



FEDERACION UNIVERSAL
DE MOVIMIENTOS
ESTUDIANTILES CRISTIANOS
en América Latina y el Caribe.



MEC COLOMBIA
BARRANQUILLA



MEC COLOMBIA
BOGOTÁ

PUBLIC STATEMENT

*He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
Isaiah 2:4*

The Colombian Student Christian Movement (SCM), which is part of the WSCF – World Christian Student Federation –, is an organization that seeks to promote among the student community a commitment that is critical, sensitive and transformative of the reality through contextual theological reflection, solidarity action and participation in social, cultural processes and ecumenical celebrations.

From this vocational call to prophecy, we want to condemn in one voice the serious situation of violence, which returns to the country after signing the peace agreement and which is getting worse in recent days because of the threats and killings of social and political leaders in different regions of Colombia.

Since the Peace Agreement was signed, 283 leaders have been killed. Only in January of this year, 27 were killed: three women, 24 men, 4 from indigenous communities, 15 farmers, 3 afro descendants. 5 in the Pacific region, 7 in the central region of the country, 7 in the Atlantic coast and 8 in the Colombian east. Only in the last week, 11 have been killed.

An outrageous figure for a country that wants to recover from the war and a dreadful figure left by the outgoing government, which boasts of having a NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.

In addition to the horror generated by these murders, we are outraged by the absence of the state and the government in the regions affected by the war in the past; and the indignation is not less when learning that 7 of the murdered farmers in the Colombian south-west were related, without conclusive evidence, to ex-combatants of the extinct guerrilla called FARC; and the first investigations attributed the facts to the guerrilla of the ELN (National Liberation Army), which was quickly denied by this same guerrilla.

We are outraged that, in Algeria, Cauca, where the events took place, on October 2, 2016,

88.54% of the population of this municipality said yes to peace¹ and that this situation is repeated in the areas that were most affected by the violence. These communities see with impotence the violence returning, to charge them their preference for reconciliation.

From the call to be a prophetic voice, we want to raise our most energetic and indignant rejection in the face of this violence that seeks to return. We express our repudiation as citizens to the institutional silence that does not give guarantees for the free exercise of the opposition; and above all, we want to extend our solidarity to the families of the murdered leaders, and to those who are threatened and persecuted by paramilitary structures that want to impose fear in the regions.

As prophets, we call on civil organizations: to redouble efforts in the visibility of other leaders who are reduced by fear and threat, not to leave them alone. We call on government institutions to provide the guarantees established by law to preserve fundamental rights to life and political participation, and especially not to keep silent in the face of the serious situation that occurs in regions where the bureaucracy does not work. We call on international organizations, the Organization of American States OAS, the International Criminal Court, and the United Nations Organization UN, to follow up on leaders who are under threat and provide precautionary measures for the protection of their lives.

The Colombian Student Christian Movement calls on all young people to mobilize in prayer and transforming action so that violence ceases and paths of dialogue are opened in order to generate reconciliation and to practice the universal commandment of loving our neighbors.

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¹ Through a referendum in which the Colombian people were asked if they supported the agreements reached between the government and the FARC and in which the vote for the YES won in the regions most affected by the war, despite the fact that in the general elections the No won.