



November 24, 2020

NLG Statement of Solidarity on 4th Anniversary of Colombian Peace Accords

The International Committee of the National Lawyers Guild express our solidarity with the Colombian people on this day that commemorates the fourth anniversary of the signing of the Peace Accords in Colombia on November 24, 2016 and reiterate our commitment to international accompaniment and oversight of their integral implementation.

Given that the 2016 Peace Accords were an important commitment of the Colombian people to a different future and a stable, lasting peace with social justice, we are concerned about the escalation of violence in the country.

We join the voices from Colombia and around the world in denouncing the lack of guarantees and protections from the Colombian state for those who signed the Peace Accords, as well as the breaches of the agreement, which among other points, contemplates guarantees of “security and [to] fight against criminal organizations responsible for homicides and massacres or that attack human rights defenders, social movements or political movements. . .and the prosecution of criminal conduct that threatens the implementation of the agreements and the construction of peace.”

In addition, we are seriously concerned about and denounce the attempts by the United States, including its embassy in Colombian territory, to undermine the Peace Accords and discredit them. This interference in that sovereign process that sought to resolve long-standing conflict that has affected every Colombian citizen is the continuation of a nefarious legacy of undue and violent interventions in the country and the region.

It is unprecedented and unacceptable that since the signing of the agreements to the present day, **242 ex-combatants have been assassinated**. Compliance with security guarantees and the right to life are necessary for human rights defenders, social leaders, ex-combatants, indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombians, campesinos, trade unionists, and students, who are victims of human rights violations and constant intimidation for their work denouncing and demanding rights for the most vulnerable. **In 2020 alone, according to INDEPAZ figures, more than 300 social leaders have been assassinated and more than 77 massacres that to date have been greeted with impunity.**

A people cannot live forever at war. The exercise of protest and the struggle for peace should not come at the cost of life and cannot turn into death. May the words of Constitution of the Republic of Colombia - "Peace is a right and a duty of mandatory compliance," (Article 22) become a reality, because the peace of Colombia is the peace of the entire continent.