



Grave human rights violations by state agents continue under the economic, social, and ecological emergency



Special Bulletin about Human Rights N° 3

The exceptional measures imposed under Decree 417 of March 17, 2020, which provides for the Economic, Social, and Ecological Emergency, and includes lockdown orders for the population, intending to block the spread of the coronavirus infection, have not brought a halt to the continuous human rights violations committed by members of the Military Forces and National Police. To the contrary, in the context of the limited presence of persons in the streets and in the towns and rural areas of the interior, the scant presence of public institutions to monitor their actions, and the legitimizing of repressive actions against persons who have violated the mandatory stay-at-home orders, these forces have fostered a wave of repressive actions and human rights violations. These violations have taken the form of violence against marginalized sectors who are protesting because they are hungry and suffering official neglect, the mass imposition of fines by the police authorities, serious cases of abuse and sexual violence by state agents, the violent repression of any grievance or outbreak of protest in the prisons, and a return to extrajudicial executions and forced disappearances committed directly by state agents or involving their collusion with paramilitary criminal structures.

1. THE VIOLENT REPRESSION OF SOCIAL PROTEST

In Bogotá and the other principal cities of Colombia thousands of persons have been compelled to protest in the streets, stalked by hunger and lack of attention to their vital needs. The organized banging of pots and pans (*cacerolazos*), hanging red rags in the windows to indicate hunger, and spontaneous demonstrations that continue taking place during the day and at night are all expressions of the failed social policy for addressing the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable sectors in the context of the mandatory stay-at-home orders. These expressions of discontent and need also evidence the failure of the policies to target subsidies and food assistance, excluding millions of persons who do not receive any aid despite their lack of income to cover their needs, and who are not reflected in the official statistics. In yet another show of official corruption, it turns out that tens of thousands of persons who appear as recipients of the assistance correspond to false ID cards, and others to persons who do not need any grant assistance.¹

The fact that most of the population is staying in, distancing themselves from others, has facilitated the repressive treatment accorded protests. Mobilizations of marginalized persons who congregated in the hundreds, forced by hunger to risk their lives, have been blocked or not allowed to reach government buildings in the main cities.² The government says that it doesn't have sufficient resources to provide food to those in need, or the personal protective equipment for health personnel, yet it does not hold back when it comes to the abundant funding of the Police and the ESMAD antiriot police to disproportionately repress social protest.³ Tear gas, pellets, stun grenades, flyovers, and other

¹ El Colombiano. *Denuncian que más de 16.000 cédulas de Ingreso Solidario no existirían*. April 14, 2020. In:

<https://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/procuraduria-denuncia-que-irregularidades-en-cedulas-de-ingreso-solidario-ML12805797>

² El Parche Crítico. *Imágenes de Represión a ancianos y personas que protestan por hambre en Barrio Potosí, Bogotá*. April 16, 2020. At:

<https://twitter.com/ElParcheCritico/status/1250655883035660290>

³ Publimetro. *Denuncian represión de cacerolazos en Ciudad Bolívar por parte de la Alcaldía de Bogotá*. April 16, 2020. At:

<https://www.publimetro.co/co/noticias/2020/04/16/denuncian-represion-de-cacerolazos-en-ciudad-bolivar.html>

methods are used daily against those desperate persons who cannot withstand one more day of being forced to stay in without any basic income, without essential public services, and without food.⁴ Since the report of the first case of contagion a total of 26 persons have been victims of extrajudicial executions while exercising their right to assemble and engage in social protest, 23 more for protesting over the absence of effective measures to prevent the spread of the infection in the prisons, two persons have been assassinated for protesting the aggressive official campaign for the forced eradication of crops for illicit use (one in Tumaco and the other in Sardinata), and one more has been assassinated in protests over hunger and the lack of food aid, in Codazzi, department of Cesar.

Police abuses have also increased sharply, directed against thousands of persons who cannot stay at home (migrants, construction workers, persons who have been evicted from their homes, sex workers, street vendors) and who are subject to indiscriminate fines of up to almost one million pesos (about US\$250), aggravating the precarious situation in terms of social conditions, with fines even being imposed on health workers who are moving about to get to their jobs.⁵ The National Police boasts to the media that in just one week, from the early morning hours of March 25 and the morning of April 2, in all 50,654 fines were imposed for failing to respect the preventive distancing measures decreed by the national government, as if there were a competition to see which city fined the largest number of citizens.⁶ In just three days the Bogotá Police reported having imposed 15,136 fines for failing to abide by the mandatory stay-at-home orders.⁷ Whatever use is to be made of these large sums is something that should be clarified, especially in these times of economic anguish due to the crisis. More than one million fines have been imposed in the first month under the mandatory stay-at-home orders, affecting mainly persons who as a matter of need or mental health have been unable to comply with the mandatory stay-at-home order.⁸

The marginalized sectors are also being targeted for repression by paramilitary groups, as has occurred in the Flor la Torre, Tierra Nueva, and Guabal neighborhoods of Ciudad Bolívar, in Bogotá, where the Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos reported the threats of social cleansing by the Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia, with pamphlets and gunfire at night. In these situations, the communities report that calls to the Police for help are ignored.⁹ Social marginalization and state neglect are also being used to recruit youths from impoverished sectors to join gangs who work for paramilitary groups, as has been reported in communities of the municipality of Soacha, next to Bogotá.¹⁰ In Medellín, social control over the population has reached the point that the mayor's office has had to instruct public servants to coordinate with the groups who control the neighborhoods to be able to distribute food assistance, according to a recent official document.¹¹ And according to press reports in some neighborhoods the gangs themselves take charge of distributing the assistance.¹²

2. OFFICIAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The lack of any type of oversight presence in the streets amid the stay-at-home orders has also aggravated the situation of violence against women and the LGBTI population due to the discriminatory treatment they receive at this time from the authorities. The organization Casa de la Mujer reports that 12 women have been murdered by their

⁴ Imágenes de Represión violenta a protestas sociales espontáneas en Ciudad Bolívar, Bogotá, April 14, 2020. At: https://twitter.com/heidy_up/status/1250258796196384768

⁵ Caracol Radio. "Siguen Multando al Personal Médico," April 14, 2020. At: https://caracol.com.co/emisora/2020/04/14/videos/1586863893_054548.html

⁶ El Tiempo. "Sitios del país con más gente multada por hacer 'conejo' a cuarentena," April 2, 2020. At: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/ciudades-de-colombia-con-mas-comparendos-por-violar-cuarentena-480310>

⁷ El Espectador. "¿Qué puede hacer si le imponen una orden de comparendo en la cuarentena?" March 24, 2020. At: <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/bogota/que-puede-hacer-si-le-imponen-una-orden-de-comparendo-en-la-cuarentena-articulo-911198>

⁸ El Tiempo. "Policía revela a qué y a dónde salen los colombianos en el aislamiento," April 17, 2020. At: <https://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/servicios/coronavirus-a-donde-y-por-que-salen-los-colombianos-en-cuarentena-485098>

⁹ Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos. "Amenazas de grupos armados en Ciudad Bolívar," April 3, 2020. At: <http://www.comitedesolidaridad.com/es/content/amenazas-de-grupos-armados-en-ciudad-bol%C3%ADvar>

¹⁰ Contagio Radio. "Paramilitares de AGC amenazan con limpieza social en Ciudad Bolívar," April 3, 2020. At: <https://www.contagioradio.com/paramilitares-de-agc-amenazan-con-limpieza-social-en-ciudad-bolivar/>

¹¹ Office of the Mayor of Medellín. Riesgo Social Medellín Covid-19. April 2020. P. 19.

¹² La Silla Vacía. "Los combos de la Comuna 8 de Medellín están en modo 'solidarios'." April 24, 2020. En: <https://lasillavacia.com/los-combos-comuna-8-medellin-estan-modo-solidarios-76373>

partners during the quarantine.¹³ On March 28, a woman in the locality of Bosa, in Bogotá, reported that she had been the victim of sexual violence at the hands of a police officer in a police bus and that he had stolen all her money.¹⁴ Another case of sexual violence is alleged to have occurred at the Laureles police post (CAI) by the police, also in Bosa; and other such case are reported in the city of Cali.¹⁵ More recently, on April 19 a woman was raped at the police station in Ciudad Jardín, in Cali, after having been detained for failing to abide by the quarantine while she was waiting for her husband to go to the ATM to pay the extortion that the police were demanding so as to not impose the fine on him.¹⁶

Two organizations that advocate for the rights of the Trans population, Fundación GAAT and Red Comunitaria Trans de Bogotá, have reported acts of discrimination against Trans women and men in supermarkets in the city. These cases appear to have stemmed from the application of the “Peak and Gender” (“Pico y Género”) measures established in Decree 106 of April 8, 2020 by the Bogotá city government (according to which men and women can leave their homes to go shopping every other day, with one day for men, the next for women), as trans persons have been insulted and denied access to the supermarkets because the workers and other customers do not recognize their gender identity and have told them that they are not going out on the right day. In addition, the Fundación GAAT reported that on Saturday, April 18, a Trans woman was stabbed in Ciudad Bolívar by a man who attacked her for going out on the day that corresponds to women.

3. EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

In addition to the actions of terror perpetrated by the paramilitary organizations and by the sector of the dissident FARC fronts that is articulated to the paramilitary strategy, the human rights violations perpetrated by state agents have not stopped under the State of Emergency. Since the first cases of covid-19 reported last March 6, there have been at least 30 extrajudicial executions at the hands of state agents have been reported, 26 in the context of protests, three in military or police control operations, and two in the context of military operations against the dissident organizations of the former FARC guerrilla force.

Case of 23 prisoners at the Modelo prison. The most desperate situation is in the prisons, where the fear and uncertainty caused by the terrifying extent of overcrowding and lack of sanitary conditions have led to protests that have been repressed with extreme violence.

On the night of March 21, while a protest was taking place in 24 prisons nationwide, the INPEC responded with violent repression against the prisoners, especially at the Modelo prison in Bogotá. As a result of this violent reaction by the prison guards 23 prisoners were killed, though Minister of Justice Margarita Cabello said in an interview with RCN Radio on March 23 that “the final toll is unfortunately 25 dead among the prisoners, and 83 wounded.”¹⁷

When persons die while in state custody, or show signs of mistreatment and torture while under the custody of state agents, there is a presumption of state responsibility, according to the consistent case-law of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition, extrajudicial execution is assumed when a person dies violently when under the custody of the authorities.

The initial information indicates that the victims of these apparent extrajudicial executions, assassinated in the massacre at the Modelo prison last March 21, were: 1. Pedro Pablo Arévalo Rocha, 2. Jesús Ernesto Gómez Rojas, 3. Cristian David González Linares, 4. Jhon Fredy Peña Jiménez, 5. Daniel Alfonso González Espitia, 6. Miguel Ángel Lemos

¹³ Casa de la Mujer. *Van 12 mujeres asesinadas por su pareja en cuarentena; fines de semana, los más violentos.* April 7, 2020. At: <https://www.casmujer.com/index.php/2020/04/07/van-12-mujeres-asesinadas-por-su-pareja-en-cuarentena-fines-de-semana-los-mas-violentos/>

¹⁴ Pulzo. *“Joven dice que fue abusada y robada por policías que la detuvieron por ‘violar cuarentena’,”* March 30, 2020. At: <https://www.pulzo.com/nacion/mujer-dice-que-policias-abusaron-cuarentena-bogota-PP871588>

¹⁵ Contagio Radio. *“En cuarentena mujeres temen ser víctimas de violación por parte de la Policía,”* April 4, 2020. At: <https://www.contagioradio.com/en-medio-de-cuarentena-mujeres-temen-ser-victimas-de-violacion-por-partde-la-policia/>

¹⁶ Pulzo. *“2 policías habrían violado a joven detenida en un CAI por no acatar cuarentena,”* April 21, 2020. At: <https://www.pulzo.com/nacion/denuncian-que-policias-violaron-mujer-cai-cali-PP884468>

¹⁷ Interview by Yolanda Ruiz of Minister of Justice Margarita Cabello during the RCN Radio morning broadcast, March 23, 2020.

Roa, 7. Fredy Alberto Díaz Rodríguez. 8. Edgar Alejandro Gómez Romero, 9. Milton Yesid Rodríguez Álvarez, 10. Cirus David Rojas Ospina, 11. Diego Fernando Rodríguez Peña, 12. Andrés Felipe Melo Sánchez, 13. Michael Alexander Melo Cubillos, 14. Brandon Eduardo Avendaño Quevedo, 15. Euclides José Pérez Espinoza, 16. Yeison David Galvis Forero, 17. Campo Elías Carranza Sanabria, 18. Diego Andrés Rodríguez Fuentes, 19. Joaquín Mejía Aguirre, 20. Henry Humberto Gómez Méndez, 21. Eberzon Palomino Hernández, 22. José Angel Hernández Páez, and 23. Daniel Humberto Carabaño Plazas.

According to the Minister of Justice, the 23 prisoners “lost their lives” in what she characterized as a “massive and criminal escape attempt” (*“intento masivo y criminal de fuga”*). Despite confirming the large number of dead and wounded, the Minister expressed her satisfaction that there was no escape: *“Nor is there a health problem behind that plan and those riots. Today there is not a single contagion, no person deprived of liberty, nor any member of the administrative or guard staff who has coronavirus or needs to be quarantined due to covid-19,”* argued the Minister of Justice.¹⁸ Attorney General Francisco Barbosa has been the principal enemy of addressing the grievances of the prisoners who, in the midst of the enormous risk and uncertainty, have sought effective measures to protect themselves from the risk entailed in remaining in subhuman conditions of overcrowding and without measures for personal protection, masks, disinfectant, soap, or drinking water.

The Attorney General has also opposed releasing prisoners into house arrest. Although he publicly proclaims that he has no idea how many prisoners there are, nor, therefore, the extent of overcrowding, he demands instead *“that they guarantee me that there are places for temporary confinement”* to house the inmates who are ill, affected by coronavirus or in vulnerable conditions, likewise with the new detainees, and to decree the total lockdown of the prisons to impede the contagion within the prison institutions.¹⁹ Apart from the naivete of thinking that Colombia – incapable of building or even adapting new hospitals to address the emergency – can build and adapt institutions for temporary confinement that it requires, it is irresponsible to think that the epidemic is not going to reach the prisons simply by ordering that they go into total lockdown mode, since their operation requires prison guards, administrative staff, health staff, family members, suppliers of medicines and inputs, not to mention the unsanitary and overcrowded conditions in Colombian prisons, which at times are at 150% of capacity.

After repeated refusals and the resistance of the Attorney General to reduce crowding in prisons by releasing the vulnerable population, the government finally agreed to some non-custodial measures, including house arrest, for a very limited number of those who should be covered by such measures, which now extend to only 3% of Colombia’s prisoners (approximately 4,000 persons). Yet they who must undergo cumbersome procedures get access this benefit.²⁰

The requirements by the Attorney General that the strategy for protecting prisons by the use of house arrest be “minimalist” and subject to all sorts of red tape, and that it exclude prisoners locked up for political reasons (including the nearly 165 detainees from the list presented by the FARC political party to the government, and who nearly three years after the signing of the peace agreement are still being held, waiting for their situations to be sorted out), may lead to a catastrophic saturation of the country’s prisons. The uncertainty in the face of the risk the pandemic poses for most of the prison population, and the deaths that occur due to the inability to take adequate protective measures, necessarily stem from its responsibility for any eventual deaths or torture resulting from harm to the integrity and physical and mental health of more than 120,000 prisoners, as it has been put on notice of the imminent danger of infection. This situation may be aggravated by possible new outbreaks of cases that may unleash panic in the prisons, aggravated by overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, the denial of the most basic elements of sanitary protection, and the stubborn pursuit of repressive and inquisitorial approaches. The Attorney General and the Minister of Justice bear the primary responsibility for this situation.

¹⁸ RCN Radio. *Veintitrés muertos en La Modelo tras intento masivo de fuga: Minjusticia*, March 22, 2020. At: <https://noticias.canalrcn.com/nacional/veintitres-muertos-en-la-modelo-tras-intento-masivo-de-fuga-minjusticia-354376>

¹⁹ RCN. *El Fiscal Francisco Barbosa se destapa en Noticias RCM*. Interview by Juan Lozano of the Attorney General, April 5, 2020. At: <https://noticias.canalrcn.com/justicia/el-fiscal-francisco-barbosa-se-destapa-en-noticias-rca-355032>

²⁰ Ministry of Justice and Law. Decree 546 of April 14, 2020.

Their obstinately punitive approach has already resulted in three deaths of prisoners who died from complications related to covid-19 in the Villavicencio prison. As of April 28 that same prison had at least 324 cases of persons who had tested positive, including prisoners, guards, and health care staff.²¹ Transfers of prisoners to punish leaders of the protests in prisons, which have been effectuated without any precautions, have spread the virus from the Villavicencio prison to the prisons in Picaleña (Ibagué), Leticia (Amazonas), La Picota (Bogotá), Las Heliconias (Caquetá), and Guaduas (Cundinamarca).²² These measures and the government's refusal to implement house arrest measures to reduce overcrowding mean that many prisoners, whether convicts or in pretrial detention, will face a mandatory death penalty in a country that abolished the practice in 1910.

The situation is all the more serious given that the Attorney General decided to embrace the Minister of Justice's argument that the prisoners' deaths were due exclusively to a massive and criminal escape attempt. Declaring that she was centering the hypotheses of the investigation "*so as to bring before the justice system those who coordinated these disorders and attempted to escape, resulting in 23 prisoners dead and 83 wounded,*"²³ apparently she has already decided on the appropriate line of investigation, instead of focusing the investigation on the responsibility of state authorities for perpetrating the massacre.

For the United Nations Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, in view of the control exercised by security authorities over persons under custody, "*the State must give a satisfactory explanation for any death or serious injury to a person deprived of their liberty.*"²⁴ Unfortunately, the preliminary report on the facts presented by Attorney General Barbosa reiterates a recurrent practice in the dynamic of extrajudicial executions in Colombia, which consists both of distorting the circumstances in which the events occurred and modifying the victims' version so as to blame them for what happened. According to this preliminary report, the investigations into the protests of last March 21 in 14 prisons nationwide were able to determine that "*behind these incidents were leaders of the armed groups of the ELN and the FARC dissident groups, that one of those responsible was Henry Castellanos Garzón, alias Romaña, leader of the FARC Dissidence, this person is behind the disturbances in the prisons. This Office of the Attorney General reiterates that any adoption of non-custodial measures must be minimalist.*"²⁵ Depicting those who were rightfully protesting because of their fear of infection and neglect, and specifically the victims of this massacre, as rank and file members of the organizations named, obeying the orders of *alias Romaña* and the ELN, only serves to justify their deaths: it is said that they are responsible for their own deaths, having followed orders of illegal armed groups. Passing off the victims as criminals has been the most widely used mechanism to justify these acts, thereby "legalizing" the victims as "false positives"; and this episode represents yet another chapter of false positives, in a particularly grievous manner insofar as the version of the facts is the one that has been imposed by the chief of the institution in charge of investigating and pursuing indictments for the deaths of these civilians at the hands of state agents – while under the custody of the State.

Other reported Extrajudicial Executions

1. **Alejandro Carvajal**, a social leader assassinated in the municipality of Sardinata (Norte de Santander) on March 26, by gunshots fired by members of the Terrestrial Operations Battalion (Batallón de Operaciones Terrestres) No. 9 of the Volcano Task Force, under the Second Army Division, while the communities were protesting the forced eradication of coca crops.

²¹ El Espectador, April 28, 2020. "COVID-19 en las cárceles: van 324 contagios confirmados y tres muertes."

<https://www.elespectador.com/coronavirus/covid-19-en-las-cárceles-van-324-contagios-confirmados-y-tres-muertes-articulo-915830>

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Office of the Attorney General. *Fiscalía evalúa varias hipótesis para determinar los responsables penales por los disturbios ocurridos en la cárcel La Modelo de Bogotá.* March 24, 2020. At: <https://www.fiscalia.gov.co/colombia/fiscal-general-de-la-nacion/fiscalia-evalua-varias-hipotesis-para-determinar-los-responsables-penales-por-los-disturbios-ocurridos-en-la-carcel-la-modelo-de-bogota/>

²⁴ United Nations. *Report by Mr. Christof Heyns, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.* August 6, 2014. Document A/69/265. Para. 30.

²⁵ Office of the Attorney General. "Pronunciamiento del Fiscal General de la Nación sobre motines ocurridos en cárceles este 21 de marzo." April 12, 2020. At: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=101&v=jelPNjk-JEM&feature=emb_title

- 2. Wilson Javier Jirado Barrios.** Shot dead by the Police on March 30 in Barranquilla in the context of a violent disturbance against a Police patrol that was taking place in neighborhood.
- 3. Unidentified youth killed in the locality of Rafael Uribe Uribe in Bogotá** by members of the Police on Thursday, April 2, at 10 pm; he was said to be violating the mandatory stay-at-home orders.
- 4. Bernardo Paredes Sevillano.** He was killed on April 5, 2020; he was first detained at a checkpoint of the Fuerza Meteoro of the National Navy on the outskirts of the urban center of Tumaco, at kilometer 5 on the road to the sea, in the Carbonera sector.
- 5. Yilber Andrés Yatagüe,** a 14-year-old indigenous youth, killed April 15 by gunshot fire outside his house in the rural area of the municipality of Toribío (Cauca) while army troops were pursuing the so-called “Dagoberto Ramos” dissident FARC elements. The indigenous authorities are investigating the facts.
- 6. A 17-year-old youth killed by gunshot wounds inflicted by the ESMAD in the municipality of Codazzi** (Cesar) on April 22 while more than 70 people were engaged in protest due to the lack of food aid in the covid-19 emergency.
- 7. Leidy Villa.** Teacher from the municipality of Ituango, was reported killed in military operations by members of the Seventh Army Division against dissident FARC forces from the 18th Front last April 16, even though they acknowledge that she “was head of household and did not figure, in military intelligence, as a member of any illegal armed group.”
- 8. Ángel Artemio Nastacuas Villareal,** a member of the Awá indigenous community, was executed by troops of the Army’s Vulcano Task Force on April 22 while engaged in protests over the aggressive use of forced eradication by the State in the context of the emergency.

4. FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

Cases of forced disappearance continue to be reported during the State of Economic, Social, and Environmental Emergency.²⁶ On April 13, the Red de Derechos Humanos del Suroccidente Colombiano “Francisco Isaías Cifuentes” reported that for four days there were incursions by the so-called FARC dissident groups, Carlos Patiño Front, in the districts (*corregimientos*) of Santa Clara, Sinaí, El Mango, and El Encanto, as well as at the facilities where productive projects are being developed in the New Area for Reincorporation in the municipality of Argelia. At these projects property was destroyed, livestock and supplies were stolen, and the following persons were declared military targets: the leaders of the persons rejoining civilian life in the wake of the peace agreements, social leaders, and human rights defenders who are members of the Asociación campesina de Trabajadores de Argelia ASCAMTA, the Proceso de Unidad Popular del Suroccidente Colombiano (PUPSOC), the Coordinación Social y Política Marcha Patriótica Cauca, and the Association of Juntas de Acción Comunal of the district of Plateado.²⁷ Moving house to house the armed men asked, list in hand, about the social leaders and former combatants, accusing them of opposing both the illicit crops and the armed presence of the so-called dissident fronts in the region. According to Semana magazine, “even though there is a large military presence of the 29th Army Brigade in the territory, it is this criminal structure (Carlos Patiño Front) that has armed control of the territory,” and for four days the communities put up with the intimidation and abuses “with the authorities gazing about, indifferent to the situation.”

In a press release the FARC political party reported and denounced that both the Carlos Patiño Front and the Jaime Martínez Front are engaged in an intense confrontation with the ELN in the municipality of Argelia (Cauca), and in this dispute many persons have been displaced, peasants have been assassinated and wounded, persons have had their

²⁶ El Espectador. “*Incursión de las disidencias en Argelia (Cauca) deja cuatro campesinos desaparecidos*,” April 15, 2020. At: <https://www.elespectador.com/colombia2020/territorio/digales-que-la-orden-es-tumbarlos-ultimatum-tres-lideres-sociales-de-putumayo-articulo-913981>

²⁷ Revista Semana. “*Casa por casa, disidencias buscan líderes sociales y reincorporados en Argelia*,” April 13, 2020. At: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/disidencias-buscan-a-reincorporados-del-partido-farc-en-argelia-casa-por-casa/663373>

lands taken, and there have been forced disappearances, among these "*the forced disappearance of at least four peasants, among them Mr. YAMEL DAZA on Wednesday, March 8.*"²⁸

Finally, the organizations of victims' family members, those who support them, and human rights organizations gathered in the Working Group on Forced Disappearances of the Coordinación Colombia-Europa -Estados Unidos reported the serious risks of impunity and denial of the right to the truth entailed in the order handed down by the Office of the Inspector General (Procuraduría General de la Nación) in the official communication issued on April 3 by means of the Inspector-General Delegate for Territorial Entities and Social Dialogue, ordering the district and local authorities to urgently proceed to bury corpses that have lingered at the morgues in their municipalities as unidentified persons, identified persons not yet claimed, and persons living in extreme poverty.

This measure is unreasonable, unnecessary, disproportionate, and in violation of the inalienable right of thousands of families of disappeared persons and victims of forced disappearance to have their loved ones identified and their remains turned over to their family members, and the right to know the truth of what happened to persons who have suffered forced disappearance or other forms of disappearance, of the nearly 120,000 cases that have occurred in the context of the armed conflict or the political violence that the country has suffered for several decades. For these reasons the organizations of the Working Group have demanded the repeal of this provision and have asked the Office of the Inspector General to see it that the rights to the truth and to have the remains of disappeared persons identified and handed over to their families are duly guaranteed by the local, regional, and national authorities with responsibility for such matters – contrary to the above-referenced official communication to mayors.

²⁸ FARC political party. *Comunicado a la Opinión Pública*. April 14, 2020. At: [tps://twitter.com/PartidoFARC/status/1250073502343970816](https://twitter.com/PartidoFARC/status/1250073502343970816)