

## **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

### **Humanitarian crisis continues in N3vita and Sip3 in ACADESAN's territory**

**June 19, 2023**

In war everyone loses always:  
Multilateral ceasefire urgently needed.

Less than a month ago, the General Community Council of San Juan (ACADESAN) denounced the humanitarian crisis in N3vita and Sip3 as a result of the armed conflict. At that time, preliminary figures from the Public Prosecutor's Office reported more than 620 forcibly displaced families, corresponding to about 1,500 people. In addition, the families and communities that remained in resistance were confined for several days or weeks.

In recent days, the communities of Sip3 have once again been affected by the armed confrontation, with families from the communities of Cañaverál, San Agust3n, Brisas and Barranconcito being forcibly displaced to the community of San Miguel (municipality of Medio San Juan). Displaced people have also arrived in the communities of Negr3a (municipality of Istmina) and La Marqueza (municipality of Sip3).

Initial information indicates that there are at least 357 forcibly displaced persons in San Miguel, but this figure is probably an underreporting.

Preliminary information indicates that in the communities of San Agust3n and Brisas there are families that couldn't flee.

We also regret the death of Mrs. Delfina Murillo Murillo, who died in the community of Cañaverál: members of the community attribute her death to panic due to the worsening situation of the armed conflict. It is one of many deaths that are not registered in the statistics of violence, although they are also a consequence of the war.

The vast majority of ACADESAN families and communities located in the municipalities of N3vita and Sip3 are currently in a situation of confinement, with mobility restrictions, at high risk of forced displacement and of being victims of serious human rights violations.

At this point is important to remember that in April 2023, significant progress was made in the agreement of some collective protection measures for the 72 communities of ACADESAN, thanks to the leadership of the Vice Presidency in an articulated work with the UNP, the Ministry of the Interior (Directorate of Black Communities and Directorate of Human Rights) and the Victims Unit (UARIV). These advances are valuable, but they are insufficient because most of the collective protection measures requested by ACADESAN in November 2022 are still pending agreement, which prevents them from being taken to CERREM for formalization within the collective protection route.

This situation of recurrent humanitarian crisis requires that progress be made with the agreement of pending measures, of which we highlight the construction of community houses in the territory, the adequacy of the Community Council headquarters, and the delivery of gasoline for the mobility of motorboats. At this moment ACADESAN has motorboats delivered by the UNP, but there is no gasoline to use them: to facilitate the forced displacement of some of the families, ACADESAN had to borrow gasoline, and also the communities victims of forced displacement had to find their own. Where does the National Government expect ACADESAN and the families to obtain resources to pay for this gasoline and the gasoline needed for the next forced displacements?

We would also like to highlight the silence of the Ministry of Health with whom it has been impossible to have fluid communication, despite several attempts that have been made since September 2022, which has not allowed for concrete commitments in the framework of the collective protection route of Decree 2078 of 2017 coordinated by the UNP and the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior.

Likewise, the lack of willingness of INVÍAS to respond to ACADESAN's requests has been regrettable.

Nor has it been possible to have a communication with the Ministry of Commerce, so we use this public call to seek response to the requests of an ethnic people in process of physical and cultural extinction. We know that the Minister of Commerce, Dr. Germán Umaña Mendoza, is a serious and honest man, and for this reason we are very surprised that ACADESAN's requests have not been met.

In view of the above, it is necessary to resume the articulated work between the Vice-Presidency of the Republic, the National Protection Unit, the Ministry of the Interior (Human Rights Directorate and Black Communities Directorate), and the UARIV in order to achieve agreement on all the collective protection measures requested.

Finally, it is necessary to mention that we are very happy and congratulate the signing of a bilateral ceasefire between the National Government and the ELN: any suspension of armed confrontation is positive to reduce the suffering of the communities. However, this is not enough and that is why we want to reiterate the call we have been making for almost two years: a multilateral ceasefire involving all armed actors present in the territory is urgent. Without a multilateral ceasefire, the communities will continue to suffer the horrors of war and the humiliations that come with forced displacement and confinement.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SAN JUAN -ACADESAN-