

Iván Duque Márquez
President of Colombia
c/ Minister of Interior
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Your Excellency Mr. President,

I am writing you to express my serious concern about the situation of forced confinement that the communities of Bojayá are currently living, as well as the death threats that Leyner Palacios, a human rights defender from Bojayá, has received on January 3rd, 2020. Mr. Palacios has advocated against the presence of illegal armed groups in the territory of Bojayá.

On December 31st, 2019, 300 members of the Autodefensas Gaitanistas (AGC) arrived in the community of Pogue and placed this and other communities under forced confinement. Furthermore, on January 3rd, 2020, they threatened Mr. Palacios, urging him to leave Bojayá or he would be killed.

Although I am aware that the Colombian army has taken some steps to address the situation in Bojayá, this action requires further attention. This is why I urge you to take immediate action to ensure collective measures for the communities of Bojaya and to guarantee the safety of Leyner Palacios from threats made by the AGC.

Yours sincerely