the cases the author was unknown.

Members of the State Public Forces (Police, Army, SIJIN, Prosecutors, etc.) appear in the registry of 17% of the cases while the guerrilla was responsible for 4% of the cases.

Presumed Responsible Party	2010	2011
Paramilitaries	46%	50%
FARC	7 %	4 %
Unknown	37%	29%
Public Forces	10%	17%

Compared to 2010, we must point out the decrease in the percentage of those cases in which the responsible party was unknown, which we had identified in the statistics from 2010 as negative.

This decrease may be understood as a higher intent by defenders to denounce attacks, which also can

be seen in the number of cases registered. In the eyes of the We are Defenders program, social and human rights organizations as well as their members have confronted the situations of risk with more bravery and strength, denouncing these attacks to the authorities and public opinion.



ZONES OF ATTACK

The map of attacks against human rights defenders and social leaders in Colombia is transforming.

Situations like those of Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, Sucre, Atlántico, Risaralda and Caquetá draw attention in that in 2010, these departments did not report such a high number of aggressions and shows an important increase in violence against leaders and defenders.

Also it must be pointed out that in cities like Bogotá, attacks decreased from 21 cases in 2010 to 35 in 2011, the large majority being

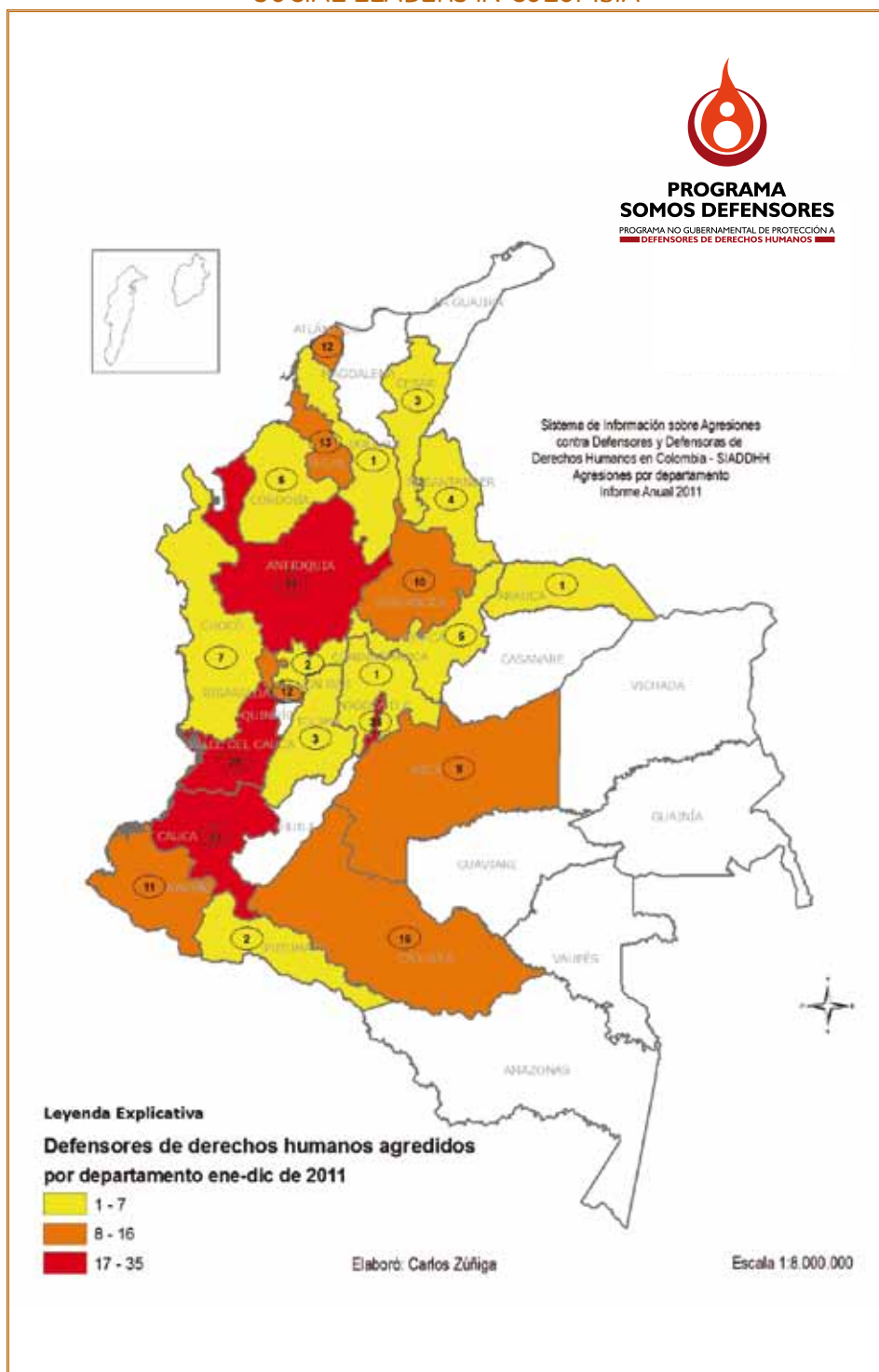
threats, as we previously pointed out.

Bogota is the city where the highest concentration of headquarters of social organizations and human rights organizations working at national level and hence the threats uttered to them are recorded in the Capital.

Also the decrease in Santander is important. On the other hand, it is worth observing how the levels of constant attacks against defenders in 2010 were maintained in 2011 in places like Cauca and Meta.

DEPARTAMENT	2011	2010
Distrito Capital	35	41
Cauca	33	30
Valle del Cauca	29	18
Antioquia	23	5
Caquetá	16	1
Sucre	13	7
Atlántico	12	5
Risaralda	12	0
Nariño	11	7
Santander	10	20
Meta	9	9

THE MAP OF ATTACKS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND SOCIAL LEADERS IN COLOMBIA



COLLECTIVE ATTACKS

Within this category, the ISAAGRDR identified 116 social and human rights organizations as victims of some type of attacks that put the lives and integrity of their members at risk as well as created obstacles for their legitimate and legal human rights work and defender during 2011.

Bogotá is the city that registered the highest number of social and human rights organizations attacked with a total of 27 cases, followed by Cauca with 21 cases.

Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Caquetá and Antioquia registered 10 cases each.

Other departments that registered attacks against social and human

rights organizations were Arauca, Atlántico, Bolívar, Caldas, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Risaralda and Tolima.

It should be highlighted that there was a decrease in aggressions against organizations as a whole, dropping from 168 attacks in 2010 to 116 in 2011.

According to the analysis by the We are Defenders program, this should be viewed with caution since the individual aggressions, manifested in murders for example, shot up in 2011. We conclude worryingly that those who attack human rights defenders in Colombia moved from the realm of threats to that of action.



GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

To conclude starting with the analysis of the statistics from the Information System on Attacks against Human Rights Defenders – ISAAHRD – from 2011, we in the program We are Defenders conclude that:

- There was an important increase of 36% in individual attacks against defenders compared with 2010.

- On average, a human rights defender was assassinated every eight days in Colombia in 2011.

- The 49 social leaders and human rights defenders assassinated in 2011 put into question the Protection System of the National Government and are an indicator that despite the change in political tone from the national government and the new norms for protection, human rights defenders and social leaders continue to be exposed to will of their attackers.

- The decrease in the number of attacks against human rights organizations between 2010 and 2011, and the increase in individual attacks in

the same period leads us to conclude that there exists a significant change in those targeted in the attacks, which makes these attacks much more specific and less public.

- The fact that 50% of the cases reported were presumably carried out by paramilitary groups is an indicator that these continue to act without any control.

The threat of paramilitary groups for human rights defenders and social leaders increased significantly in 2011.

- After a revision of the cases, we were able to determine that there was a notable intention by the organizations to denounce violent acts, even in complicated areas such as Antioquia, Cauca and Córdoba. Part of the increase in the statistics can be attributed to this.

- An increase in attacks against social and human rights leaders and organizations as well as displaced persons organizations and leaders was evident in the context of the

land restitution process, truth, justice and reparation, land defense and victims- and indigenous-related activities.

- We would like to call attention to the terrible situation that indigenous defenders suffered in 2011, as we registered the murder of 19 of them.

- The statistics show the existing distance between the reality of the regions in Colombia and the effectiveness of the recent preventive and protective policies formulated by the authorities.

We at the We are Defenders program note that the protection provided by the State still is incipient despite the normative advances.

- We are also calling on the National Public Prosecutors Office so that it reveal what investigations related to attacks against social leaders and human rights defenders it has carried out, as has been demanded in the Human Rights, Peace and Development Platforms as parte of the National Table of Guarantees.

- The UNP assumed protection responsibilities that were previously

under the guise of the now-dismantled Administrative Security Department – DAS in Spanish.

This situation is worrying as many of the former DAS officials passed to this new government agency UNP and there does not exist any certainty as to whether these officials participated in illegal wire-tapping actions or espionage against human rights defenders.

- The We are Defenders program also is making a special call for attention to the new stigmatizations occurring towards the end of 2011 against social organizations and human rights defenders which represent or support victims taking part in reparation of land restitution processes.

These new stigmatizations have come from high government officials who work under the responsibility of the President.

We should remember that these type of statements can be interpreted by armed actors (both legal and illegal) as an order to attack human rights defenders and leaders in the country.



**PROGRAMA
SOMOS DEFENSORES**
PROGRAMA NO GUBERNAMENTAL DE PROTECCIÓN A
DEFENSORES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

