

## Threats and harassment continue against members of Casanare's social organisations

Bogota Dc,  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

The Social Corporation for Community Counselling and Training (COSPACC), a human rights organisation, member of: the Peoples' Congress, the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) - and the Colombia Europe United States Coordination (CCEEU); denounces to the national and international community a series of events that occurred after the verification mission to Casanare<sup>1</sup>, which took place within the framework of the Subcommittee on Guarantees and Human Rights of the Agrarian, Peasant, Ethnic and Popular Summit<sup>2</sup>.

1. On February 7, 2017, at approximately 10:30am the social leader FREDY ADOLFO FIGUEROA, a member of victim's collective - MOVICE Casanare - was at the headquarters of COSPACC located at 42nd Street No. 11-03 in the city of Yopal (Casanare). He noticed a man of approximately 35 years of age taking pictures of the office of the Social Organisations of Casanare with his mobile phone, through one of the windows. FREDY ADOLFO FIGUEROA approached him; the man stated that he was looking for directions; however he was later seen to be boarding a vehicle that was waiting for him two blocks from the office.
2. On February 18, 2017, during the course of the day, two men on motorcycles (number plates: SGL42D and JKL50C) took photographs and followed the social leaders who were at the COSPACC headquarters in Yopal (Casanare), a building that houses the social organisations of Casanare.
3. On February 23, 2017, at 5:00 pm, the social leader CARLOS ROMERO member of the National Association of Peasants José Galán Zorro -ASONALCA- was on the platform of the COSPACC headquarters in Yopal (Casanare). An individual approached him and tried to take his laptop, which contains key information about the social movement. In response to the retaliation from CARLOS ROMERO, the man shouted: *"be calm that I am not armed and I will not steal from you, take great care because you will be fucked"*.

The systematic nature of these events, which COSPACC has publicly denounced and brought to the notice of the competent authorities since 2004, is a matter of concern. It is worth recalling the events that occurred on January 23, 2013<sup>3</sup>, when information corresponding to investigations of serious human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law was stolen.

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<sup>1</sup> Verification mission carried out on 5 and 6 December 2016 in Aguazul and Yopal (Casanare). The United Nations, the National Protection Unit, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Governor of Casanare, the Technical Investigation Corps, the Aguazul Personnel, the Ombudsman's Office, the Casanare Government and social movement delegates participated; where complaints were received from members of social organizations in Arauca, Boyacá and Casanare.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.mininterior.gov.co/sala-de-prensa/noticias/mesa-unica-entre-el-gobierno-y-cumbre-agraria>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.redcolombia.org/index.php/regiones/centro/cundinamarca/2067-accion-urgente-roban-saquean-las-oficinas-de-cospacc.html>



COSPACC, in coordination with the Foundation Committee of Solidarity with Political Prisoners (CFSP), has for more than a decade been documenting cases of extrajudicial executions through "false positives" in Boyacá and Casanare; which caused the penalisation of several soldiers, including General HENRRY TORRES ESCALANTE<sup>4</sup> of the Colombian National Army.

## **DEMANDS**

To the Colombian state: guarantees for the life and integrity of all the people who are part of COSPACC and the other processes that accompany it; and to carry out the necessary actions through the relevant institutions, in order to investigate, in depth, the reported events and provide guarantees for the exercise of the promotion and defence of human rights.

To national and international human rights organizations, to follow up on this serious situation that is presented in the current context of violence against social movements, especially against its leaders and defenders of Human Rights. And to demand that the Colombian government comply with its constitutional obligations and demonstrate a real will for peace, by thoroughly investigating the claims and punishing those responsible.

**Corporación Social Para la Asesoría y Capacitación Comunitaria – COSPACC**

**Asociación Nacional Campesina “José Antonio Galán Zorro” ASONALCA**

**Asociación de Jóvenes de Casanare AJOCARE**

**Asociación de Mujeres de Casanare ASMUC**

**Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado  
MOVICE CASANARE**

**Comisión de Derechos Humanos Congreso de los Pueblos**

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/falsos-positivos-inicia-juicio-del-general-henry-torres-escalante/513283>