

PUBLIC STATEMENT

And the War Continues: The Municipalities of Istmina, Medio San Juan, Litoral del San Juan, Nóvita and Sipí (Chocó) Urge Humanitarian Presence and Collective Protection. We Demand Actions of Prevention, Protection, Attention and Respect for the Civil Population.

May 23, 2022

**“We are at risk of physical and cultural extinction by the war.
The State is responsible for action and omission.”**

Once again, as the General Community Council of San Juan ACADESAN, we denounce the continuation of the violation of human rights of the black communities of ACADESAN in the municipalities of Istmina, Sipí, Nóvita, Medio San Juan, and Litoral del San Juan (Chocó), by the actions of armed groups.

The continuation of the armed conflict in the territory has generated the following violations of human rights in the last weeks:

- Mass forced displacement in the communities of:
 - El Choncho in the municipality of Litoral del San Juan.
 - Isla Mono (partially) in the municipality of Litoral del San Juan.
 - Barranconcito in the municipality of Sipí.
 - San Miguel in the municipality of Medio San Juan.
 - Negría in the municipality of Istmina, notable for its three mass forced displacements to this point in 2022.

- Confinement by armed actors in the communities of:
 - Isla Mono and García Gómez in the municipality of Litoral del San Juan.
 - Las Brisas, San Agustín and Cañaveral in the municipality of Sipí.
 - Charco Largo, Barrancón and Charco Hondo in the municipality of Sipí.
 - San Miguel in the municipality of Medio San Juan.

In recent days, all ACADESAN communities and the population of Chocó in general were affected by the second armed strike that has taken place this year. Regarding this, it suffices to say that what so many municipalities suffered for five days, is what the communities of ACADESAN have endured every month since the aggravation of the armed conflict partway through 2021.

Concerning the institutional response, more than four years have passed since the Land Restitution Judge of Quibdó ordered the National Government to implement collective

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protection measures. In December 2021, the entities of the National Government that form part of the Committee for Risk Assessment and Recommendation of Measures (CERREM) adopted only a few measures, rejecting or ignoring more than 30 measures ACADESAN requested of the civil entities of the State. Entities such as the Unity for Victims (UARIV), the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Sports and the Ombudsman Office neglected to implement the solicited measures. To date, not one of the few approved measures has been implemented. As we have already denounced, the officials of the Procurator-General of the Nation Office and the Ombudsman Office that participated in CERREM abstained from fulfilling their roles as guarantors of rights, which reinforced the violation of communities' human rights.

Therefore, on December 18, 2021, we informed the Land Restitution Judge of Quibdó that CERREM's decision defied the judicial order under the preventative measures granted in Ruling 040 of 2018. In light of this, the Directive Board of ACADESAN requested that the Land Restitution Judge of Quibdó issue new orders to implement not only the few and inadequate approved measures, but rather all the measures requested in March 2021.

Five months after this request, and after multiple [mass forced displacements](#), [repeated confinements](#) in the majority of communities, the [homicide of a child](#), the [assassination of a community leader](#), fighting amid the civilian population, [land mine accidents](#), death threats, [hunger and indignities](#) due to [State institutions' failure to recognize](#) and assist the displaced and confined population – after all this and while the [humanitarian crisis continues](#), the Judge has given no response to the request.

Here it is necessary to state that the Public Ministry is failing in something so basic as collecting statements about the forced displacements and confinements. At the same time, governmental entities are failing to guarantee adequate, sufficient and differentially focused humanitarian attention. The received "humanitarian aid" does not respond to the scale of the population's need and therefore does not guarantee the right to subsistence: part of the displaced population continues to sleep on the floor and/or crowded together, without adequate nutrition, without hygienic resources and without clothing.

In other developments, in December 2021 the Ministry of the Interior and UARIV coordinated an agreement on the measures of the Specific Plan of Protection of Ruling 005 of 2009 for the ACADESAN communities located in the municipality of Litoral del San Juan. In this process, in which the Procurator-General of the Nation Office and the Ombudsman Office did fulfill their responsibilities, a series of commitments were made

for the protection and guarantee of rights. Unfortunately, to date there are practically no advances in the implementation and fulfillment of these commitments. Regarding this, we would like to emphasize the urgency of advancing the commitment to define and coordinate the Specific Plan of Protection for the ACADESAN communities located in the municipalities of Medio San Juan, Istmina, Nòvita and Sipì. **Therefore, we request that the Special Court of the Constitutional Court's Ruling T-025 of 2004 issues the necessary orders for the entities of the State to complete its judicial decisions.**

In addition to the actions of governmental entities, it is absolutely urgent to carry out humanitarian missions and accompaniment in the different zones of the territory. These efforts should be carried out by the organizations, bodies, and institutions charged with supporting our communities: ACNUR, OCHA, ONU DH, the Regional Coordination of the Colombian Pacific (CRPC), the Istmina Diocese, the Norwegian Refugee Council, MAPP-OEA, the Ombudsman Office, the Procurator-General of the Nation Office, the World Lutheran Federation, Justapaz, CODHES, PCN, the Chocó Solidarity Interethnic Forum (FISCH), CINEP, NOMADESC, Somos Defensores, DIAKONÍA, Fundación Podion, to name just some of those who have historically supported us. Now more than ever, we need your direct presence in the territory to contribute to the prevention of physical and cultural extermination of black and indigenous communities.

**DIRECTIVE BOARD OF THE GENERAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SAN JUAN -
ACADESAN-
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