

## **NO MORE repression! STOP the states of emergency!**

"May solidarity among peoples be a guarantee in defending life and justice, may defending our rights not cost us our lives".

The undersigned social organisations and individuals from various countries unite in solidarity with the Colombian people, with the demonstrators, who from different voices and sectors exercise their legitimate right to peaceful protest. Young people, women, indigenous people, small-scale farmers, Afro-Colombians, teachers, students, workers, indignant people who make use of peaceful social mobilisation to raise their voices, in the context of the National Strike that Colombia has been experiencing since 28 April.

1. We reject the militarisation of the Colombian streets. The excessive use of force by some members of the security forces is unacceptable and constitutes a violation of human rights.
2. We denounce the outrages and violations of human rights. The response to the social mobilisation resulting from the multiple crises facing Colombia and our Latin America cannot be abuse, arbitrary detentions, disappearances, sexual violence, and massacres. We demand that intervention and action protocols during social protest be observed, taking into account the principles of need, legality and proportionality.
3. We stress the importance of avoiding stigmatisation of protesters, especially by public officials, and we call on all to desist from violence. The demands in the context of the National Strike in Colombia are legitimate, as they seek a dignified life in Colombia, protection of territories, the fight against the causes that have increased poverty during the pandemic and the non-fulfilment of the peace agreements.
4. We call on international human rights organisations, the international human rights movement, the diplomatic community, the UN and the OAS to demand that the Colombian state comply with its international obligations to guarantee and protect the life, integrity, liberty rights of those who make use of the legitimate right to protest and social mobilisation.
5. We urge all Colombian political actors and, in particular, the government, to work for an immediate democratic solution to the crisis, strictly observing national and international law. It is essential that the just demands of the people be met and that these not be limited to the withdrawal or postponement of the tax reform bill nor to the prevention of putting forward bills that threaten human rights.
6. We embrace the victims of violence and state crimes, we demand that justice be done and that these crimes do not go unpunished. A humanitarian mission is urgently needed in the most affected areas, such as Cali, Bogotá and the south-west of Colombia.

For those of us who defend land, territory and the environment as essential sources of life, it is our duty to encourage measures to be taken that promote human dignity, and that the cycles of violence, criminalisation and stigmatisation be broken.

Today our solidarity is with the Colombian people, because tomorrow it may be with the Guatemalan, Bolivian, Brazilian, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Peruvian people and with all of Latin America and the Caribbean.

May we not be indifferent to the clamour and indignation of the people and may defending our rights not cost us our lives.

"Everyone has the right, individually or collectively, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at national and international levels." (Article 1, Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, UN).

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