



S.O.S - Urgent Action
To the Peoples of the World
From the Voices of the Women of East of Cali.

We are making an urgent call for international support from Friends and Human Rights Organizations, because the Colombian State is massacring us. Community leaders, young people and minors have all been victims of the public force on the order of the president of the republic, Iván Duque Márquez, the defense minister and local leaders, who have deployed the armed forces against the protesters of the Civic Strike, regardless of the fact that the latter are unarmed, protesting peacefully.

The Civic Strike began on April 28, 2021, organized mainly by young people, students, black communities, indigenous, peasant and community organizations, who, outraged by the systematic injustices of the government, have raised their voices and faced their fears to say enough! We protest to prevent the proposed tax reform that will squeeze us and makes us pay for the embezzlement of a corrupt and bad government; to dismantle the labor reform that continues to widen the gap between rich and poor; to undo the health reform that will cause to our deaths by deteriorating and closing public hospitals; and to prevent the pension reform that, instead of promoting the well-being of the retired, puts them at risk. We demand reforms built by and with the participation of the people and we demand the resignation of the president and other corrupt leaders who do not have criteria to govern.

The State does not listen to the voice of the people. The State only murders them in the name of public order. In the words of General Luis Fernando Navarro Giménez, they are on a Military Assistance mission, which aims to save lives, enable coexistence and protect the right of citizens to essential services. We, women from community organizations in Eastern Cali are asking the general: who have the possibilities that you mention?



According to data recorded on the GRITA¹ platform, between April 28 and May 3, 2021, there have been 1,181 cases of police violence in Colombia that are expressed in physical violence, homicidal violence, arbitrary detentions, sexual violence, and disappearances. In the particular case of Cali, the newspaper "Q'hubo"² reports in its edition today, May 4, 2021, that there have been already 22 homicides.

Between May 3 and the early hours of Tuesday, May 4, the leaders who are at the concentrations to the strike have reported audio and video recordings showing how the police are attacking them with tear gas and firearms, regardless of the fact that they are unarmed, with their hands raised as a sign of defenselessness. These images show the many people who have been injured and killed.

Whose lives are you saving, General Navarro? Who are you protecting, if more than half of the people are out in the streets, protes, raising their voices, with songs, music and performances, demanding justice?

President, Defense Minister, Governor of Valle del Cauca and Mayor of Cali. Are we your enemies of war? When are the helicopters, tear gas, machine guns, rifles going to stop? We demand that you stop killing us!

We call for international support because the public armed forces of Colombia no longer respect the national humanitarian mission that accompanies social mobilization; they are committing acts of vandalism and then blaming the protesting population. Members of the police and ESMAD have burned houses, buildings, cars, motorcycles and even public marketplaces. In Cali, for example, they burned Santa Helena, one of the marketplaces where poor people go. The videos show that they are shooting to kill and that they are even going into the houses shooting.

It is urgent that the whole world finds out what is happening in Colombia and that they help us protect our communities, young people, women, and social leaders who are in the streets facing State terror. Please support us by spreading these messages and providing medicines to treat people injured at points of concentration and resistance.

¹ <https://www.temblores.org/grita>

² <https://www.facebook.com/Qhubocali/photos/a.371460960373779/947462539440282/>