

June, 2021

Honorable Madame.

ANTONIA URREJOLA NOGUERA

President Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Rapporteur for Colombia, Ecuador and Nicaragua.

**Ref.: COMPLAINT ON ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND POLITICAL HATE
SPEECHES IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE
NATIONAL STRIKE IN COLOMBIA - 2021.**

We have the honor to address you, on behalf of the Centro Democrático (political party), in order to inform of the very serious acts of violence that have been taking place in the framework of the national strike in Colombia, as well as the hate messages and speeches towards party members, which have been massively spread by some violent actors and opposition sectors, situations that have caused the demonstrations to cease to be peaceful and to be outside the protection margin established by international standards.

The present expert opinion is made at the request of the Centro Democrático party, which requested the Víctor Mosquera Marín Law firm to, in an independent, objective and impartial manner, carry out a follow-up and assessment in light of international human rights law of the violent events that have been occurring against the non-demonstrating civilian population and against the public force within the National Strike.

In this sense, it has been observed that the demonstrations and protests have ceased to be peaceful since the first day, to turn into serious acts of terror and violence. In this way, since April 28, 2021, a large number of protesters in Colombia have disregarded what has been established by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) through its Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression in 2019 on Protest and Human Rights, standards concerning the rights involved in social protest and the obligations which shall guide the State response, as well as the recently approved General Comment No. 37 of the Human Rights Committee, from which the following premises that serve as frame of reference for a peaceful protest are derived:

- The right to peaceful assembly protects the non-violent assembly of people for specific, mainly expressive purposes.
- A “peaceful” gathering is the opposite of a gathering characterized by widespread and severe violence.
- The right to peaceful assembly, by definition, cannot be exercised through violence.
- In the context of Article 21, “violence” usually involves the use by participants of physical force against others that may cause injury, death or serious damage to property.

- The question of whether a meeting is peaceful or not should be answered with reference to the violence caused by the participants.
- The conduct of certain participants in a meeting may be considered violent if the authorities can show credible evidence that, prior to or during the meeting, those participants are inciting others to use violence and such actions are likely to cause violence; participants have violent intentions and plan to act accordingly; or violence on their part is imminent.
- When manifestly generalized violence occurs in a gathering, participation in that gathering is no longer protected under article 21 of the Covenant.
- States must protect participants against possible abuses by non-state actors, such as interference or violence from other citizens.
- Where there is evidence to show that the organizers could have reasonably foreseen and prevented damages or injuries of which they were not perpetrators, they may be held liable for them.
- The law enforcement bodies may use the minimum force necessary when it is essential for a legitimate purpose of law enforcement during a meeting and in accordance with the principles of proportionality and necessity.
- Dispersion may be resorted to if the assembly as such is no longer peaceful or if there are clear indications of an imminent threat of serious violence that cannot reasonably be addressed by more proportionate measures, such as targeted detentions.

Thus, we allow ourselves to make a chronological and thematic report of the main violent acts that occurred within the framework of the national strike, which shows that from the first day the demonstrations were no longer peaceful:

- I. VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST NON-DEMONSTRATING CIVILIAN POPULATION**
- II. VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST PRESS FREEDOM**
- III. SEIZURE OF WEAPONS**
- IV. BLOCKADES CARRIED OUT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL STRIKE**
- V. HEALTH AFFECTATIONS DUE BLOCKADES AND ATTACKS TO MEDICAL MISSIONS**
- VI. SHORTAGE DUE BLOCKADES**
- VII. MISSING PERSONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL STRIKE**
- VIII. DISINFORMATION AND INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE**
- IX. INCITEMENT TO HATE AGAINST POLITICAL SECTORS**
- X. ATTACKS CARRIED OUT FROM VENEZUELA**
- XI. PARTICIPATION OF ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS**
- XII. THE SELF-PROCLAIMED “FIRST LINE”**
- XIII. VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST PUBLIC GOODS**
- XIV. VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST PUBLIC FORCE**

I. VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST NON-DEMONSTRATING CIVIL POPULATION

AFFECTATIONS ON THE CIVIL POPULATION	LOSSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 433 bank branches affected • 417 ATMs • 359 Commercial establishments • 91 service stations • 46 Private and cargo vehicles 	<p>(1 U\$=3740,75 COL\$)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade \$ 123 billion COL\$ (USD 32,900,000) • Transportation: \$ 53 billion COL\$ (14,200,000) • Lodging: \$ 41 billion COL\$ (USD 11,000,000) • Agriculture: \$ 26 billion COP\$ (USD 7,000,000) • Manufacture: \$ 41 billion COP\$ (USD 11,000,000) • Construction (Housing and public

Week from April 28 to May 2:

1. On April 28, media reported that several supermarkets had been looted, a bank office in the city of Cali had been burned and several public transportation buses had been burned and vandalized¹. Similarly, 13 bank offices in the country were vandalized.

¹ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/paro-nacional-denuncian-saqueos-en-un-almacen-del-exito-en-cali/202124/>

2. On April 28, a branch of Banco BBVA located in the city of Cali was looted. The bank workers, who were still inside the office, took cover behind an armored door. Those who entered the bank did not notice the workers who were there, who repeatedly yelled “¡there is people here!” so that they would not be attacked².
3. On April 28, the city of Cali suffered looting of businesses by a group of protesters, which is why it was necessary for the police anti-riot squad (Esmad) to go to places that were target of looting³.
4. That same day, two offices of the AV Villas bank in Cali were vandalized. In one of the offices, a group of hooded men attacked bank officials, hitting one on the head with a pistol⁴.
5. On April 28, towards the evening hours, a balance of the preliminary results of the first day of protests was released. In this regard, it was reported that they had vandalized:

“14 buses, 10 in Cali and four in Bogotá.

2 private vehicles in Bogotá.

21 Transmilenio vehicles vandalized with graffiti and broken glass.

21 Transmilenio stations vandalized.

8 buses of the MIO of Cali vandalized and one set on fire.

9 MIO stations vandalized.

13 banking facilities affected in Cali, Neiva, Medellín and Bogotá.

16 traffic fine cameras affected in Cali

5 affected supermarkets in Cali”⁵

6. On April 29, 2021, the city of Cali suffered commercial looting by a group of protesters, which is why it was necessary for the police anti-riot squad (Esmad) to go to the places that were the target of looting⁶.

² Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/lanacionweb/posts/3918096404893730>

³ Available at: <https://www.dw.com/es/segundo-d%C3%ADa-de-protestas-en-colombia-deriva-en-saqueos-y-violencia/a-57383146>

⁴ Available at: <https://www.asuntoslegales.com.co/actualidad/el-vandalismo-se-tomo-las-protestas-en-varias-ciudades-durante-el-paro-nacional-de-ayer-3161379>

⁵ Available at: <https://www.asuntoslegales.com.co/actualidad/el-vandalismo-se-tomo-las-protestas-en-varias-ciudades-durante-el-paro-nacional-de-ayer-3161379>

⁶ Available at: <https://www.dw.com/es/segundo-d%C3%ADa-de-protestas-en-colombia-deriva-en-saqueos-y-violencia/a-57383146>

7. As reported by the Office of the General Procurator, on April 29 in the city of Cali, three vandalized ambulances were reported affecting the transport of patients infected with Covid-19 and women in labor⁷.
8. Likewise, during the day of protests on April 29 in Cali, attacks were reported on several buses of the MIO transport system (16 were burned, while 50 suffered damage), as well as different banks and commercial establishments (at least 50 were attacked)⁸.
9. That same day, in the city of Cali, some hooded men took advantage of the protests to violently break into an Éxito⁹ store, stealing televisions, refrigerators, electrical appliances and other products.
10. According to a report from the Bogotá Government Secretariat on April 29, 30 buildings were affected in the center of the city (with vandalized facades and broken glass). Likewise, dealers were affected having to close their premises due to the protests and had repair damage from the second day of demonstrations¹⁰.
11. That same day in the city of Medellín, as a result of the riots, damage to premises and vehicles occurred, 40 people were injured, 15 banking entities looted, 9 commercial premises vandalized, 6 traffic lights damaged, and 45 private vehicles affected. Similarly, one of the city's heritage buildings was seriously affected: The Railroad¹¹.
12. On May 1, on Labor Day Holyday, marches were held in the city of Bogotá which in the afternoon were no longer peaceful. The commercial establishments of the center and northern part of the city were the most affected by the excesses and vandalism on dealers¹².

Week from May 3 to May 9:

⁷ Available at: <https://www.rcnradio.com/judicial/bloqueos-en-las-vias-impide-el-traslado-de-pacientes-covid-oxigeno-y-mujeres-en-proceso-de>

⁸ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/paro-nacional-2021-vandalismo-dejo-heridos-y-millonarias-perdidas-584933>

⁹ South America's leading food retail platform.

¹⁰ Available at: <https://concejodebogota.gov.co/quien-responde-por-los-danos-en-manifestaciones-protestasiperonoasi/cbogota/2021-04-29/114215.php#~:text=Jueves%2029%20de%20abril%20de%202021&text=Hubo%20107%20heridos%3A%2054%20uniformados,32%20del%20componente%20zonal%20vandalizados.>

¹¹ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/paro-nacional-2021-vandalismo-dejo-heridos-y-millonarias-perdidas-584933>

¹² Available at: https://colombia.as.com/colombia/2021/05/02/actualidad/1619986807_772111.html

13. On May 3, in the city of Pereira, hundreds of wholesalers took the streets to “defend” their premises so that they would not be looted or destroyed by the vandals¹³.
14. That same day, a group of protesters set fire to a hotel where some members of the security forces and citizens were waiting¹⁴.
15. In the city of Cali, on May 3, the community found it necessary to get together to park trucks on the streets and thus prevent the entry of what the community itself called “vandalism”. Likewise, they affirmed: *"Everyone is wearing a bulletproof vest, has steel bars (weapons) and here we are all (...) prepared to repel any enemy"*¹⁵.
16. As reported by the Cali police, in the midst of the demonstrations that took place on May 3, a man pulled out a firearm, pointed it up, and then began to shoot. This act threatens the peaceful protesters themselves and also those who do not participate in the marches¹⁶.
17. Likewise, in the city of Cali, in the sector known as El Planchón, several protesters set fire to the Santa Elena market plaza, comprising several stores¹⁷.
18. In Gachancipá, Cundinamarca, protesters burned a gas cylinder truck. The National Police transferred an ESMAD squad to stop the blockade that had been taking place¹⁸.

Week from May 10 to May 16:

19. In the city of Barranquilla, in the context of the demonstrations held on May 14, private assets such as a shoe store, several ATMs, different banks and two supermarkets were affected¹⁹.
20. That same day, in the city of Buga, as reported by Police General, Fernando Murillo, the citizens have requested the police to remain in the streets, since the vandals are

¹³ Available at: <https://twitter.com/AlvaroUribeVel/status/1389576907147055106>

¹⁴ Available at: <https://twitter.com/petrogustavo/status/1389423139038404608>

¹⁵ Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-56989232>

¹⁶ Available at: <https://noticias.caracoltv.com/colombia/con-videos-como-este-de-un-vandalo-disparando-policia-tambien-denuncia-violencia-en-su-contra>

¹⁷ Available at: <https://www.qhubocali.com/asi-paso/cali-una-ciudad-en-llamas-y-sangre/>

¹⁸ Available at: <https://www.noticiasdiaadia.com/manifestantes-quemaron-camion-de-gas-en-gachancipa-cundinamarca/>

¹⁹ Available at: <https://co.marca.com/claro/trending/2021/05/14/609e6e79268e3ed3298b45ac.html>

causing anxiety and, in the afternoon, approximately 2,000 hooded men went out to the streets²⁰.

Week from May 17 to May 23:

21. In the context of the protests, on May 17, 2021, Councilor Jhoe Suaca, leader of the indigenous Minga in Cauca was attacked despite the fact that he was supporting the national strike²¹.
22. That same day, in Yumbo, Valle del Cauca, several gasoline stations were reported incinerated starting at 8:00 p.m. Likewise, the municipality's fuel supply plant was set on fire by some protesters²².
23. On May 18, 2021, the Office of the Attorney General announced that it had seized three vehicles that were used to set fire to the San Miguel de Sibaté toll, Cundinamarca²³.
24. That same day, in the city of Bogotá, on Monday, May 17, some of the protesters entered the Gran Estación shopping center to protest. This act by the protesters affected the economy of the merchants in the shopping center.
25. On May 18, the city hall of La Plata, Huila, was cremated by some protesters. The fire burned for several hours, until it could be controlled by firefighters²⁴.
26. In Riohacha, in the early morning hours of May 19, men on motorcycles entered the “Loma”, an indigenous community, and burned the bush and threw pamphlets with death threats²⁵.
27. On May 19 in Popayan, the protests got out of control, after several protesters entered the parking lot where the Transit Secretariat parks the immobilized cars. There, they attacked the parking facilities and the vehicles that were inside²⁶.

²⁰ Available at: <https://co.marca.com/claro/trending/2021/05/14/609e6e79268e3ed3298b45ac.html>

²¹ Available at: <https://co.marca.com/claro/trending/2021/05/17/60a25ed3e2704ee5b68b45a2.html>

²² Available at: <https://co.marca.com/claro/trending/2021/05/17/60a25ed3e2704ee5b68b45a2.html>

²³ Available at: <https://co.marca.com/claro/trending/2021/05/17/60a25ed3e2704ee5b68b45a2.html>

²⁴ Available at: <https://www.bluradio.com/nacion/vandalos-que-quemaron-sede-la-alcaldia-no-son-del-municipio-alcalde-de-la-plata-huila#:~:text=En%20el%20municipio%20de%20La,herido%20en%20un%20procedimiento%20policial>

²⁵ Available at: <https://co.marca.com/claro/trending/2021/05/18/60a3b27746163ff95c8b4623.html>

²⁶ Available at: <https://co.marca.com/claro/trending/2021/05/19/60a50239268e3e40048b464d.html>

28. According to the human rights bulletin on the national strike from the Presidential Advisor on Human Rights and International Affairs from April 28 to May 22, 2021²⁷, the following damages on private property took place:

- 433 bank branches
- 417 ATMs
- 359 Commercial establishments
- 91 Gas stations
- 46 Private and cargo vehicles
- 13 Private motorcycles
- 02 Religious institutions
- 01 Hotel

29. It is worth noting that the effects on the civilian population do not only come from the damage to private property, due to the demonstrations there are sectors that have been affected economically. A day of demonstrations has a cost of US\$129 million, which means more than US\$1,6 billion of losses since April 28, 2021²⁸. Accordingly, the sectors most affected are:

- Trade \$ 123 billion COL\$ (USD 32,900,000)
- Transportation: \$ 53 billion COL\$ (14,200,000)
- Lodging: \$ 41 billion COL\$ (USD 11,000,000)
- Agriculture: \$ 26 billion COP\$ (USD 7,000,000)
- Manufacture: \$ 41 billion COP\$ (USD 11,000,000)
- Construction (Housing and public works): \$ 26 billion COP\$ (USD 7,000,000)

(1 US\$=3740,75 COL\$)

Week from May 24 to May 30:

30. On Monday May 24, 2021 in the municipality of Soacha, in the early hours of the morning several trucks blocked the Autopista Sur (road that connects with the city of Bogotá), stopping the transit of public and private transport. As a result of these blockades, a wave of violence was generated where the protesters burned a Transmilenio bus and hit public transport buses with sticks and stones. By that time, ESMAD had not been present and citizens who were not part of the demonstration

²⁷ Available at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2021/Documents/230521-ESP-Infografia-DDHH-Paro-Nacional-2021.pdf>

²⁸ Available at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2021/Paginas/140521-infografia-DDHH-Paro-Nacional-2021.aspx>

felt anxiety. On the instructions of the mayor of Soacha, ESMAD and the police were only present until Monday night²⁹.

31. On May 25, the network of chambers of commerce, Confecámaras, published a survey on the state of entrepreneurs in the country in the framework of the national atriage. According to the report “*“Encuesta de las Cámaras de Comercio sobre el Efecto en las Empresas de la Coyuntura Social y Orden Público”* (“Survey of the Chambers of Commerce on the Effect on the Companies of the Social Situation and Public Order”), the most affected have been the micro, small and medium entrepreneurs and the employees of those companies that have had to interrupt their operations due to the situation. Likewise, the report identified that 22.2% of the country's companies suspended their activities due to blockades, while 53.4% of the other companies have operated between 1% and 50% of their capacity³⁰. Confecamaras affirmed regarding the report that *“the blockades have nothing to do with peaceful protest and are a violation of the fundamental rights of Colombians to health, work and free mobility.”*
32. That same day, in the city of Cali, the march of silence was held, which was characterized by the fact that those who demonstrated were businessmen and citizens seeking to unblock the main roads of the city and make a call to avoid acts of violence that have been taking place since April 28³¹.
33. As part of the march of silence, a group of mediators from the Peace and Citizen Culture Secretariat (guarantors of human rights) were attacked when they tried to talk with protesters to solve noise problems in the place where they were³².
34. On May 26, 2021, in the city of Florida, south of Valle del Cauca, a bus with passengers was attacked by a man who was on a motorcycle who threw a molotov cocktail to the bus. From this terrible event, two citizens were injured³³.

²⁹ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/habitantes-de-soacha-entre-el-miedo-bloqueos-y-violencia-por-el-paro-nacional/202109/>

³⁰ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/economia/articulo/cuantas-empresas-en-colombia-han-suspendido-su-operacion-por-el-paro-nacional/202158/>

³¹ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/gobernadora-de-valle-del-cauca-todo-el-peso-de-la-ley-para-quienes-han-realizado-atentados-armados-contra-la-fuerza-publica/202117/>

³² Available at: <https://www.cali.gov.co/pazycultura/publicaciones/161013/alcaldia-de-cali-rechaza-agresiones-contra-equipo-de-mediadores-de-la-secretaria-de-paz/>

³³ Available at: <https://www.bluradio.com/blu360/pacifico/vandalos-prendieron-fuego-a-bus-con-corteros-de-cana-en-valle-el-salvaje-acto-deja-seis-heridos>

35. That same day in Florida, Valle del Cauca, a light truck carrying sugar cane cutters was incinerated. In these events, two workers were burned with serious injuries and seven others were injured. Asocaña, (Associations of Sugar Cane Growers) Procaña, (Sugar Cane Producers and Suppliers) and the Sociedad de Agricultores y Ganaderos (SAG) del Valle (Valle Farmers and Ranchers Society (SAG)) “*deeply deplored the attack that occurred early today, in the municipality of Florida, Valle, where the truck in which cutters were transported was incinerated.*”³⁴ ”
36. On Friday, May 28, in the city of Bogotá in the afternoon, protesters raided a Transmilenio bus (massive mean of transportation), forcing the driver to deviate from the established route. With this act, the protesters put the lives of the passengers and the driver at risk. The situation was resolved thanks to the coexistence managers who encouraged dialogue with the protesters who raided and vandalized the Transmilenio bus³⁵.
37. That same day, the construction sector in Medellín and Antioquia, through Camacol (Colombian Chamber of Construction), reported millionaire losses in the month of May due to the national strike, stating that the economic losses during the strike have been greater than those suffered during a year of the pandemic³⁶.

II. VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

³⁴ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/cali/ataque-a-bus-de-corteros-de-cana-en-el-valle-del-cauca-591336#:~:text=De%20video-.Quemaron%20bus%20que%20llevaba%20a%20corteros%20de%20ca%C3%BA%20en%20el,quemaduras%20y%20%20heridos%20m%C3%A1s.>

³⁵ Available at: <https://canal1.com.co/entretenimiento/virales/transmilenio-bus-robado-vandalos-bogota-donde-ocurrio-video/>

³⁶ Available at: <https://canal1.com.co/entretenimiento/virales/transmilenio-bus-robado-vandalos-bogota-donde-ocurrio-video/>

AGGRESSIONS TO JOURNALISTS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL STRIKE

Assaults 47
Threats 29
Obstruction 13
Arbitrary actions in social networks 9
Theft or removal of journalistic material 9
Illegal detention 6
Harassment 6
Access to information
Damage to infrastructure 3
Exclusion 3
Espionage or invasion 3
Cyber-attacks or web pages 2
Stigmatization 2
Other 2

38. On April 28, 2021, the Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa, (FLIP) reported that 19 journalists and two media outlets were attacked by some individuals during the demonstrations³⁷.
39. That same day, in the city of Bogotá, there were attacks with molotov cocktails, stones and other blunt objects against the RCN television channel, NTN24 and the Semana magazine. This fact led the International Broadcasting Association to state that it was undermining press freedom³⁸. Likewise, the Director of NTN 24 stated: "*We value and respect the right to peaceful protest but we clearly express that vandalism and the call to it are forms of repudiable violence and not country-building.*"³⁹
40. On May 3, 2021, the FLIP delivered a report on the cases of violence against journalists in the context of the national strike. According to the Foundation's data,

³⁷ Available at: <https://www.dw.com/es/segundo-d%C3%ADa-de-protestas-en-colombia-deriva-en-saqueos-y-violencia/a-57383146>

³⁸ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/ataques-a-semana-y-rcn-coartan-la-investigacion-periodistica-asociacion-internacional-de-radiodifusion/202105/>

³⁹ Available at: <https://www.asuntoslegales.com.co/actualidad/el-vandalismo-se-tomo-las-protestas-en-varias-ciudades-durante-el-paro-nacional-de-ayer-3161379>

33 acts were registered against communicators, among which 13 are of physical aggression⁴⁰.

41. On May 4, 2021, a group of protesters threw a molotov cocktail at the premises newspaper “La Nación”⁴¹.
42. On Friday, May 7, 2021, on the Tunja - Bogotá highway, a group of journalists was detained near the El Roble tollbooth, the same one that 48 hours earlier had been burnt by protesters. The journalists of the Agencia de Periodismo Investigativo, API, (Investigative Journalism Agency), were detained by hooded men, and were immobilized despite the fact that the protest leaders verified that they were journalists. As reported by journalists, the situation was chaotic, and they claimed that even the organizers of the march asked motorcyclists for gasoline in soda bottles to make molotov cocktails⁴².
43. In the city of Popayán, on May 12, 2021, journalist Óscar Solarte denounced having been stoned by hooded protesters⁴³.
44. That same day, also in Popayán, a group of hooded protesters repeatedly tried to steal the phone from journalist Juan Ortega after he recorded a video of protesters throwing stones at the Mayor's office⁴⁴.
45. As of May 23, 2021, there had been more than 129 attacks on almost 150 journalists. The FLIP has kept track of the number of attacks, threats, obstruction, theft of material and harassment, among other things, that reporters have faced. Likewise, this organization indicated that in Colombia there had never been such a high degree of violence against journalists by protesters, who have obstructed the performance of their job⁴⁵.
46. According to the FLIP report of May 25, 2021, 159 separate attacks against 184 journalists have been documented, of which the vast majority have been carried out

⁴⁰ Available at: <https://www.elespectador.com/judicial/flip-denuncia-33-casos-de-violencia-contra-periodistas-durante-el-paro-nacional-article/>

⁴¹ Available at: <https://www.lanacion.com.co/el-ataque-a-la-nacion/>

⁴² Available at: <https://www.agenciapi.co/investigacion/regiones/periodistas-retenidos-siete-horas-por-lideres-del-paro-en-tunja-bogota>

⁴³ Available at: <https://flip.org.co/index.php/en/public-statements/item/2727-colombian-press-under-attack-in-national-strikes>

⁴⁴ Available at: <https://flip.org.co/index.php/en/public-statements/item/2727-colombian-press-under-attack-in-national-strikes>

⁴⁵ Available at: <https://www.elespectador.com/judicial/paro-nacional-mas-de-149-agresiones-a-periodistas-y-un-posible-caso-de-tortura/>

by protesters. The attacks mark a sharp spike in violence against the press in Colombia; as FLIP documented similar figures (150 attacks against 182 journalists) in the three years prior to this latest round of unrest⁴⁶.

47. Based on the events reported above, the Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa, FLIP condemned the attacks on the press and asked the protest movement to publicly reject the attacks against the press⁴⁷.

III. WEAPONS SEIZURE

Until May 25, the Policía Nacional (National Police) has seized:

- 33.153 sharps weapons
- 1.312 firearms
- 462 pneumatic weapons
- 179 explosive elements

48. On May 4, 2021, the director of the Policía Nacional, General Jorge Vargas, stated that official reports indicated that 140 firearms, 110 traumatic weapons and 5,672 sharp weapons had been seized up to that moment⁴⁸.

49. On May 15, 2021, the Ministry of Defense issued a general balance of the events after 16 days of protests in the country. This report shows that, thanks to the actions of the Policía Nacional to guarantee security and coexistence, to date 14,677 knives had been seized in the demonstrations, as well as 520 firearms, 269 pneumatic weapons and 108 explosive items⁴⁹.

⁴⁶ Available at: <https://flip.org.co/index.php/en/public-statements/item/2727-colombian-press-under-attack-in-national-strikes>

⁴⁷ Available at: <https://flip.org.co/index.php/en/public-statements/item/2727-colombian-press-under-attack-in-national-strikes>

⁴⁸ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/nadie-ha-autorizado-el-uso-de-las-armas-de-fuego-director-de-la-policia/202144/>

⁴⁹ Available at: <https://www.elheraldo.co/colombia/mindefensa-entrega-balance-de-16-dias-de-protestas-en-colombia-817354>

50. On May 16, 2021, the Director of the Criminal Investigation Police confirmed that 20 artisanal explosive devices had been seized on the Panamerican highway⁵⁰.
51. On May 21, 2021, a report from the Ministry of Defense revealed that during the 25 days that have elapsed since the beginning of the national strike, the authorities have seized more than 22,000 knives, 823 firearms and 119 explosive devices, as a product of the operations that have been carried out⁵¹.
52. As for May 24, 2021, the general balance presented by the Presidential Advisor for Human Rights indicates that during the time that the national strike has developed, a total of 27,420 sharps weapons, 1,032 firearms, have been seized, 479 pneumatic weapons and 154 explosive elements⁵².
53. On May 24, 2021, the Ministry of Defense issued a general balance of the national strike in which indicated⁵³:
- 27,420 sharps weapons were seized
 - 479 pneumatic weapons were seized
 - 1,032 firearms were seized
 - 154 explosive items were seized
54. By May 29, 2021, according to the figures recorded by the Presidential Council for Human Rights, the authorities had seized a total of 33.153 sharp weapons, 1.312 firearms, 562 pneumatic weapons and 179 explosive items⁵⁴.

IV. BLOCKADES CARRIED OUT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL STRIKE

⁵⁰ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/delitos/via-panamericana-incautan-explosivos-para-atentar-contr-uniformados-588839>

⁵¹ Available at: <https://www.rcnradio.com/colombia/incautaron-mas-de-22000-armas-blancas-y-823-de-fuego-durante-las-protestas>

⁵² Available at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2021/Paginas/140521-infografia-DDHH-Paro-Nacional-2021.aspx>

⁵³ Available at: https://twitter.com/mindefensa/status/1397187769609474050?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

⁵⁴ Available at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2021/Paginas/140521-infografia-DDHH-Paro-Nacional-2021.aspx>

TOTAL ROAD BLOCKS DURING THE NATIONAL STRIKE

- Two weeks after the beginning of the national strike: 1,662
- Three weeks after the beginning of the national strike: 2,048
- Four weeks after the beginning of the national strike: 2,499

Week from May 3 to May 9:

55. Although during the first week of demonstrations there were blockades in different cities of the country that affected mobility, after few days these blockades were no longer temporary demonstrations, and became permanent obstacles both in the cities and on different roads of the country, generating serious consequences for the transportation of food, medical supplies, fuel, among others, as will be detailed later in this report.

56. On May 3, 2021, six days after the beginning of the national strike, blockades continued to occur in various regions of the country⁵⁵:

- In the department of Huila, there was a blockade of the highway that connects the city of Neiva the capital of the country, Bogotá. This blockade had been placed since the previous week.
- In the department of Antioquia, there were blockades to different roads in the city of Medellín, as well as the total closure of the road that connects the municipalities of El Carmen and Rionegro.
- In Barranquilla, capital of the Atlantic department, there were blockades on different roads in the city, which even led to the suspension of the city's and metropolitan area mass transportation system that includes neighboring municipalities.
- In the department of Tolima, the protesters blocked the road corridor that connects the center with the west of the country (via Ibagué - Cajamarca - La Línea). Simultaneously, the road that connects the municipalities of Armero, Líbano and Mariquita, the road that connects Espinal and Girardot, and the road that connects Saldana with Neiva were blocked for several consecutive hours.
- In the department of Nariño there were intermittent blockades of the Pasto - Tumaco and Pasto - Popayán roads.

⁵⁵ Available at: <https://www.radionacional.co/actualidad/paro-nacional-persisten-protestas-y-bloqueos-en-varias-regiones-del-pais>

- In the department of Santander, blockades were recorded on the Barbosa-Moniquirá Road, the Floridablanca - Piedecuesta road and the Piedecuesta - Curos road.

57. On May 6, 2021, blockades persisted in different areas of the country. According to the Instituto Nacional de Vías, (entity in charge of the national roads) the total blockage of the road that connects Bogotá with Sesquilé was documented, and several blockades (at least 10) on the main roads of Bogotá too, which caused temporary interruption of public transportation. In the city of Medellín, the protesters carried out a total closure on Avenida Oriental. In the city of Cali, at least 12 blockades to main roads were reported⁵⁶.

58. On May 7, 2021, in Bogotá, where daily blockades had been installed on the main roads of the city, the effects on mobility due to the closures led to the suspension of public transportation services to nearby municipalities, as well as the suspension or alteration of some routes of the city's mass transportation system, Transmilenio. Similarly, the mobility authorities announced the presence of blockades on the roads that connect the capital of the country with the municipalities of Tunja, Ubaté, Choachí and Girardot. According to the balance issued by the mobility authority of the department of Cundinamarca, at 8:00 in the morning of May 7, at least 25 blockades of roads in the department were registered, some intermittently and others - the vast majority - totally in both directions of the road, completely preventing the mobilization of vehicles⁵⁷.

59. In addition to the above, on May 7, 2021, there were reports of the collection of illegal tolls in the middle of the blockades in the city of Cali in order to allow the mobility of people. According to the complaints, the citizens had to pay sums of up to \$ 50,000 Colombian pesos (approximately 14 USD) in order to be able to transit through the city⁵⁸.

Week from May 10 to May 16:

60. On May 11, 2021, 14 days after the demonstrations began, roadblocks continued throughout the national territory, seriously affecting mobility. On the roads that connect Bogotá with different cities in the country, there were at least 4 blockades. In a balance presented by the Dirección de Tránsito y Transporte de la Policía Nacional (Directorate of Traffic and Transportation of the National Police), it was

⁵⁶ Available at: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.semana.com/amp/nacion/articulo/en-vivo-paro-nacional-6-de-mayo-asi-avanzan-las-manifestaciones-en-bogota-cali-y-medellin/202142/>

⁵⁷ Available at: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.semana.com/amp/nacion/articulo/en-vivo-paro-nacional-este-7-de-mayo-asi-avanzan-las-manifestaciones-en-bogota-cali-y-medellin/202101/>

⁵⁸ Available at: <https://twitter.com/calivicicaya/status/138965394333048332?s=21>

revealed that on Tuesday, May 11, 77 roadblocks were reported on the country's highways⁵⁹.

61. On May 13, 2021, the situation due to the road blockades in the department of Cundinamarca was critical. According to what was reported by the Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones en Seguridad Vial de Cundinamarca (Cundinamarca Center for Studies and Investigations in Road Safety), shortly after noon, there was only one road on which vehicles were being allowed to pass, although in a limited way. In other words, practically all the roads in the department were completely blocked on this day. Taking into account that these roads are the ones that connect Bogotá and the rest of the municipalities with different areas of the country, these blockades turned out to be especially serious⁶⁰.
62. On May 15, 2021, the blockades continued on the main roads of the city of Bogotá. Likewise, there were strong blockades in the city of Cali (at least 10) and on the roads that connect it with neighboring municipalities in Valle del Cauca⁶¹.
63. According to the general balance by the Presidential Advisor for Human Rights, up to May 16, 2021, since the beginning of the national strike, a total of 1,827 blockades had occurred in the country that have affected the mobilization of people and transport of essential goods in Colombia⁶².

Week from May 17 to May 23:

64. On May 17, 2021, the President of the Republic, Iván Duque, spoke on the blockades on the different roads of the country that had been taking place since April 28 due to the national strike. He mentioned: “We understand and respect peaceful expressions. But pretending that there is the right to block roads, to prevent mobility and to generate shortages is something that Colombian society cannot accept. The blockades affect the full exercise of citizens' rights”⁶³.
65. On May 18, 2021, blockades arose again on several roads in the country's main cities such as Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Ibagué, Bucaramanga, among others. Likewise, blockades were recorded on the roads that connect different municipalities of Valle

⁵⁹ Available at: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.rcnradio.com/colombia/se-mantienen-los-bloqueos-en-algunas-vias-del-pais-tras-14-dias-de-paro-nacional%3famp>

⁶⁰ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/atencion-estos-son-los-cierres-en-cundinamarca-por-el-paro-nacional/202116/>

⁶¹ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/en-vivo-paro-nacional-15-de-mayo-siga-en-vivo-la-jornada-de-protestas-en-las-principales-ciudades-del-pais/202108/>

⁶² Available at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2021/Documents/170521-ESP-Infografia-DDHH-Paro-Nacional-2021.pdf>

⁶³ Available at: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.pulzo.com/amp/nacion/paro-nacional-2021-ivan-duque-responde-bloqueos-vias-colombia-PP1051925>

del Cauca and the Eje Cafetero⁶⁴. The Valle del Cauca area is one of the areas that has been most affected by road closures, which have been constant since the first week of the national strike.

66. Similarly, blockades in different cities and highways of the country were also extended during May 19, 20 and 21, 2021⁶⁵.

67. On May 23, 2021, it was known that according to the figures provided by the Ministry of Defense, between April 28 and May 21, 2,151 road blockades had been installed throughout the national territory. Although the road closures were mainly concentrated in the departments of Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Nariño and Putumayo, over the days the effects have spread throughout the country. According to the latest report that was known that day, to date 37 primary roads in the country were still blocked⁶⁶.

Week from May 24 to May 30:

68. On May 24, 2021, the Ministry of Defense announced that, since the beginning of the demonstrations in the context of the national strike, said entity had registered a total of 2,298 road blocks in almost a quarter of the 1,100 municipalities of the country (292 municipalities), located in 26 departments, as well as in the city of Bogotá. In addition, to date, 30 blockades were still active affecting the port of Buenaventura, the departments of Huila, Nariño, La Guajira and Cauca, the latter being a worrying blockade because the Panamericana highway was closed, making the connection between the center and the southwest of the country difficult. Of these blockades, there are several that have been completely permanent (not intermittent) since May 1, 2021: one in Florida and Pradera (Valle del Cauca) and another two since May 3 in Campoalegre (Huila) and Taminango (Nariño)⁶⁷.

69. On May 25, 2021, the Presidential Advisor for Human Rights issued a report with the blockade figures updated to date, which indicates that the total number of road closures since the beginning of the national strike totals to 2,499⁶⁸.

⁶⁴ Available at: https://colombia.as.com/colombia/2021/05/18/actualidad/1621342655_921455.amp.html

⁶⁵ Available at: https://colombia.as.com/colombia/2021/05/19/actualidad/1621433513_744543.amp.html y https://colombia.as.com/colombia/2021/05/21/actualidad/1621604246_514759.html

⁶⁶ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/amp/justicia/investigacion/en-24-dias-se-han-registrado-2-151-bloqueos-de-vias-en-el-pais-590339>

⁶⁷ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/servicios/paro-nacional-estado-de-las-carreteras-del-pais-informa-mindefensa-590468>

⁶⁸ Available at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2021/Paginas/140521-infografia-DDHH-Paro-Nacional-2021.aspx>

70. During May 28 and 29, 2021, the situation in the department of Valle del Cauca due to the blockades reached a critical level. On the morning of May 29, the authorities lifted 10 blockade points in Cali, Jamundí, Candelaria and Yumbo, in order to allow the mobility of people and caravans of vehicles that were transporting food, fuel and items of first necessity towards the region. According to the reports of Army officials who supported the lifting of the blockades, in some places they found tacks, nails and other elements that had been deliberately placed on the streets with the aim of affecting the tires of the vehicles. Likewise, some traffic signs were knocked down and attached to structures on the ground with welding to flagrantly hinder mobility⁶⁹.

V. IMPACTS ON HEALTH DERIVED FROM BLOCKADES AND ATTACKS ON MEDICAL MISSIONS

Until May 25, the following had been registered:

- 170 cases of attacks on medical missions in the context of the national strike
- Shortage of medicines and oxygen for the care of critical patients (to date, 110,903 active cases of Covid-19 and 459 new deaths have been reported).

Week from April 28 to May 2:

71. On April 28, 2021, after the first day of demonstrations, the Minister of Health, Fernando Ruiz, reported through a press bulletin that, as a result of the events during the day, it was impossible to distribute the doses of vaccines Sinovac, that had arrived in the country on April 27, 2021. According to the Minister, this directly affected the National Vaccination Plan, since problems were generated with the scheduling and keeping of appointments assigned for the application of the corresponding doses. Similarly, this same day the Minister of Health warned that there was evidence of attacks on the Medical Mission, and made a call for respect for the Medical Mission stating: “*We want to make a vehement call to respect the ambulances and understand*

⁶⁹ Available at: <https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2021/05/29/habia-tachuelas-y-puntillas-regadas-por-los-vandalos-ejercito-levanta-10-bloqueos-en-cali/>

*that they can circulate with patients, but also in search of people who need to go to a hospital*⁷⁰.

72. The Office of the Inspector General, an entity that in Colombia fulfills the function of ensuring the protection of human rights, warned that roadblocks in different regions of the country have affected the health service in clinics and hospitals. Indeed, in the departments of Cauca, Nariño, and Valle del Cauca, and in the municipality of Facatativá, Cundinamarca, blockades have prevented the transport of oxygen and supplies necessary for medical care⁷¹.
73. As reported by the Office of the Inspector General, in the city of Cali, three vandalized ambulances were reported affecting the transfer of patients infected with Covid-19 and women in labor⁷².
74. In the city of Cali, on April 29, 2021, an ambulance that was going to pick up a patient who needed to be transferred to a health center, was brutally attacked by protesters, therefore, forced to back up⁷³.
75. On April 30, 2021, again in the city of Cali an ambulance transferring a patient infected with Covid-19 was attacked. The transfer was prevented by several checkpoints established by civilians, and was attacked with stones without the protesters even check to see if it was carrying a patient⁷⁴. That same day, the Minister of Health reported that in recent days at least 14 ambulances had been attacked in the city of Cali and nearby municipalities⁷⁵.
76. On April 30, 2021, considering the specific case of the department of Valle del Cauca, due to these serious effects on the medical mission, Minister Fernando Ruiz assured that the Vaccination Plan in said department had been seriously affected, and it was

⁷⁰ Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/Paginas/El-respeto-a-la-Mision-Medica-es-fundamental-en-este-momento.aspx>

⁷¹ Available at: <https://www.rcnradio.com/judicial/bloqueos-en-las-vias-impide-el-traslado-de-pacientes-covid-oxigeno-y-mujeres-en-proceso-de>

⁷² Available at: <https://www.rcnradio.com/judicial/bloqueos-en-las-vias-impide-el-traslado-de-pacientes-covid-oxigeno-y-mujeres-en-proceso-de>

⁷³ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/cali/vacunan-a-personas-de-mas-de-60-anos-y-piden-respeto-a-ambulancias-584963>

⁷⁴ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/regionales/articulo/mal-estamos-todos-no-pasan-la-reprochable-agresion-en-contra-de-una-ambulancia-en-medio-de-las-protestas-en-cali/202148/>

⁷⁵ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/regionales/articulo/mal-estamos-todos-no-pasan-la-reprochable-agresion-en-contra-de-una-ambulancia-en-medio-de-las-protestas-en-cali/202148/>

necessary to go to the Ministry of Defense to coordinate the shipment of vaccines in order to guarantee the application of the doses⁷⁶.

Week from May 3 to May 9:

77. On May 4, 2021, the Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia (ANDI), (national association of businessmen of Colombia, through its Chamber of Industrial and Medicinal Gases, announced its concern about the consequences that the blockades and demonstrations were producing specifically in the transport of oxygen, even though, during the month of May, oxygen consumption nationwide increased by 74% due to the third wave of the pandemic. ANDI specified that, to date, 45% of its fleet was retained in different parts of the country, and that on average 300 tons of oxygen were being stopped mobilizing and there would be at least 25 health care institutions on red alert due to lack of oxygen. Given this, the Chamber requested the activation of humanitarian corridors or medical missions on the roads in order to guarantee the supply of oxygen for those patients who urgently require it to survive⁷⁷.
78. On the same May 4, 2021, an absolutely deplorable event occurred in the department of Cundinamarca, where an ambulance transporting a woman in preterm labor from a municipality near Bogotá to this city was attacked and its transfer was stopped by protesters. This meant that the delivery had to be performed in the ambulance, which had suffered damage, resulting in the tragic death of the newborn⁷⁸.
79. On May 5, 2021, the Health Secretary of Bogotá and the medical organization denounced the serious impact that the blockades have had on thousands of people who need urgent medical attention. Mayor Claudia López assured that the Police had to lend their helicopters, since the blockades have not allowed health personnel to pass to attend to the wounded. For its part, the medical corps of the Cundinamarca hospital published a video on social networks in which it stated: “We want to ask the protesters to allow the doctors to go through. We are here to save lives, but we need a humanitarian corridor⁷⁹”.

⁷⁶ Available at: <https://www.wradio.com.co/noticias/actualidad/protestas-dejaron-18-ataques-contramision-medica-y-14-ambulancias-quemadas-en-valle/20210430/nota/4130802.aspx>

⁷⁷ Available at: <https://www.larepublica.co/empresas/andi-alerta-por-problemas-en-transporte-de-oxigeno-ante-la-situacion-de-orden-publico-3164075>

⁷⁸ Available at: <https://www.wradio.com.co/noticias/regionales/mujer-embarazada-pierde-a-su-bebe-en-ataque-a-ambulancia-durante-manifestacion/20210504/nota/4132094.aspx>

⁷⁹ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/secretaria-de-salud-hace-un-llamado-para-que-se-respete-la-mision-medica-durante-las-protestas/202128/>

80. Likewise, in the city of Bogotá it was necessary to suspend vaccination at certain premises of the city during May 5, 2021⁸⁰. For the same reason, it was also necessary to suspend the PCR sample collection for the diagnosis of Covid-19 and the home care of patients who had been being at home care for a year⁸¹.
81. Due to the seriousness of the health situation, on May 6, 2021, the Asociación Colombiana de Hospitales y Clínicas (ACHC) the Colombian association of hospitals and clinics) issued a statement recognizing the right of citizens to mobilization and peaceful protest, but requesting that they be allow the transfer of personnel and necessary supplies for patients in the middle of the third peak of Covid-19. Through said statement, the association warned "*preventing the mobility of health personnel and the distribution of oxygen, medicines and supplies is putting at risk the adequate care and health of hundreds of patients throughout the country, because without human resources and supplies, it is not possible to guarantee timely and adequate health care*". This call was joined by the Colombian Red Cross, which expressed its concern about the "*humanitarian consequences generated by the disturbances, blockades, confrontations and other situations of violence that have occurred in the country*"⁸².
82. The Asociación Colombiana de Medicina Crítica y Cuidado (Colombian association of critical medicine and intensive care) also issued a statement on May 7, 2021, warning of the possible devastating consequences from the lack of oxygen in hospitals, inviting the creation of effective strategies to guarantee the distribution of this vital element to health centers without interruption⁸³.
83. On May 8, 2021, a statement issued by the Ministry of Health was known in which it was reported that during the first week of protests in Colombia, a total of 126 attacks against the medical missions had taken place. The report indicates: "*of these 126 events registered as of April 28, 64 correspond to personal injuries and threats against health personnel and 62 against ambulances, their crews and patients on board.*" Likewise, it was stated that it is "*evident that incidents and infractions against the medical mission have increased exponentially, due to the events that*

⁸⁰ Available at: <https://bogota.gov.co/mi-ciudad/salud/secretaria-de-salud-pide-respeto-la-mision-medica-durante-protestas>

⁸¹ Available at: <https://www.rcnradio.com/bogota/suspenden-vacunacion-anticovid-en-bogota-por-jornada-de-protestas>

⁸² Available at: <https://www.elpais.com.co/colombia/gremio-de-la-salud-reitera-llamado-al-respeto-a-la-mision-medica-en-protestas.html>

⁸³ Available at: <https://www.europapress.es/internacional/noticia-alertan-desabastecimiento-oxigeno-hospitales-colombia-protestas-20210507061234.html>

occurred within the framework of the national strike, which shows a high vulnerability of health personnel and the disrespect of some people to the essential rules of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law”⁸⁴.

84. On May 9, 2021, a joint statement was issued between the health organization and the National Government, rejecting all types of violence against members of the health sector, as well as affecting their mobility. Similarly, in this statement it was stated *“The health sector is being affected by the lack of source of medical supplies, as well as by the difficulty that patients have in accessing medical treatments and the vaccination process. The blockades are affecting the fundamental rights to life and health of all Colombians”⁸⁵.*

Week from May 10 to May 16:

85. On May 10, 2021, it was known that due to the events happening in the city of Cali, department of Valle del Cauca, the NGO Fundación Equipo Scouts de Emergencia Colombia, which was providing assistance in this area, had been seriously affected by attacks with weapons, which led to the decision to suspend its operation in the areas where there were confrontations. The NGO’s Director pointed out that *“the Medical Mission is not being acknowledged, despite having uniforms and badges”* and that messages even circulated through social networks that accused their volunteers of being part of the attacks in the framework of the protests, which is why they were threatened and were at risk⁸⁶.
86. On May 12, 2021, it was publicly known that the drivers of a caravan of trucks that were transporting medicines for intensive care units in Bogotá and Ibagué denounced that they had been attacked by a group of protesters while passing through the department of Valle del Cauca. According to what was reported by the drivers, the trucks were vandalized, their tires were stabbed, and some of the medicines were even stolen or thrown on the road. Despite the caravan wearing a medical mission badge,

⁸⁴ Available at: <https://www.infobae.com/americas/colombia/2021/05/08/en-una-semana-de-protestas-en-colombia-mision-medica-ha-sufrido-126-ataques/>

⁸⁵ Available at: https://twitter.com/ANIRNACIONAL/status/1391526008336039936?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1391526008336039936%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_%26ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edicionmedica.com.co%2Fsecciones%2Fprofesionales%2Fanir-el-dialogo-debe-empezar-con-la-desmilitarizacion-de-las-ciudades-y-el-archivo-del-proyecto-de-ley-010-1158

⁸⁶ Available at: https://www.elespectador.com/salud/organizacion-de-mision-medica-en-cali-suspendio-sus-actividades-en-zonas-de-enfrentamientos/?utm_campaign=later-linkinbio-elespectador&utm_content=later-17028636&utm_medium=social&utm_source=instagram

this did not prevent the attack, which ultimately prevented the delivery of sedatives and antibiotics to different intensive care units that have an occupation of 80 to 94%.⁸⁷

87. On the same day, the Governor of Valle del Cauca, Clara Luz Roldán, called for respect for the medical mission and humanitarian corridors that had been enabled in said department, after a guarded caravan of 15 trucks and trailers that transported medical supplies were vandalized on the road that connects the city of Cali with the municipality of Buga. The vehicles, which were destined to distribute medical supplies in Bogotá, the Atlantic coast and the department of Tolima, were attacked and their tires were stabbed, preventing the supplies from reaching hospitals and intensive care units. In addition to the above, the cabins of some vehicles were unhooked and their drivers were victims of theft during the blockades. For this reason, Governor Roldán urgently requested respect for humanitarian corridors, which by their nature must be protected in order to guarantee the right to health⁸⁸. These facts were emphatically rejected by Francisco Moreno, National Executive Director of the Colombian Red Cross, who also demanded respect for the medical mission and the humanitarian actions that are being carried out amid the protests of the national strike⁸⁹.

88. On May 13, 2021, according to what was reported by the Minister of Health, Fernando Ruiz, there was a blockade at the entrance to the municipality of Tuluá, department of Valle del Cauca, which severely affected the mobility of a medical mission. According to the Minister, the blockades prevented the circulation of ambulances, health personnel and medical supplies. For this reason, Dr. Fernando Ruiz condemned these events and stated that they "*violate the rights to life, health and free mobility.*"⁹⁰ As indicated by the Ministry of Health, those responsible for generating the blockades preventing the circulation of ambulances and trucks that transport medical supplies have been hooded people. In fact, one of the nurses who was a victim of these events stated that she had been detained by men who threatened to take the keys to the vehicle in which she was being transported, as well as her cell phone, in case she took any photos. Likewise, the nurse affirmed that men armed with machetes had prevented the transit of ambulances transporting critical patients⁹¹.

89. On May 15, 2021, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) expressed its concern about the increase in acts of violence in various areas of Colombia, as well

⁸⁷ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/camioneros-que-transportaban-medicamentos-para-uci-de-bogota-e-ibague-fueron-atacados/202113/>

⁸⁸ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/cali/gobernadora-del-valle-rechazo-vandalismo-contra-caravana-humanitaria-588078>

⁸⁹ Available at: https://caracol.com.co/emisora/2021/05/13/cali/1620905643_303652.html

⁹⁰ Available: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/minsalud-denuncia-bloqueo-a-mision-medica-en-tuluavalle-del-cauca/202102/>

⁹¹ Available at: <https://www.edicionmedica.com.co/secciones/salud-publica/salud-manifiesta-rechazo-hacia-ataques-y-retenciones-de-mision-medica-en-el-valle-del-cauca-1180>

as the humanitarian consequences generated by the events happening in the country since April 28, 2021. Likewise, the Committee reported more than 100 damages against the medical mission in the country, including personal injuries, threats, attacks on health personnel and vehicles. Faced with this, the ICRC stated that *“this situation is not only difficult for health workers who face serious limitations and risks for the completion of their work, specially in the current context of the third peak of Covid-19, but also for the communities and patients who cannot access health services”*, and affirmed his concern regarding the obstruction of the passage of ambulances and the blockade of the transit of medical supplies, calling for respect for medical missions and especially the emblem of the Red Cross.⁹²

Week from May 17 to May 23:

90. On May 19, 2021, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) commented on the attacks against the medical mission in Colombia, which have lasted for more than three weeks, since the beginning of the national strike. PAHO, through its director, Carissa Etienne, affirmed that *“these attacks are incompatible with our right to health and endanger the integrity, mission and very purpose of health and humanitarian aid.”* Likewise, in the face of the attacks perpetrated against vehicles that transport medical supplies, PAHO stated that *“each one of these attacks seriously endangers the health and lives of Covid-19 patients who urgently need and depend on these medicines and supplies for their recovery, and also for the people who have been injured or affected by the protests”*, and requested the protection of the medical missions⁹³.
91. On May 20, 2021, the director of the Chamber of Industrial and Medicinal Gases of the ANDI (national association of businessmen of Colombia) warned that the oxygen shortage situation in the country is on high alert. This, taking into account that in the middle of the third peak of contagion of Covid-19, oxygen consumption is overflowing, and that the impossibility of distributing this vital element within the national territory is of special concern. In addition, she highlighted that to date, more than 4,500 oxygen concentrators and cylinders were damaged in the port of Buenaventura⁹⁴.

⁹² Available at: <https://www.eluniversal.com.co/colombia/comite-internacional-de-la-cruz-roja-pide-respetar-la-mision-medica-durante-protestas-XXK4628606>

⁹³ Available at: <https://www.elspectador.com/salud/esto-debe-terminar-ops-sobre-las-agresiones-contra-la-mision-medica-en-colombia/>

⁹⁴ Available at: <https://noticias.caracol.com/ahora/alerta-maxima-a-nivel-nacional-ante-posible-desabastecimiento-de-oxigeno-en-medio-de-la-pandemia>

92. On May 21, 2021, as reported by the Colombian Red Cross, Valle del Cauca Section, one of its ambulances was attacked in the middle of a blockade in the municipality of Cartago, while transferring a patient who was in critical condition towards the city of Pereira. Faced with this, the Vice President of the Colombian Red Cross and President of its Valle del Cauca branch expressed her concern over these events, and called for respect for life, human rights and dialogue as a way to peacefully resolve conflicts⁹⁵.
93. On May 22, 2021, at night in the city of Bogotá, at least 16 ambulances were brutally attacked by protesters with stones and sticks, suffering serious damage to their structure. In addition, the drivers and crew were also attacked and injured. This prevented the ambulances from being able to carry out their medical missions. According to the acting Mayor of Bogotá, Alejandro Gómez, these events occurred after *"irresponsibly and falsely, through social networks, it was said that some ambulances were carrying explosives."*⁹⁶ Due to the seriousness of the attacks on ambulances in Bogotá, the acting Mayor of Bogotá announced that the District would report the events that occurred before national and international authorities, as well as those who encourage and attack ambulances in the country's capital, stating that *"Spreading lying messages with the purpose of attacking the medical mission is a crime of the greatest gravity."*⁹⁷
94. Similarly, on May 22, 2021, several medical and scientific associations came together to issue a statement regarding the health situation in the context of the national strike. The statement, signed by the National Academy of Medicine, the Colombian Federation of Medical Unions, the Colombian Association of Scientific Societies and the Colombian Medical College, affirms *"24 days after the national strike began, the impact caused by the blockade of supplies in the interruption of treatments puts the life and health of home and hospitalized patients at risk"*. Likewise, the associations stated: *"we hold the promoters and authors of these blockades responsible for the consequences that derive from them, being reflected in the loss of human life."*⁹⁸
95. On May 23, 2021, an extremely serious event occurred, due to the blockades in Valle del Cauca. In the early morning of that day, a complaint was made about the death of a baby who was intubated and had to be urgently transferred from Buenaventura to the city of Cali in order to receive medical attention. Due to the blockade of the road,

⁹⁵ Available at: <https://www.elpais.com.co/valle/ambulancia-de-la-cruz-roja-fue-atacada-en-cartago-durante-mision-medica.html>

⁹⁶ Available at: <https://www.elpais.com.co/valle/ambulancia-de-la-cruz-roja-fue-atacada-en-cartago-durante-mision-medica.html>

⁹⁷ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/indignante-por-noticias-falsas-en-redes-atacaron-16-ambulancias-en-bogota-en-las-ultimas-horas/202132/>

⁹⁸ Available at: <https://twitter.com/ColegioMedicoCo/status/1396081986557644800/photo/1>

the transit of the ambulance in which the baby was transferred was banned. It was also attacked with explosives and tear gas⁹⁹.

96. In addition to the above, on May 23, 2021, the Ministry of Health reported that on this day the highest number of infections that has been recorded in the country since the start of the pandemic was recorded. This increase occurred 26 days after the mobilizations of the national strike began in the country. It is even possible to show that in the city of Bogotá, which has been the center of a large part of the demonstrations, it is the region in which infections have increased the most in recent weeks.¹⁰⁰

Week from May 24 to May 30:

97. On May 25, it was known that, to date, there have been around 170 attacks on medical missions in Colombia in the context of the marches and blockades because of the national strike.¹⁰¹
98. On May 25, 2021, several medical associations urgently requested the qualification of humanitarian corridors to allow free mobility for patients, medicines, health personnel and supplies for health and their institutions. The statement signed by the National Academy of Medicine, the Colombian Association of Scientific Societies (ACSC), the Colombian Federation of Medical Unions (Fecolmed) and the Colombian Medical College (CMC) is forceful in stating that "*Colombian patients cannot wait. It is a matter of life or death (...) the impact caused by the blockage of supplies in the interruption of treatments puts the lives and health of patients at serious risk*"¹⁰².
99. On May 28, 2021, given the serious consequences of the blockades in health, the Department of Health of the Huila department made a vehement call to the leaders of the mobilizations to facilitate the Medical Mission, in order to eliminate obstacles that prevent the normal supply of medicines and oxygen for the normal provision of the service¹⁰³.

⁹⁹ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/cali/bebe-murio-porque-no-dejaron-pasar-ambulancia-en-los-bloqueos-del-valle-590453>

¹⁰⁰ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/atencion-colombia-registro-este-domingo-el-pico-mas-alto-de-casos-nuevos-de-coronavirus-de-toda-la-pandemia/202111/>

¹⁰¹ Available at: <https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/internacional/piden-respeto-para-ambulancias-y-personal-medico-durante-las-protestas-y-bloqueos-en-colombia-nota/>

¹⁰² Available at: <https://www.edicionmedica.com.co/secciones/profesionales/agremiaciones-medicas-solicitan-que-se-habiliten-corredores-por-la-salud-de-manera-urgente-1213>

¹⁰³ Available at: <https://www.huila.gov.co/publicaciones/10282/vehemente-llamado-de-la-secretaria-de-salud-del-huila-a-los-lideres-de-las-protestas-por-el-respeto-a-la-mision-medica/>

VI. SHORTAGES DUE TO BLOCKADES

SECTORS AT RISK

- Hass avocado: COP\$15 billion (U\$4 billion)
 - Black sugar loaf: COP\$1.3 billion (U\$347million)
 - Rice: 350 thousand hectares
 - Banana: US\$ 2,692
 - Coffee: US\$ 65 million
 - Fish: COP\$32 billion (U\$8,5billion) and US\$ 90 million in exports
- Economic cost of a day of demonstrations is U\$129 million

Week from May 3 to May 9:

100. After the first week of demonstrations in the context of the national strike, the effects of the road blockades began to be felt in the shortage of food, fuel, among others.
101. On May 4, 2021, there were new roadblocks built by protesters. These blockades generated damages to civilians preventing transport of food in the national territory by not being able to travel through different routes, generating in turn the waste of a large amount of food that, after a certain time without reaching its destination, is not in a condition to be consumed¹⁰⁴. This fact is of such magnitude that, by May 4, the city of Cali was almost completely out of supply. Even to date, the shortage was so serious that 60 million birds were at risk of death due to lack of food, and there was a risk that 16 thousand tons of chicken meat and 120 million eggs would be lost due to the impossibility reaching the distribution points, as well as 48 thousand tons of poultry feed.
102. On May 5, 2021, due to the urgency of the situation, the Government found it necessary to activate a humanitarian corridor for its supply. According to reports from

¹⁰⁴ Available at: https://colombia.as.com/colombia/2021/05/04/actualidad/1620135204_498836.html

the Unified Command Post (PMU), there were continuous blockades in key places where fuel, manufactured items and food enter.¹⁰⁵

103. On May 6, 2021, the Federación Nacional de Ganaderos (national federation of stockbreeders) issued a report indicating the economic losses that had occurred to date in the livestock sector due to road blockades, which up to that time amounted to a total of \$ 121,335 million. pesos (approximately \$ 32,500,000 dollars). In said report, the losses by department were presented as follows: (i) in the departments of Putumayo, Nariño and Cauca, they stopped selling 820 thousand liters of milk per day and 6,400 steers per week; (ii) in Cundinamarca, 1.8 million liters of milk per day were blocked, as well as 9,400 steers that were dammed in different ways; (iii) in Santander and Norte de Santander, 310 thousand daily liters of milk and 3,600 steers not sold; (iv) in Boyacá, 1.1 million liters of milk were not collected per day and 2,750 animals were not sold; (v) in Antioquia, 1.9 million liters of milk per day and 1,100 head of cattle per day were blocked; (vi) in the department of Meta, 250 thousand liters of milk and 1,350 head of cattle were not sold per day; (vii) in Valle del Cauca, 320,000 liters of milk a day and more than 2,900 head of cattle were blocked during the week; (viii) in Tolima and Huila, 378 thousand daily liters of milk were not sold; (ix) in the coffee region, 280 thousand liters of milk were not sold per day and the storage of animal meat for consumption in refrigerators was stopped; (x) in Arauca and Casanare, 486 thousand liters of milk stopped being marketed during the first days of the strike and 6,000 head of cattle during the week; (xi) in Caquetá they stopped selling 900 thousand liters of milk a day and more than 5,000 head of cattle.

104. Similarly, on May 6, 2021, the Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE) (national entity of statistics) presented the April report of Price and Supply Information System of the Agricultural Sector (Sipsa) corresponding to the wholesale prices of food, which was directly affected by the situation in the country. The report shows that for April compared to March, the wholesale prices of vegetables, garden produce, tubers, roots and bananas, grains and cereals, dairy products and eggs, meat, fish and processed products increased.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/paro-nacional-8m-desabastecimiento-por-bloqueos-en-colombia-587025>

¹⁰⁶ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/economia/macroeconomia/articulo/estos-eran-los-precios-de-los-alimentos-basicos-antes-del-riesgo-de-desabastecimiento-por-el-paro-nacional/202115/>

105. On May 7, 2021, the shortage situation was in different departments of the country¹⁰⁷:

- In Boyacá, to date, there was a serious shortage of fuel and food, which was directly affecting the basic basket of food products defined by DANE.
- In Antioquia, due to roadblocks and logistical difficulties for truck mobility, there was a 40% decrease in the arrival of food from other departments to the Antioquia wholesale Center. In this sense, there were difficulties in food from Bogotá, Valle and Santander.
- In the department of Tolima, the Ministry of Agricultural Development reported that as a result of the blockades food was already running short in the municipalities of Planadas, Ibagué, Ortega, Líbano and Mariquita. In this department, exports of Hass avocado, basil and lemons were suspended, products that were lost when they were not transported.
- In the department of Quindío, there were serious problems of food and fuel shortages, due to the difficulties for the entry of vehicles to the wholesale station in Armenia. Due to this, there was a shortage of products such as potatoes, brown sugar loaf, carrots, and onions, among others. Likewise, there were also difficulties in accessing basic products such as eggs and grains.

106. On May 8, 2021, due to the seriousness of the shortage situation in various departments, the President of Colombia and the heads of the Federation of Departments, the National Government and Regional Heads, issued a joint statement in which they asked the protesters to lift the blockades in order to guarantee supplies, in the following terms: "*a call is made to lift the blockades that are affecting millions of families, peasant producers, transporters, merchants and citizens in general*"¹⁰⁸.

107. On May 9, 2021, the Federación Nacional de Comerciantes (Fenalco) (national federation of merchants) called the attention to the organizers of the strike to assume their responsibility for the situation that affects 15 million Colombians due to the impossibility of receiving food and medicine, stating: "*We do not understand why, if the Government has already opened spaces for dialogue, the leaders of the protests continue to keep roads and streets closed to the detriment of all Colombians (...) The sustainability of small farmers, distributors and entrepreneurs is at stake. In fact, commerce has lost more than 880 billion pesos, in the eight days since the strike began*"¹⁰⁹.

¹⁰⁷ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/paro-nacional-8m-desabastecimiento-por-bloqueos-en-colombia-587025> y

¹⁰⁸ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/paro-nacional-8m-desabastecimiento-por-bloqueos-en-colombia-587025>

¹⁰⁹ Available at: <https://www.portafolio.co/economia/comerciantes-lanzan-alerta-por-escasez-de-alimentos-y-medicamentos-551754>

Week from May 10 to May 16:

108. On May 10, 2021, 13 days since the national strike began, the shortage of supplies in some regions of the country worsened even more. In the city of Valledupar, as reported by administrators and wholesale market traders, the decrease in the entry of trucks with food had come to decrease by 40%, thus causing an increase of up to 100% in the prices of fruits and vegetables, with potatoes, onion, chives, carrots, lemon and lettuce being the products whose price increased the most. In the department of Chocó, the strong blockades on the roads that connect this region with the interior of the country were restricting the flow of vehicles and therefore causing a shortage of fuel and food. Even in some cities of that department, there were long lines of vehicles seeking to stock up on gasoline, while in stores and supermarkets the lack of products from the basic basket was evident. Finally, by this date it was known that in Antioquia 70% of the products had an increase in their prices and in Nariño the blockades were generating impediments in the transport of food, fuel, medical supplies and oxygen.¹¹⁰
109. On May 11, 2021, the governor of the department of Valle del Cauca announced a shortage of some products in supermarkets in the city of Cali, long lines to buy fuel and shortages in some gasoline stations, a situation that was being monitored by the Ministry of Defense. In Cali, the seriousness of the situation caused some stores to be forced to close due to a lack of products to offer. For this reason, the mayor of the city, Jorge Iván Ospina, spoke out stating “*the need for supply is imposed and the need for the people who are making the blockades to be aware of the lives that are in danger due to the shortage of supplies in Cali*”, affirming that “*it is the most vulnerable and poor who are exposed*”¹¹¹.
110. Given the seriousness of the situation, on May 11, 2021, the Office of the Ombudsman issued a statement expressing concern about the shortage of supplies in the city of Bogotá (specifically in the Corabastos supply center), indicating that there had been irreparable losses of products from the basic basket, as well as its concern about the shortage of gasoline and gas in some departments of the country such as Quindío, Putumayo, Guaviare and Valle del Cauca.¹¹²

¹¹⁰ Available at: <https://www.radionacional.co/actualidad/economia/paro-nacional-estas-son-las-consecuencias-de-los-bloqueos-en-las-regiones>

¹¹¹ Available at: <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2021/05/11/cali-colombia-desabastecimiento-alimentos-combustibles-semanas-de-paro-orix/>

¹¹² Available at: <https://www.defensoria.gov.co/es/nube/comunicados/10111/%E2%80%9CLa-protesta-pac%C3%ADfica-es-un-derecho-los-bloqueos-no-pueden-ser-la-v%C3%ADa-%E2%80%9D-Corabastos-Defensor%C3%ADa-Defensor-Camargo-bloqueos-corredores-humanitarios-seguridad-alimentaria.htm>

111. On May 12, 2021, it was known that the situation in the municipality of Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca) due to the blockades was extremely serious. The city, as well as its port terminals, were facing an almost total shortage of food, absence of domestic gas, 69% of the companies suspended or considerably reduced their operations, and there was a total of 454,068 tons of cargo dammed in the ports. The latter is of special concern if one considers that almost 60% of the non-traditional trade cargo that arrives in the country enters the port of Buenaventura. According to Angélica Mayolo, president of the Buenaventura Chamber of Commerce, to date there were thousands of essential supplies for poultry and fish sector, raw materials for manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries, chemicals for water purification of aqueducts and thousands of tons of stored and dammed food in the port, without being able to be transported.¹¹³
112. On the same May 12, 2021, in the city of Pasto, the municipal administration found it necessary to issue Decree 196 in order to regulate the sale of fuel due to the serious situation caused by the shortage. Through this decree the free sale of fuel was restricted and the maximum amount allowed to be acquired by official and private vehicles was limited. In the same way, due to the risk that some essential sectors could be affected by the shortage, the administration established a fuel reserve destined for the exclusive use of the health sector, emergencies, public services, among others¹¹⁴. In fact, a day later, given the seriousness of the situation, it was known that the Terpel fuel company decided to import 30,000 barrels of fuel from Ecuador to help end the shortage in the departments of Nariño and Cauca.¹¹⁵
113. On May 13, 2021, the Bogotá aqueduct company warned that the city was on alert for shortages of drinking water due to blockades at different entrances to the city, informing that “*due to blockades on national roads as a result of the strike, we have problems in the transport of supplies necessary to make the water drinkable in the city*”. In addition, she reported that the products were not only necessary to supply Bogotá but also some nearby municipalities.¹¹⁶
114. According to the balance made by the Presidential Advisor for Human Rights of the Colombian government as of May 16, 2021, the blockades affected the right to food of Colombians, and specifically impacted the correct development of the School

¹¹³ Available at: <https://www.elpais.com.co/economia/bloqueos-tienen-a-buenaventura-al-borde-de-la-crisis.html>

¹¹⁴ Available at: <https://www.rcnradio.com/colombia/sur/largas-filas-en-pasto-para-buscar-gasolina>

¹¹⁵ Available at: <https://www.larepublica.co/empresas/terpel-importa-30000-barriles-de-combustible-de-ecuador-para-evitar-desabastecimiento-3169572>

¹¹⁶ Available at: <https://www.pulzo.com/nacion/paro-nacional-colombia-podria-dejar-agua-potable-bogota-PP1051156>

Feeding Plan because, to date, more than 3.5 million preschool, elementary and middle school children had seen their diet impacted due to the demonstrations and blockades.¹¹⁷

Week from May 17 to May 23:

115. On May 18, 2021, the merchants of the largest supply center in Colombia (Corabastos, Bogotá) reported that because of the road blockades due to the national strike, food and basic supplies such as sugar, pet food, wheat flour, diapers, among others. The merchants' association reported that the entry of food had not occurred normally. Likewise, they reported that other products such as rice, oils, imported grains, and brown sugar loaf had become scarce because several of these had not been able to leave the port of Buenaventura.¹¹⁸
116. On May 19, 2021, the Asociación Colombiana de Petróleo y Gas (ACP) (Colombian association of oil and gas, called for attention to the shortage of fuels in the country, as a result of the blockades registered since April 28 in the national strike, warning that this situation puts essential activities at risk. Regarding this, Francisco Lloreda, President of the ACP, pointed out that “the distribution of liquid fuels is a public service, as determined by Colombian law, as it is essential for the transportation of food, agricultural and medical supplies, as well as the mobility of workers, health personnel throughout the national territory”.¹¹⁹
117. On May 21, 2021, the Office of the Attorney General called on the National Strike Committee to allow the delivery of rations from the School Food Program (PAE) to more than one million beneficiary students. This call was made after learning that to date difficulties had been reported in the delivery of the food supplement to 1,681,635 children in the country, due to the blockades that occur in different roads in the national territory.¹²⁰

Week from May 24 to May 30:

¹¹⁷ Available at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2021/Documents/180521-ESP-Infografia-DDHH-Paro-Nacional-2021.pdf>

¹¹⁸ Available at: <https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2021/05/18/comerciantes-de-corabastos-reportan-desabastecimiento-total-de-varios-alimentos/>

¹¹⁹ Available at: <https://www.elpais.com.co/colombia/desabastecimiento-de-combustible-esta-afectando-la-economia-del-pais-acp.html>

¹²⁰ Available at: <https://www.procuraduria.gov.co/portal/-Procuraduria-pide-abrir-paso-para-entregar-raciones-alimentarias-a-mas-de-un-millon-de-estudiantes-del-pais.news>

118. On May 24, 2021, it was announced that the temporary unions Nutripae and Nutrivida, operators of the School Feeding Program (PAE) in Bucaramanga, requested the Ministry of Health to postpone the delivery of the PAE to the beneficiary students. This, because the companies have had problems due to the shortage of some products that make up the food package to be delivered, as a result of the blockades in the context of the national strike.¹²¹
119. As of May 24, according to the general balance issued by the Presidential Advisor for Human Rights, to date the threat to the right to food continues, as a consequence of the effects on the production, distribution and sale of food, the shortages in supermarkets, rising prices and the need to dump food due to transportation and supply problems. Likewise, in said balance it is established that almost a month after the strike began, the sectors of Hass avocado (COP\$15 billion. US\$4 billion), panela (COP\$1,300 million. US\$347 million), rice (losses equivalent to 350 thousand hectares), bananas (US\$ 2,692), coffee (US\$65 million), and fish (COP\$32 billion (US\$8,5 billion) and US \$ 90 million in exports).¹²²
120. On May 25, 2021, the shortage situation in the municipality of Buga, Valle del Cauca, reached a critical level, as it reached the point where stores and supermarkets found their counters completely empty, with no products to offer. Despite the efforts of the department authorities to confront the more than 16 roadblocks, the community denounced that in several supermarkets there is not enough food.¹²³
121. Likewise, on May 25, 2021, the manager of the National Association of Colombian Entrepreneurs in Antioquia reported that to date, there were around 1,800 tons of food in the department that had not been processed, as well as 800 tons of cosmetics and toiletries that also affected their logistics chains due to blockades in various routes.¹²⁴
122. On May 28, 2021, the Ombudsman's Office was present in the department of Caquetá because the Caquetá - Huila road was completely blocked and the entry of necessary food for the population was being prevented. In this sense, the

¹²¹ Available at: <https://www.bluradio.com/blu360/santanderes/por-desabastecimiento-de-alimentos-aplazan-entrega-del-pae-en-bucaramanga>

¹²² Available at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2021/Paginas/140521-infografia-DDHH-Paro-Nacional-2021.aspx>

¹²³ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/fotos-asi-esta-el-desabastecimiento-en-supermercados-de-buga-por-los-bloqueos/202108/>

¹²⁴ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/economia/empresas/articulo/antioquia-2600-toneladas-de-alimentos-y-cosmeticos-estan-represas-por-bloqueos-del-paro-nacional/202106/>

Ombudsman's Office stated: "*Despite the opening of humanitarian corridors, the low supply of gas, gasoline and food in both departments continues*"¹²⁵.

123. Likewise, on May 28, the National Association of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products Laboratories (Aprovet) issued an alert call for the high-risk situation regarding the sanitary condition of the animal population due to the non-application of vaccines in a timely manner. According to this association, some domestic animals must comply with vaccination schedules against rabies, a disease that affects humans and is controlled thanks to mass vaccination. Likewise, in the case of production animals, some must be immunized, for example, against foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases that, if the vaccination scheme is not complied with, represent a biological risk for people. According to the president of the association, the timely delivery of veterinary biologicals has been seriously affected by the blockages¹²⁶.

VII. MISSING PERSONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL STRIKE

Missing persons as of May 25, 2021:

More than 500 people

The Office of the has found 290 people thanks to its operations

Currently 192 cases are active through urgent search mechanisms

124. As of the date of presentation of this report, the Office of the Ombudsman's and several NGOs have warned that the number of people who have been reported as missing amid the protests for the national strike exceeds 500¹²⁷.
125. Due to the seriousness of the situation, entities such as the Mesa de Trabajo sobre Desaparición Forzada de Colombia and the Mesa de la Coordinación Colombia - Europa - Estados Unidos (Working Group on Forced Disappearance of Colombia and the Colombia-Europe-United States Coordination Board), had asked the Office

¹²⁵ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/en-vivo-paro-nacional-28-de-mayo-asi-avanzan-las-manifestaciones-en-bogota-cali-medellin-y-otras-ciudades/202152/>

¹²⁶ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/paro-nacional-salud-de-mascotas-y-animales-de-produccion-esta-en-peligro-por-desabastecimiento-de-medicamentos/202123/>

¹²⁷ Available at: <https://www.france24.com/es/am%C3%A9rica-latina/20210525-colombia-fiscalia-129-desaparecidos-protestas>

of the Attorney General and the Office of the Ombudsman to urgently activate the search protocols, supplying also its database of missing persons.

126. On May 24, 2021, in response to these requests, the Office of the Attorney General issued a statement informing:

"The inter-institutional working group of the Attorney General's Office and the Ombudsman's Office, ready to follow up on reports of deceased or missing persons during the days of protest in the country, made a consolidated statement with the information received between 28 April and May 23 of the current year.

The teams of officials of the two institutions have found 290 people who had been reported as not located. The Urgent Search Mechanism (MBU) is still active for 129 applications. The verification of the SPOA system of the Office of the Attorney General produced a complaint for the crime of forced disappearance, related to events that occurred on May 4, in Zaragoza (Antioquia).

The community is called upon to inform about such circumstances in a timely manner in order to begin the search immediately. (...) "¹²⁸.

127. On May 26, 2021, it became known that an image circulating on social media that showed an alleged corpse of a woman who had been reported missing in Cali, actually corresponded to an image of a case carried out more than one month ago¹²⁹.
128. As can be seen in the statement, to date 290 people have been found; however, the authorities are still in the process of searching for 129 people who have been reported missing during the demonstrations that began on April 28¹³⁰.

VIII. DISINFORMATION AND INCITATION TO VIOLENCE

Week from April 28 to May 2:

129. On April 28, 2021, a video began to circulate on social networks showing a confrontation between the National Police and the Army that supposedly occurred on

¹²⁸ Available at: <https://twitter.com/FiscaliaCol/status/1396798504132038656/photo/1>

¹²⁹ Available at: <https://colombiacheck.com/cheques/foto-de-cadaver-no-es-de-mujer-desaparecida-y-detenida-por-el-esmad-en-el-paro-nacional>

¹³⁰ Available at: <https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2021/05/24/fiscalia-asegura-que-localizaron-290-personas-reportadas-como-desaparecidas-en-el-marco-del-paro-nacional/>

[onal/](#)

April 28 in the context of the national strike in Colombia. However, this video does not correspond to reality, since it took place in Guayaquil, Ecuador in 2019.

130. On May 1, 2021, an act of disinformation by journalist María Jimena Duzán, who on her Twitter account published a video in which a small tank was seen apparently running over a group of protesters¹³¹. However, the video seen from another shot makes it clear that it was a matter of optics, since the small tank was actually passing on the other side of the road where the protesters were.¹³² Mrs. María Jimena Duzán, without verifying the veracity of the facts, published this video, generating disinformation in the community. It is worth noting that Mrs. María Jimena Duzán is one of the most recognized journalists in Colombia, so the dissemination of the first version of the video was massive.
131. Likewise, several citizens through social networks encouraged acts of violence in Acacias, Meta, against the “House of Culture”. These messages of hatred that began in networks materialized with the destruction of the Municipal House of Culture and the Municipal Transit Institute.

Week from May 3 to May 9:

132. On May 3, 2021, opposition senator Roy Barreras shared a video stating that members of the National Police had murdered young student Juan Sebastián Moreno¹³³ “in cold blood”, news that was widely replicated by the media. In the video, it is shown that the young man collapses after a group of policemen on motorcycles passes near him, which makes it look as if the uniformed men shot him. However, the full video of the events has recently been released in which it can be seen that the young man throws himself on the ground pretending that he was shot and after a few minutes he gets up without any trouble.¹³⁴
133. Likewise, on May 3, 2021, in the city of Cali, a group of protesters set fire to a hotel because some members of the security forces were staying there. However, Senator Gustavo Petro misinformed by stating through his Twitter account that it was the police who were setting fire to the houses in the city: “*They burn houses in Cali. The world must find out about this barbarism of Duque and his boss Uribe*”.

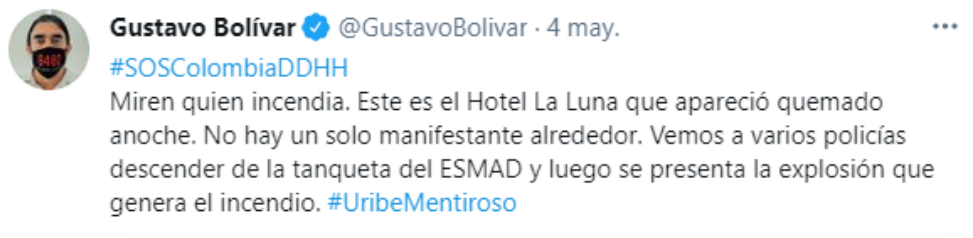
¹³¹ Available at: <https://twitter.com/MJDuzan/status/1388616144391708674>

¹³² Available at: <https://twitter.com/MJDuzan/status/1388632226867339267>

¹³³ Available at: <https://twitter.com/RoyBarreras/status/1389401871182348290>

¹³⁴ Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/100055944541888/posts/264566485418168/>

134. On May 4, 2021, Senator Gustavo Bolívar Tweeted making people believe that those who set fire to the Hotel La Luna in Cali were members of the public force.¹³⁵



Regarding La Luna Hotel fire, there are videos¹³⁶ that show that some protesters decided to set fire to the Hotel La Luna because some members of ESMAD were staying there¹³⁷.

135. On Tuesday, May 4, 2021, an alleged violation was disclosed at the Piamonte Police Station in the city of Bogotá, which led to vandals attacking the station. However, according to the police, the events occurred more than a year ago and those responsible have already been brought to justice. The Mayor of Bogotá reported that this was false information since “these events occurred more than a year ago and were duly prosecuted. I beg the young people not to be carried away by false information and to fall into aggressions”¹³⁸.

136. On May 5, 2021, a publication was shared through social networks in which a policeman was shown threatening a group of students. However, once the information was verified, it was confirmed that this fact occurred during the protests in 2018 and was already investigated by the Office of the Attorney General.

Week from May 10 to May 16:

137. On May 12, 2021, through the social network Twitter, a publication was made stating that members of the Criminal Investigation Section in Cali, (SIJIN Cali), from

¹³⁵ Available at: <https://twitter.com/GustavoBolivar/status/1389604598252515330>

¹³⁶ Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSHjevOcmBA>

¹³⁷ Available at: <https://www.rcnradio.com/colombia/pacifico/queman-reconocido-hotel-del-sur-de-cali> / y: <https://noticias.caracol.com/valle/queman-hotel-la-luna-en-cali-dicen-porque-hospedo-a-un-grupo-de-policias>

¹³⁸ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/intentaron-quemar-un-cai-en-bogota-con-uniformados-adentro-y-otros-15-fueron-vandalizados-en-la-noche-del-martes/202123/>

the Policía Nacional, had gone to a hospital to capture injured people during the days of demonstrations in the city¹³⁹. However, an official statement was made by the Office of Strategic Communications (COEST-MECAL) of the Police, stating that no capture had been made in medical centers and that it is the duty of the institution to verify all cases where they are injured or dead people in order to start the investigation¹⁴⁰.

138. That same day, through social networks and alternative press media, some news was released in which it was reported that the policeman who had murdered Santiago Murillo on 05/01/2021 had turned himself to the authorities¹⁴¹. However, a statement was issued to the press by the Policía Metropolitana de Ibagué (Ibagué metropolitan police), refuting the fact and also clarifying that no voluntary surrenders had been submitted and that two members of the institution had already been captured for this fact¹⁴².

139. On May 15, 2021, in the city of Bucaramanga, through the social network Twitter, the activist María Fernanda Carrascal affirmed that the Policía Nacional had participated in the burning of a Davivienda bank office in the city of Bucaramanga¹⁴³. Once the complete video was verified, it was evident that the events reported on social networks were produced by protesters and not by members of the Policía Nacional.

Week from May 17 to May 23:

140. On May 19, 2021, in another Tweet, Senator Bolívar stated that “*we have seen*” (the police and the army) “*burn down a bank (Davivienda) and a hotel (La Luna) in order to show with infamy that the protesters are setting fire to Colombia*”:

¹³⁹ Available at: <https://bit.ly/2S3RnZS>

¹⁴⁰ Available at: <https://bit.ly/3uJOMMR>

¹⁴¹ Available at: <https://bit.ly/3bl3N6o>

¹⁴² Available at: <https://bit.ly/3uO4IEg>

¹⁴³ Available at: <https://bit.ly/33PRRp5>



Gustavo Bolívar
@GustavoBolivar

En respuesta a @GustavoBolivar

Lo que sí hemos visto es a la Policía y el Ejército filtrando gente armada en las revueltas. Los videos son irrefutables. También los hemos visto quemando un banco (Davivienda) y un hotel (La Luna) para poder mostrar con infamia que los manifestantes están incendiando a Colombia.

11:38 p. m. - 19 may. 2021 - Twitter for iPhone

1.109 Retweets 93 Tweets citados 3.073 Me gusta

Regarding the Davivienda bank fire, there are videos that show that it was caused by some protesters¹⁴⁴.

141. On May 20, 2021, a false audio was circulated through instant messaging and social networks in which a man says “once a month of strike has passed in Colombia, they have to reform the Political Constitution of Colombia again”¹⁴⁵. This information was detracted from by Colombiacheck, where they indicate that both the audio and the publications are false. There is no constitutional rule that says that after a month of national strike a new constitution must be made.¹⁴⁶
142. On Sunday, May 23, 2021, through false news transmitted on social networks, some politicians in the city of Cali assured without any proof that acts of torture against protesters were taking place at the Éxito supermarket branch in the Calipso sector with the support of the police. This led to the Calypso community reacting violently against the establishment in Calypso. What really happened was that the Éxito warehouse had been closed since May 2 due to the effects suffered caused by vandals and looters, who put the lives and safety of workers and customers at risk¹⁴⁷. Given this, the Éxito chain of stores allowed visits of officials of the national and

¹⁴⁴ Available at: <https://twitter.com/Juan083191/status/1393540457406386176>

¹⁴⁵ Available at: <https://cutt.ly/vb3JrUq>

¹⁴⁶ Available at: <https://cutt.ly/vb3JYAA>

¹⁴⁷ Available at: https://twitter.com/Grupo_Exito/status/1396508932743573505?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etwteembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1396508932743573505%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.semana.com%2Feconomia%2Farticulo%2Fquien-responde-por-las-noticias-falsas-sobre-exito-calipso%2F202136%2F

local Office of the Ombudsman, who verified that there had been such no acts of torture published in social networks inside the store.¹⁴⁸

Week from May 24 to May 30:

143. On May 24, 2021, the Office of the Attorney General announced that it would open a preliminary investigation against council woman Heidi Sánchez Barreto from the Colombia Humana political party for having publishing several messages on social networks in which she stated that the ambulances in Bogotá were being used to transport ESMAD weapons. This caused 16 ambulances to be attacked by protesters¹⁴⁹, who even attacked the medical personnel who were inside the ambulances.
144. On May 24, 2021, an opposition Senator published on Twitter inviting the population to “donate” money to the “MANOS LIMPIAS COLOMBIA” Foundation in order to arm the protesters with shields, helmets, gloves and various implements to attack the public force.¹⁵⁰



145. On May 25, 2021, public authorities announced that several seizures have taken place to members of the criminal group that calls themselves the “Front Line”, and who are responsible for the violent confrontations with security forces in the context of the national strike, including chemicals used to make molotov incendiary

¹⁴⁸ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/economia/articulo/quien-responde-por-las-noticias-falsas-sobre-exito-calipso/202136/>

¹⁴⁹ Available at: <https://www.lafm.com.co/judicial/abren-investigacion-contra-concejal-heidy-sanchez-por-noticia-que-origino-ataque>

¹⁵⁰ Available at: <https://twitter.com/GustavoBolivar/status/1397005538681049093>

bombs. According to Major Miller Rojas, commander of the Police in the town of Engativá "during a procedure they found several elements, among which are chemicals used to make incendiary bombs"¹⁵¹.

146. On May 28, 2021, two photographs of an older adult (grandmother) with a bloody face circulated on social media, stating that she had been attacked by the Colombian National Police. This photograph actually corresponds to a woman who was injured during an eviction in Concepción - Chile, in 2019¹⁵².

147. At the end of May, a video was circulated on social networks where an Esmad tank was allegedly running over a protester during the protests in Caldas, Antioquia. However, the director of Citizen Security published the same video on his Twitter account from another perspective in which it is the protester who throws himself back in front of the Esmad tank and the Esmad members ask that the tank to move back¹⁵³.

IX. INCITATION TO HATE AGAINST POLITICAL SECTORS

Week from April 28 to May 2:

148. On May 2, 2021, opposition Senator Gustavo Bolívar issued a series of messages on Twitter in which he misinformed the international community, stating that the government of the president of Colombia was “massacring civilian population”:

- “While they are massacring our people, Duque, at this hour at a conference on leadership. Man bringing his palm to his face. This is only done by a psychopath. ”
- “#SOSColombiaDDHH The government by order of Álvaro Uribe is killing us! @CIDH @ONU_es @IACourtHR @JoeBiden @KamalaHarris”.
- “RT #URGENTE We have to return #SOSColombiaDDHH to a global trend. Only then will the whole world know about the massacre of civilians in Colombia. Tweets with HT #SOSColombiaDDHH and accompany it with a video of the abuses. 1 million tweets. #urgent Cut and paste”
- “#SOSColombiaDDHH #DuqueAssassain the world is watching you and not in” Prevención y Acción” (presidential TV how on preventing and acting on

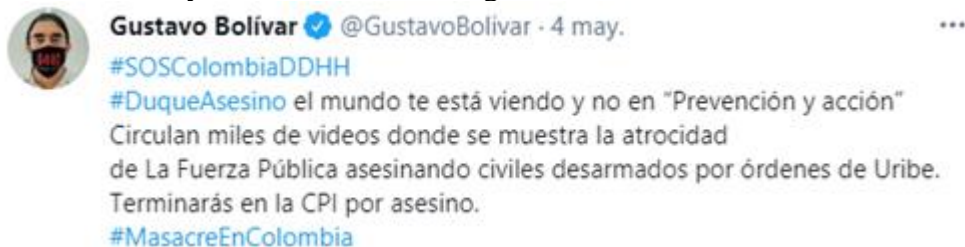
¹⁵¹ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/que-escondian-los-integrantes-de-la-primer-linea-en-bogota/202151/>

¹⁵² Available at: <https://twitter.com/AfpFactual/status/1398292987885596678>

¹⁵³ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/noticias-falsas-en-el-paro-por-que-se-difunden-en-redes-y-como-evitarlas-591855>

COVID) "Thousands of videos circulate showing the atrocity of the public force killing unarmed civilians on Uribe's orders. You will end up at the ICC for murderer. #MasacreEnColombia".

149. On the same day, Senator Gustavo Bolívar published on his Twitter account that the security forces were murdering civilians on Uribe's orders¹⁵⁴:



150. On his part, on May 2, 2021, the opposition senator, presidential candidate for 2022 and former member of the guerrilla group M-19, Gustavo Petro, continued to issue aggressive messages on his social networks against the President of Colombia and urging citizens to continue protests and demonstrations against the national government. Some examples are the following:

- “This is the Duque massacre; this is how Uribe carries out his political project of hunger for the people and profits for the bankers. This is the reality that the press hides. This is what must definitely change”.
- “All the international nodes of Colombia Humana (political party) must now communicate with all the justice organisms of the world, with all the governments, take the streets. Let the world know of this massacre. They have turned Colombia into a Nyamar [Myanmar]”.
- “22 dead in Cali, denounces Q'hubo. A massacre ordered by an ideological madman who drags the army and the police into an orgy of blood. This is a crime against humanity and as such it must be judged in the world”.
- “This is called barbarism and it comes from a tyrannical government. Even today social peace can be saved if there is dialogue. If Duque decides to rectify. If the barbarism continues, we will reach a point of no return. Soldier, policeman, do not kill your own people, hug them”.
- “Police shootings against members of the UN Commission on Human Rights. Duke, stop the barbarism”.
- “If the government forces decide the institutional breakdown, all of Colombian society must take the streets. The defense of democracy is its own people. Let the world know, that barbarism has settled in Colombia”.

Week from May 3 to May 9:

¹⁵⁴ Available at: <https://twitter.com/GustavoBolivar/status/1389579485100613634>

151. On May 5, 2021, a publication began to circulate on social networks in which Senator of the Centro Democrático (a political party), María Fernanda Cabal, allegedly affirmed within the framework of the national strike that: *“If the police beat a woman in Cali, more likely, she asked for it”*. This statement was totally false; however, several people shared the post with false information, inciting hatred against the Centro Democrático political party.

Week from May 10 to May 16:

152. On May 16, 2021, Senator Gustavo Bolívar posted on his Twitter account:

“RT if you agree that the First Line takes more care of the people than the group of political thieves, cheats and thugs who have ruled us for 200 years #GraciasPrimeraLinea

You taught us to lose our fear”¹⁵⁵.

The publication is accompanied by an image showing hooded protesters and tin shields, referring to the fact that it is the hooded people who belong to the first line of protesters.

Week from May 17 to May 23:

153. Once again, the opposition Senator, presidential candidate for 2022, and former member of the guerrilla group M-19, Gustavo Petro, repeatedly sent aggressive and stigmatizing messages on his social networks against former president of Colombia Álvaro Uribe Vélez (founder and top leader of the Centro Democrático political party) and of people who identify with the ideology of Uribismo, as is the case of the members of the Centro Democrático party, thus inciting violence and national hatred based on political opinion. Some examples are the following:

- “I received an audio from a person who said he had contacts with the Mossad and affirmed on the network that the indigenous people arrived with the guerrillas armed with rifles and were going to enter residences. Thus, they deceived and unleashed the massacre. **Again, and again, they fall into the Uribe’s strategy**”.
- “Thus, these politicians of Uribismo show as if the indigenous people attacked the people just because. It does not show what the indigenous people were shot at. They do not show that these indigenous people are there because they were invited by the church to build humanitarian corridors”.

¹⁵⁵ Available at: <https://twitter.com/GustavoBolívar/status/1394038861756514308>

- **"Uribe Twitted an image of a car with the CRIC flag and said it was the ELN (guerrilla group) immediately the whatsapp chain radiated that the indigenous people were arriving with rifles. These ignorant minds dare to shoot the indigenous people committing a crime against humanity."**
- **"The mental results of uribismo. The paramilitarization of consciousness. Thus, in these human beings' fascism was born and enslaved them in violence"**.
- **"In violence Uribe wins, in active non-violence, changes. If uribismo decides to strike against democracy, there is no other alternative, than to go out to the streets by the millions until the Constitution is in force"**.
- **"They wanted to use soccer to cover up the violence and they did it in Barranquilla in the Char style. Soccer ended up telling the world about the barbarity of the Uribe government". (Emphasis added)**

154. With the aim of inciting violence and political hatred, the opposition senator Gustavo Bolívar has issued a series of messages through Twitter seeking to link Centro Democrático and Uribismo with such serious and despicable issues as paramilitarism and genocide:

- **"#TwitterSuspendUribeAccount Uribe only generates violence and death with his veiled orders, he also empowers the future genocidaires of this country. This man is taking the slaughtering course. There is a successor!"**.
- **"#UribeParacoHpta (Uribeparamilitarysonofa) was the last thing Alison Ugus wrote after reporting how 4 policemen sexually abused her in Popayán. She was the daughter of a police officer and the abusers did not know it. The minor turned up (sic) "suicidal" she did not resist the outrage. In her memory I join the chorus: #GovernmentHpta" (SonofaGovernment)**
- **"Let it be a historic pact with the youth of Colombia: If Petro is President, we will dismantle ESMAD. Unheard of that we use taxes to kill, rape and gouge out the eyes of our young people. For Dylan, Lucas, Alison and their last sentence: #UribeParacoHpta"**.
- **"The defender of Uribismo must resign. He has lied to the country. He has not been on the side of the victims. It is part of the sect of the one who gave the order. # ParoNacional13M". (Emphasis added)**
- **"#SOSColombiaDDHH**

The government by order of Álvaro Uribe is killing us! @CIDH @ONU_es @IACourtHR @JoeBiden @KamalaHarris"¹⁵⁶. (Emphasis added)

- **"The defender of Uribismo must resign. He has lied to the country. He has not been on the side of the victims. It is part of the sect of the one who gave the order.**
- **# ParoNacional13M".**

¹⁵⁶ Available at: <https://twitter.com/GustavoBolivar/status/1389610736754720768>

155. As can be seen, the opposition Senator Gustavo Bolívar has viralized the use of the hashtag “#UribeParacoHpta”. Within said hashtag, a huge campaign of hatred, violence, extermination and defamation has been launched against the Centro Democrático and former President Álvaro Uribe Vélez. Here are some examples:

- “All of you excuse me, but I am not here to tell you that I am the light, prudent and decent. **Today I feel charged with hatred, disgust, disgust towards everything that smells like Uribismo.** People like son of a bitch of Doña Pily have us rotten as a society. #UribeParacoHpta”.
- “#UribeParacoHpta It is impossible to sleep in this country, I have two daughters and two sons and I want to run away, in a decent country Uribe and the ones from the Centro Democrático would already be imprisoned, from there all this rottenness starts.”
- “**Let Colombia burn** tomorrow, rejecting the abuse of the #EsmadViolador that caused Allinson's suicide. On the other hand, and as Allinson Q.E.P.D wrote in her publication: #UribeParacoHpta”.
- "People of peace and with 25 hidden weapons, thugs are what they are the councilman of the 22nd commune of Cali, Carlos Andrés Betancourt, from Centro Democrático, who says that in the commune there are 25 thousand weapons."
- “I want to express my solidarity with @juanrobertovarg for the attack from Uribismo and from the director of the Centro Democrático. Such pressures and lies confirm that when good journalism shows, Uribism despairs”.

156. As a consequence of this campaign of hatred, stigmatization and extermination against the Centro Democrático political party, during the marches and demonstrations of the national strike, repeated harangues and chants against said community have been observed, in which hundreds of protesters incite hatred, hostility and violence against members of said political party.

157. As a result of these events, several members of the Partido Centro Democrático have received threatening calls and messages that make them fear for their safety and that prevent them from exercising their political activities free from intimidation and intimidation.

158. Due to this difficult situation, the Centro Democrático has issued a communiqué vehemently rejecting the extermination campaign of which they are being victims, by their political opponents:

*“Centro Democrático rejects intimidation against life and integrity of any Colombian, that is why **we express concern about the extermination campaign against Uribistas that is being spread on social networks and by telephone.** In addition to threats, it has included the disclosure of sensitive data protected by law such as names, residence address, telephone*

numbers of members of this party, young people, executives, congressmen and woman, activists and their families.

The messages of extermination and hatred that artists and opinion leaders spread against Centro Democrático and its members are unacceptable. They must reflect and amend, as their words encourage hatred and endanger the lives of many Colombians. Freedom of expression and political affiliation is a fundamental right and antithesis of totalitarian hegemonies, which destroy democratic plurality.

We ask the authorities to investigate each case that has been documented, take the appropriate measures to preserve the integrity of our supporters and prosecute these behaviors.

We call for tolerance and respect. Our Colombia must be the highest purpose for all. We are Colombians and we all long for a better country."¹⁵⁷ . (Emphasis added)

Week from May 24 to May 30:

159. On May 26, 2021, the Centro Democrático political party answered the Tweets from Senator Gustavo Bolívar stating that the Senator had misled citizens about the tax reform and health care reform, fueling protests and stigmatizing the current government. Thus, the Centro Democrático political party indicated:

“This is how Gustavo Bolívar manipulates:

“1. Senator Gustavo Bolívar began to incite hatred and agitate protests since April 26, blackmailing the government to withdraw the reform #BolívarManipula”¹⁵⁸.



Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolivar Apr 26

#ToStrikeIs

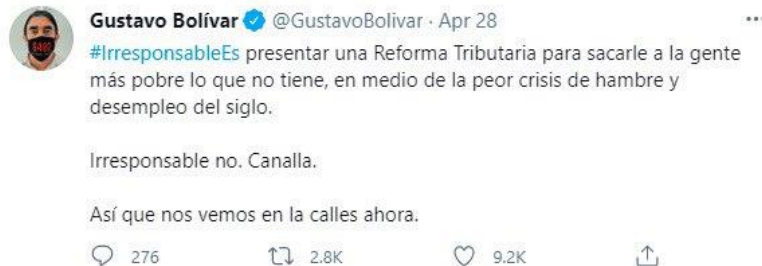
If you want to take care of life:

¹⁵⁷ Available at: <https://www.centrodemocratico.com/comunicados-de-prensa/centro-democratico-rechaza-las-intimidaciones-contra-la-vida-y-la-integridad-de-cualquier-colombiano> 16854

¹⁵⁸ Available at: <https://twitter.com/CeDemocratico/status/1397508922550980608>

1. Buy vaccines for everyone
2. Stop the hypocrisy, close Transmilenio transportation system where 1 million people go like in a sardines can
3. And if you don't want us to go to the streets during the pandemic, do not rob during it. Withdraw the Tax Reform

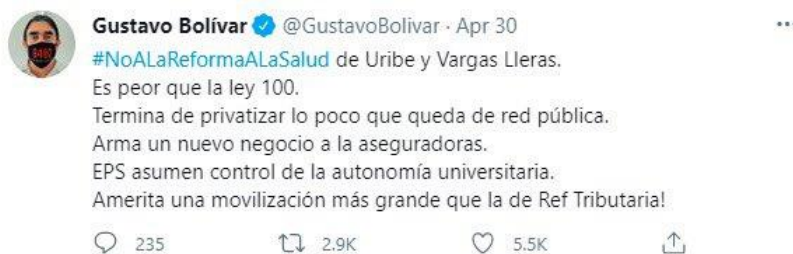
"2. The left deceived, saying that the government's tax reform took money from the poorest, when its focus was social investment and caring collection of the wealthiest #BolívarManipula"¹⁵⁹.



Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolivar Apr 28

#IrresponsableIs to submit a Tax Reform to get from the poorest people what they do not have in the midst of the worst hunger and unemployment crisis of the century. It is not irresponsible, it is swine. So, see you on the streets.

"4. The social mobilization that we have been experiencing since April 28 is based on lies such as that of Gustavo Bolívar, who deceives citizens by saying that the health reform was from President Uribe, when he never present it to Congress or promoted it #BolívarManipula"¹⁶⁰.



Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolivar Apr 30

#NoToTheHealthReform from Uribe and Vargas Lleras. It is worse than law 100

¹⁵⁹ Available at: <https://twitter.com/CeDemocratico/status/1397509152574955521>

¹⁶⁰ Available at: <https://twitter.com/CeDemocratico/status/1397509152574955521>

It privatizes the little left of public health
 Builds a new business for insurance companies
 EPS's (health entities) assume control of university autonomy
 It is worth a bigger mobilization than the one for the Tax Reform

“5. Gustavo Bolívar stigmatizes and calls the government and the Centro Democrático violent actors, putting the lives of our militants and supporters at risk # BolívarManipula”¹⁶¹.



Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolivar May 1
 Duque, Uribe and Centro Democrático's main problem is no longer a Tax Reform that even their allies and friends reject.
 The main problem of this medieval and violent sect is that Colombia is no longer afraid.
 #Thanks Cali Capital of dignity for inspiring the whole country.

“6. Recent demonstrations have been especially violent and aggressive against Colombians who serve the country in the Public Forces, while Gustavo Bolívar incites hatred with slander. This leaves a balance of more than 1,060 police officers injured # BolívarManipula”¹⁶².



Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolivar May 1
 #New Video

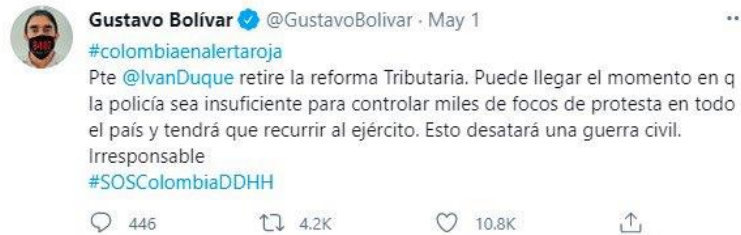
¹⁶¹ Available at: <https://twitter.com/CeDemocratico/status/1397509152574955521>

¹⁶² Available at: <https://twitter.com/CeDemocratico/status/1397509152574955521>

I ask to commanders of the @POLICIACOLOMBIA and @COL EJERCITO if you are taking your institutions to discredit and citizen hate defending a mule train of corrupts that divide the country for themselves while they give orders to shoot to the people.

#NationalStrikeM1

“7. After almost 5 days of strike and blockades, the threats did not stop. Bolívar said that if the reform was not withdrawn, a civil war would form in Colombia, motivating hatred, violence and death #BolívarManipula”¹⁶³.



Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolívar May 1

#colombiaonredalert

President @IvanDuque withdraw the tax reform. The time may come when the police are deficient to control the thousands of focal points of protest all over the country and you will have to call the army. This is going to trigger a civil war.

Irresponsable

#SOSColombiaDDHH

“8. After the tax reform was withdrawn, Gustavo Bolívar justified all the damages, violence and deaths that have taken place in the context of the strike, supporting death to achieve his objectives #BolívarManipula”.



Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolívar May 1

#IndignationWon

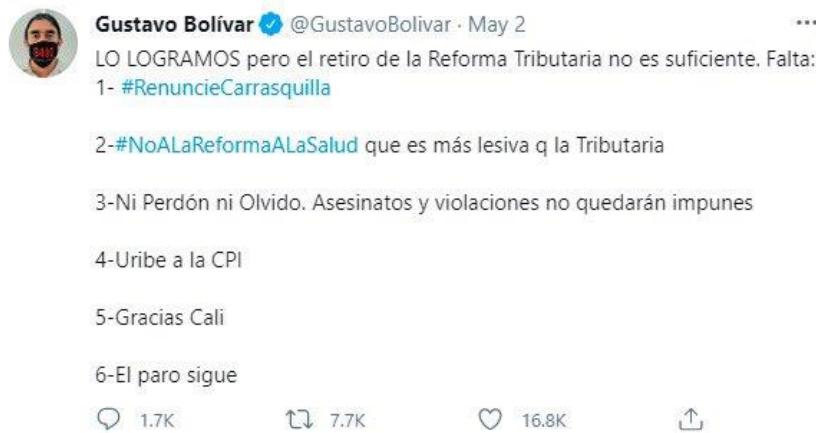
Duque withdraw the Tax Reform.

His stubbornness cost many lives and injuries to citizens, but it is never late.

¹⁶³ Available at: <https://twitter.com/CeDemocratico/status/1397509152574955521>

For the heroes who gave their lives for, for the wounded and the girl raped, a minute of silence and a lifetime of struggle. This triumph is yours.

“9. For Gustavo Bolívar, all the damage of the first 5 days of the strike was not enough and after the reform was withdrawn, it motivated him to continue the excesses to achieve utopian and undemocratic objectives # BolívarManipula”.

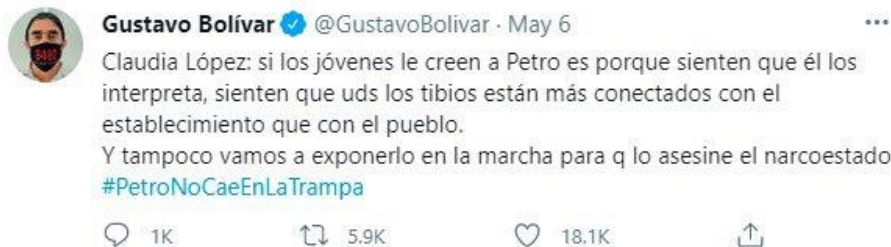


Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolivar May 2

WE MADE IT but the withdrawal of the tax reform is no enough. It is missing:

1. #CarrasquillaResign
2. #NoToHealthReform that is more harmful than the tax one
3. Do not forgive or forget. Rapes and murders will not go unpunished.
4. Uribe to the PIC
5. Thanks Cali
6. The strike continues

“10. Gustavo Bolívar stigmatizes anyone who is against Petro and him, demonstrating that he only cares for some live, but those of murdered police officers do not # BolívarManipula”.



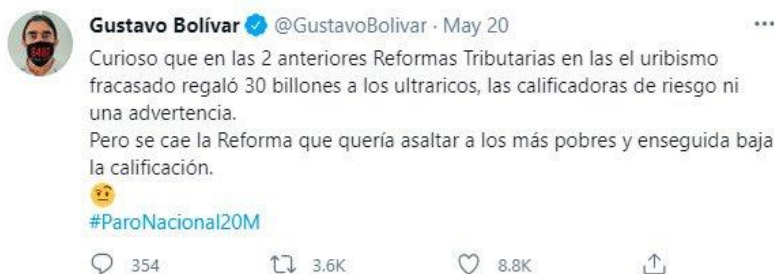
Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolivar May 6

Claudia López: if young people believe in Petro is because they feel that he interprets them, they feel that those who are in the middle are more connected with the establishment than with the people.

And we are not going to risk him in the protests so the narco state can kill him.

#PetroDoesNotFallinThe Trap

“11. After almost a month of social protests and having promoted internal chaos and the international perception of Colombia was destroyed, Gustavo Bolívar continues to lie about the tax reform that with caring collection sought to increase social support #BolívarManipula”.



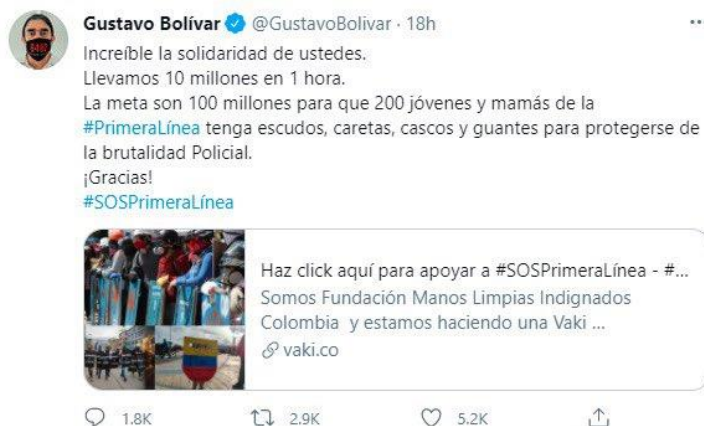
Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolivar May 6

It is curious that in the two previous Tax Reforms, unsuccessful Uribe gave 300 billion to the ultra-rich, and the risk rating agencies, not even a warning.

But the Reform that wanted to assault the poorest fails and immediately they lower the ratings.

#NationalStrikeM20

“13. Gustavo Bolívar continues to incite violence against the Public Force, asking for money to arm the front line, responsible for many of the attacks on police officers #BolívarManipula”.



Gustavo Bolivar @GustavoBolivar 18h

Your solidarity is incredible.

We collected 10 million in an hour. The goal is 100 million so that 200 young people and moms of the first line have shields, masks, helmets and gloves to protect themselves from police brutality.

¡Thanks!

#SOSPrimeraLinea

Click here to support #SOSPrimeraLinea.
We are Fundación Manos Limpias Angry Colombia
And we are making a Vaki

160. On May 27, 2021, Senator Iván Cepeda Castro, a strong opponent of the current Government, published a message against the National Security Advisor on his Twitter account, in which he stated:



While they are killing young people in the streets Mr. Guarín makes reckless accusations. I will save this statement for when the respective legal actions have to be taken. Attack on Tuluá is another act of the "first line": Rafael Guarín

161. Likewise, Senator Iván Cepeda has made several publications that have increased hatred and violence towards the current government, such as:

- “¿Who is interested in burning case files from the Tuluá courthouse? Young people of the popular neighborhoods or the mafia politicians and their associates, the drug traffickers?”¹⁶⁴
- "The person in charge of the policy that ended in thousands of false positives calls on the Army and Police to open fire and violate human rights".¹⁶⁵

¹⁶⁴ Available at: <https://twitter.com/IvanCepedaCast/status/1397642180076912657>

¹⁶⁵ Available at: <https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2021/04/30/polemica-por-trino-de-alvaro-uribe-que-defiende-el-derecho-de-soldados-y-policias-de-utilizar-sus-armas/>



162. This type of publication on social networks by high-ranking officials has generated in Colombians a feeling of hatred towards Centro Democrático, a political party to which the current president of Colombia belongs. In this sense, publications have circulated in social networks in which there is evidence of an effervescent hatred on the part of some citizens, such as:

- “Miguel, thank you for the support and visibility of the abuses that we live in Colombia.

I remind you that there are more than 900 missing persons throughout the country, since the #ParoNacionalIndefinido began
#ColombiaEnAlertaRoja #SOSColombiaNosEstanKilling #UribeGavetheOrder #DuqueKills Us”¹⁶⁶.

- “You are death, destruction, torture, displacement, paramilitary, narco.
#CIDHENColombia
#UribeGolpista
#UribeGavetheOrder
#UribeAssassin”¹⁶⁷.

- “#UribeGavethOrder,Duque signed it,and Molanofulfilled it.”¹⁶⁸.

¹⁶⁶ Available at: <https://twitter.com/perlajahel/status/1395367044644843521>

¹⁶⁷ Available at: <https://twitter.com/LinaLeo73908100/status/1395907452252602368>

¹⁶⁸ Available at: <https://twitter.com/anibalac071/status/1395717957549010945>



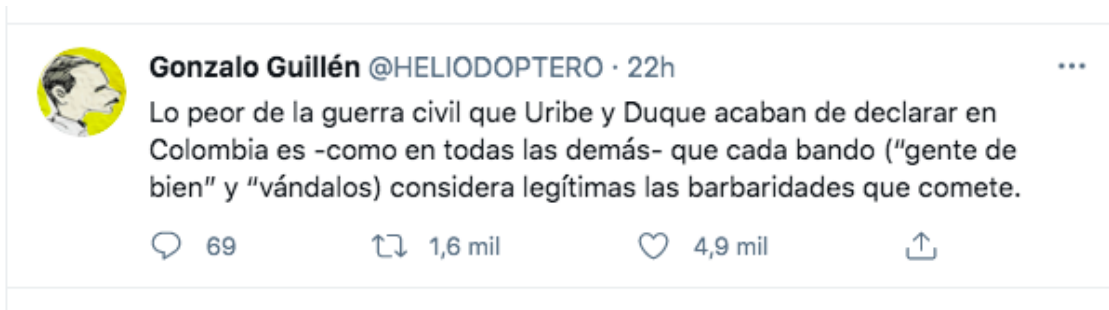
- “@IvanDuque established, with blood and fire, #NarcoAssasain Dictatorship in #Colombia Under Military Bullets #MolanoDuqueGenocidas #MolanoAssasain #DuqueKillsUs”¹⁶⁹.

163. Similarly, journalist Gonzalo Guillén has recently published on his Twitter account hateful messages against the Centro Democrático political party, even comparing the Colombian government with the Venezuelan dictatorship and making serious accusations in a completely unjustified manner:



The legacies of Chaves and Uribe: Venezuela hides criminal gangs from Colombia and Colombia hides the criminal gangs from Venezuela.

¹⁶⁹ Available at: <https://twitter.com/PetraVonNiemand/status/1396972197466546177>



The worst of the civil war that Uribe and Duque just declared in Colombia is -as in all of them-, that each faction (“honorable people” and vandals) considers the atrocities it commits legitimate.

164. In fact, some of the false accusations made by journalist Gonzalo Guillén caused some civilians to perpetuate these hateful messages towards Centro Democrático:



I do not believe that my messages influence the population, but I ask the tens of thousands of millions of Colombians who protest to prevent and denounce the excesses that occur in some marches. Vandalism only favors Uribism.

In response @HELIODOPTERO

Totally agree with @HELIODOPTERO only Uribismo benefits from excesses because their project is war and only with excesses can they maintain their discourse.

165. On May 18, 2021, Senator Gustavo Petro reacted on his Twitter to the order of military assistance from the President of Colombia in Cali and Valle del Cauca. stating: *"From Duque there is no proposal other than repression, more weapons, more violence. His project is violent. We propose a social pact and the withdrawal of firearms from the state of the demonstrations to achieve peace. The way is peace"*¹⁷⁰.

X. ATTACKS CARRIED OUT FROM VENEZUELA

166. On April 8, 2021, the first vice president of the ruling Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV) (united socialist party of Venezuela) and second in command of the Venezuelan dictatorship, Diosdado Cabello, stated that Colombia paves the way for the United States to "attack" Venezuela and assured that, if there was a war, it would take place in Colombian territory. In this sense, Mr. Diosdado Cabello stated¹⁷¹:

"Where do the mercenaries come from? From Colombia. Where do the sellout journalists come from? They come from Colombia.

(...)

Colombia declared itself, that they are going to try to serve the table for US imperialism to attack Venezuela. They are going to be wrong because if we have a war, forgive me, Colombian friends who have nothing to do with this, with Colombia, we are going to do it in their territory, it will not be in Venezuelan territory, we are going to do it in their territory. Do not think that this is going to be so simple. No, no.

(...)

*They make a miscalculation, believing that the war is going to be in Venezuelan territory. Get to believe that it is going to be like this. We are going to defend our territory, but we are going to wage war on your territory"*¹⁷².

¹⁷⁰ Available at: https://colombia.as.com/colombia/2021/05/28/actualidad/1622214133_611944.html

¹⁷¹ Available at: <https://www.wradio.com.co/noticias/internacional/la-guerra-la-vamos-a-hacer-en-el-territorio-de-ustedes-diosdado-cabello-a-colombia/20210408/nota/4124085.aspx>

¹⁷² Available at: <https://noticias.caracol.com/mundo/la-guerra-sera-en-colombia-diosdado-cabello-lanza-amenazas>

167. On April 8, 2021, the President of Colombia answered to the statements made by the Venezuelan vice president, requesting the European Union to exert greater pressure against the Government of Nicolas Maduro¹⁷³.
168. On May 5, 2021, the President of Ecuador assessed his administration at the “*Forum for the Defense of Democracy in the Americas*” and detected political and economic interference by the Nicolas Maduro regime in the protests that have taken place within the framework of the national strike. In this line of thought, he stated:

*Our intelligence system has detected it and I spoke about it with President Duque this morning, that our intelligence system has detected a **political and economic interference by Maduro in Colombia. I think it is important for the whole world to tell Maduro right now to get his bloody and abusive hands off Colombia. Colombia is a wonderful country, which without any doubt must have problems, without a doubt there must be people who are complaining about that decision of President Duque.** But the violence has to be acknowledged. And I would never want to interpret violence as social protest. Violence should not be part of international politics”¹⁷⁴.*

169. On May 7, 2021, Diosdado Cabello, assured that Colombia had been taken over by gangsters who decided to massacre people, referring to the protests that have taken place in Colombian territory: “*Colombia has been taken over by gangsters who decided to massacre the humbler people, Duque governs for the Paracos, the drug traffickers and the oligarchy, the people rise up and ask for justice, they feel a fresh breeze, the bolivarian breeze*”¹⁷⁵.
170. Likewise, the first vice president of the ruling Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV) (united socialist party of Venezuela), Diosdado Cabello, described the President of Colombia as a “narco, paraco and murderer”, due to the demonstrations that have been taking place in the country. It is noteworthy that Diosdado Cabello has had motivations contrary to the search for democracy, freedom and the consolidation of coexistence relationships between Colombia and Venezuela.¹⁷⁶
171. In response to the statements made by the first vice president of the ruling Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV) (united socialist party of Venezuela), the Presidential Advisor for National Security of Colombia, Rafael Guarín, responded

¹⁷³ Available at: <https://www.rtvnoticias.com/colombia-respondio-amenazas-de-venezuela>

¹⁷⁴ Available at: <https://www.infobae.com/america/america-latina/2021/05/05/lenin-moreno-ecuador-ha-detectado-una-injerencia-politica-y-economica-del-regimen-de-maduro-en-las-protestas-en-colombia/>

¹⁷⁵ Available at: <https://colombiahoy.news/noticias/Que-relacion-tiene-Diosdado-Cabello-con-las-protestas-en-Colombia-20210507-0008.html>

¹⁷⁶ Available at: <https://www.elnacional.com/opinion/con-el-mazo-dando-a-colombia/>

by stating: "*The boss of the cartel de los soles, the drug trafficker Diosdado Cabello is part of the criminal destabilization plan with which they attack Colombia. Colombian democracy is solid and will not bow to terrorism or the interests of the Maduro dictatorship*"¹⁷⁷. Thus, the Advisor blamed Diosdado Cabello for sponsoring "terrorists" with weapons in the protests in Colombia, on the grounds that they are citizens defending themselves in arms against the government of the current president.

172. Likewise, Presidential Advisor for National Security of Colombia stated: "*It is increasingly evident that the escalation of vandalism, violence and crime with which the Colombian population is being attacked, has behind not only the ELN and the FARC dissidents, but rather the **Maduro dictatorship and the Cartel de los Soles, led by the drug trafficker Cabello***"¹⁷⁸. (Emphasis added)

XI. PARTICIPATION OF ARMED GROUPS BEYOND THE LAW

173. On May 3, 2021, the Minister of Defense, Diego Molano, affirmed that some acts of violence that occurred within the context of the national strike were premeditated acts in which illegal armed groups had had an influence. Regarding this, the Minister stated "*Colombia faces a terrorist threat, criminal organizations are behind the violent acts that mist over the peaceful proposal. These are premeditated acts, organized and financed by dissident groups from the FARC and the ELN*". In addition, the Minister announced that some specific groups had been identified that had provoked the violent actions during the mobilizations, such as the JM19 movement, the Luis Otero Fuentes group, the Bolivarian Movement, Gentil Duarte's FARC dissidents, the Capuchos, the blue shields, the black shields, urban cells of the ELN, June 8 and 9 and reported that the terrorist acts were allegedly organized through cellular messaging platforms, and their actions have been systematic in the main cities such as Cali, Bogotá, Medellín, Pereira, Manizales and Pasto¹⁷⁹.

174. On May 4, 2021, the Attorney General, Francisco Barbosa, affirmed that behind the vandalism in the protests, the participation of drug trafficking structures and the FARC and ELN guerrillas was confirmed. In this sense, he stated: "*It has*

¹⁷⁷ Available at: <https://colombiahoy.news/noticias/Que-relacion-tiene-Diosdado-Cabello-con-las-protestas-en-Colombia-20210507-0008.html>

¹⁷⁸ Available at: https://twitter.com/RafaGuarin/status/1390345347503988736?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweteembed%7Ctwterm%5E1390345347503988736%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5EsI_%ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eltiempo.com%2Fpolitica%2Fgobierno%2Fcolombia-le-responde-a-venezuela-y-a-diosdado-cabello-586513

¹⁷⁹ Available at: <https://www.asuntoslegales.com.co/actualidad/ministerio-de-la-defensa-identifico-seis-grupos-detras-de-la-violencia-durante-el-paro-nacional-3163437> and <https://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/investigacion/balance-de-policia-y-ministerio-de-defensa-sobre-protestas-y-paro-nacional-585568>

been established that the disorders and vandalism that occurred in Cali in recent days, would have relationship with drug trafficking structures, the ELN and FARC dissidents operating in Cauca"¹⁸⁰.

175. On the same May 4, 2021, in an interview, the director of the Policía Nacional, General Jorge Vargas, spoke about the presence of armed groups in the strike, stating: *“There is very strong criminal violence, because this is criminal. They act with firearms and planning in the territory because they know it, there are several things that we have denounced, the M19 youth, especially in six cities with clandestine deployment, they seek support with ELN and FARC dissidents with Iván Mordisco and the Narcotalia ”*. To this he added: *“There is evidence on computers seized from the guerrillas, the June 8 and 9 movement of the ELN, Bolivarian Movement, with Gentil Duarte, that they have held meetings that we already have documented, where they give orders to steal, move people to the streets and shoot the police. That is documented”*¹⁸¹.

176. From the hours of the night of May 8, 2021, a video was made known through social networks in which the commander of the FARC-EP Segunda Marquetalia dissidence, Iván Márquez, referring to the national strike, and fueling the violence that is being experienced in the country, affirmed: *“We will have a new government, by the irresistible force of the masses or by constitutional means, that's for sure. Enough Duque, no more military repression, or war treatment against unharmed people. (...) pick up your paramilitary hitmen who are still firing at the leaders of the protest, now we do know who is murdering leaders (...) don't ever decide to decree the internal commotion, because the people will overwhelm you and go over the top it”*. In addition, he assured that this Government is full of *“vandals and oppressive monsters”*, and indicated that the people have the strength to overthrow it, and that the Government itself is aware of this: *“The people have verified that if they fight together under the banner of change, there will be no bad government that can resist it”*¹⁸².

177. Similarly, on May 8, 2021, the ELN guerrilla issued a statement congratulating the protesters and stating that the National Government was seeking to take advantage of the mobilizations to supposedly decree the state of internal

¹⁸⁰ Available at: <https://www.noticiasrcn.com/colombia/eln-y-disidencias-de-las-farc-estarian-detras-de-vandalismo-fiscalia-379209>

¹⁸¹ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/nadie-ha-autorizado-el-uso-de-las-armas-de-fuego-director-de-la-policia/202144/>

¹⁸² Available at: <https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2021/05/09/ivan-marquez-reaparece-en-nuevo-video-anticipa-que-si-manifestantes-y-fuerza-publica-se-unen-colombia-tendra-nuevo-gobierno/> and <https://twitter.com/MiguelUribeT/status/1391197322533654529>

commotion. Likewise, in said document this illegal armed group incited violence by inviting the demonstrators to continue organizing at any cost, until the purposes of the national strike were achieved¹⁸³.

178. On May 11, 2021, through a video, the illegal armed group Autodefensas Gaitanistas expressed its support to the national strike and to the protesters and marches in the country. In the video, one of the members of this group stated: "*We support the just popular demands: we are not indifferent to the protest and the agitation of the people's struggle.*" In addition, the illegal armed group issued a written statement that was released in the municipality of Belén de Bajirá in the Urabá region, inciting hatred by stating that "*those who caused this fire were the members of the Government and the party to which they belong*"¹⁸⁴.
179. On May 27, 2021, after the events that occurred in the Tuluá municipality (the Palace of Justice fire), a National Government commission traveled to the site to verify the situation. Regarding the operations carried out, the Defense Minister confirmed the capture of 17 people for these events, among whom was alias "Solterosky", accused of belonging to the "Dagoberto Ramos" front of the FARC dissidents. In addition, in a report from the Ministry of Defense, the capture of alias "Richard" was reported, who would have a direct connection with "Iván Márquez" and "El Paisa", who according to the Police was in charge of restructuring the urban cells of the Segunda Marquetalia in Valle del Cauca¹⁸⁵.
180. On May 29, 2021, the mass communication medium Semana revealed the evidence (including documents and audios) that demonstrates the presence and direct action of the "Segunda Marquetalia" of Iván Márquez, alias el Paisa, alias Romaña and Jesús Santrich (who was struck down) in the violent acts of the National Strike. Through the evidence, it was possible to corroborate not only that these subjects were at the forefront of the planning of criminal acts in Cali, but also that the terrorist group has provided nearly \$160,000 USD to finance said acts. In the revealed evidence, it was known that alias "Richard" was the emissary of Iván Márquez, and had acted as an infiltrator in the protests to encourage violence. Even alias "Richard" was in charge of the purchase of weapons and explosives for his criminal purposes¹⁸⁶.

¹⁸³ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/amp/confidenciales/articulo/el-comunicado-que-publico-el-eln-medio-del-paro-nacional/202140/>

¹⁸⁴ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/en-video-autodefensas-gaitanistas-manifestaron-su-apoyo-al-paro-nacional/202122/>

¹⁸⁵ Available at: <https://www.elespectador.com/judicial/paro-nacional-entre-actos-vandalicos-muertes-e-infiltraciones-de-grupos-armados-se-completara-un-mes/>

¹⁸⁶ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/las-pruebas-de-la-infiltracion-de-ivan-marquez-y-la-segunda-marquetalia-en-el-paro/202114/>

181. One of the most important pieces of evidence that demonstrates the participation of the Segunda Marquetalia in the protests is a letter that was in the possession of alias Richard, written by the leader Iván Marquez and addressed to those who promote blockades in Cali, in which he states his pride for what is happening in Colombia. In this letter, it is indicated that "*in one way or another, the Segunda Marquetalia, as the people's army, is putting its contribution in the advancement of these tremendous days of building the New Colombia and in this we will continue until we achieve the dream of a new country*"¹⁸⁷.
182. In addition to the foregoing, Semana magazine also reported the existence of several audios that would indicate that allegedly the members of the Dagoberto Ramos column of the FARC dissidents communicate in code to provide information to those who are committing violent acts in Cali¹⁸⁸.

XII. THE SELF-PROCLAIMED "FIRST LINE"

183. The auto-denominated "First Line" (Primera Línea) refers to a group of violent demonstrators (hooded) that emerged in 2019, who by means of non-conventional weapons (Molotov bombs, bricks, stones, etc.) or even airguns or firearms, attack the public forces every time they make presence in the protests.
184. In December 2019 the media reported the way in which the First Line began to make presence in the demonstrations that were taking place in Colombia at that time. According to what was reported at that moment by the media the members of this group "They carry helmets, glasses and some wooden boards that make a shield; in the center they have the logo of the Star Wars resistance painted on them".¹⁸⁹
185. By that time (year 2019), the First Line defined itself as "the counterpart of the Mobile Anti-Riot Squad (Esmad)"¹⁹⁰.
186. On June 19, 2020, journalist Diego González Cruz of Rolling Stone Colombia magazine published a documentary about the group that called itself Primera Línea. In this documentary, reference is made to the fact that the objective of this group, according to what they say, is to defend the protesters and that they divide their functions into three sub lines: the first are those who hold the "water jet" and they

¹⁸⁷ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/disidencias-de-las-farc-nos-llena-de-orgullo-ver-lo-que-esta-ocurriendo-en-las-ciudades-de-colombia/202108/>

¹⁸⁸ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/revelan-lenguaje-oculto-con-el-que-las-disidencias-de-las-farc-habrian-infiltrado-el-paro-nacional/202120/>

¹⁸⁹ Available in: <https://www.rcnradio.com/bogota/asi-funciona-la-llamada-primera-linea-en-las-manifestaciones>

¹⁹⁰ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/bogota/paro-nacional-que-es-el-grupo-primera-linea-en-manifestaciones-440392>

hold the ESMAD, the second are those who counterattack, in other words, the shock force and the third is the first aid group:

"Woman: I dedicate myself to many things, I am FreeLancer because well the economy, the issue of work and so on in this society is shit.

The first Line was created to defend the people, to defend the protesters.

Man: What is considered a frontline organization is divided into 3 sub-lines:

Woman: In the first are those who hold the water jet, those who hold the ESMAD; in the second are those who counterattack the shock group directly, and in the third are more human rights defenders and first responders. These people are there to help the people as well as to help the ones who are fighting at that moment.

Man: Because if the public force, which is for the public, for the people in general, is not going to protect us, then the first line is the one who should protect the people.

Woman: But obviously there will be times when we will have to attack to keep them at bay or else they will come at us.

All we do is defend and resist.

We are not going to attack the people because at the end of the day the police are also people, they also have families, children, mothers and they are all waiting for them.

Well, I am 24 years old and I think I am part of a generation of change".¹⁹¹

187. On May 20, 2021, the news portal Las2orillas released on its social networks a video showing how the police are shot at after the alleged withdrawal of the self-proclaimed First Line.¹⁹²

188. On May 23, 2021, a video was released showing how a group of demonstrators of the "First Line" shoot at the security forces while hiding behind their handmade shields¹⁹³.

¹⁹¹ Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w63wAcdJEeU>

¹⁹² Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/Las2orillas/videos/a-bala-son-recibidos-polic%C3%ADas-en-cali-tras-el-retiro-de-la-primera-l%C3%ADnea-un-grupo/297969611813419/>

¹⁹³ Available at: <https://twitter.com/EiCordobs12/status/1397305254807576587> and <https://ifmnoticias.com/en-video-se-conocieron-imagenes-de-la-primera-linea-de-manifestantes-en-cali-disparando-con-armas-de-fuego-a-la-fuerza-publica/>



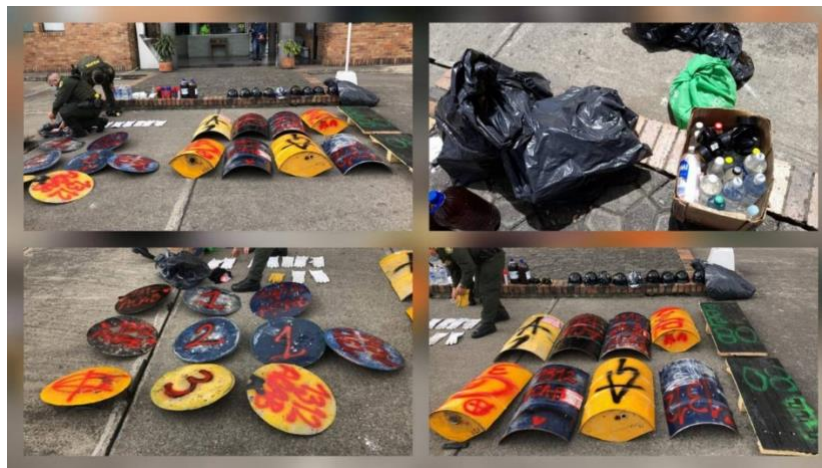
189. On May 24, 2021, a Senator of the Republic made a publication on Twitter in which he invited the population to "donate" money in order to purchase equipment such as shields, helmets, face shields and gloves, to be used by the "First Line" when confronting the public forces¹⁹⁴. Two days later he stated through his social networks that he had already collected more than 100 million pesos for the First Line¹⁹⁵.
190. On May 24, 2021, the Presidential Advisor of National Security, Rafael Guarín, affirmed that the members of the "First Line" are not spontaneous young people or peaceful mothers, on the contrary, said group is composed by armed people who are trained to carry out offensive, not defensive, acts¹⁹⁶.
191. On May 25, 2021, public authorities announced that members of the "First Line" have been seized several items, including chemicals used to make Molotov incendiary bombs, homemade helmets, shields, among others¹⁹⁷:

¹⁹⁴ Available at: <https://twitter.com/GustavoBolívar/status/1397005538681049093>

¹⁹⁵ Available at: <https://twitter.com/GustavoBolívar>

¹⁹⁶ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/la-primera-linea-no-son-jovenes-espontaneos-menos-pacificas-mamas-consejero-presidencial-de-seguridad/202138/>

¹⁹⁷ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/que-escondian-los-integrantes-de-la-primera-linea-en-bogota/202151/>



192. On May 26, 2021, the Presidential Advisor for National Security announced that the so-called "First Line" was responsible for the fire at the Palace of Justice in Tuluá, Valle del Cauca, which was completely incinerated.
193. On May 27, 2021, a video was posted on social networks in which members of the National Police were brutally attacked with sticks and stones by demonstrators wearing helmets:



194. On May 30, 2021, a police patrol was attacked by more than twenty (20) protesters, possibly members of La Primera Línea, wearing helmets, shields and gas masks. The members of the police inside the patrol were brutally assaulted by the same demonstrators wearing helmets and shields. One of these policemen was left

with his face completely destroyed and is currently debating between life and death¹⁹⁸:



195. In several videos that have been disclosed in the media, it can be observed how some demonstrators attack the public forces carrying the implements that were given to them by a congressman of the Republic:



XIII. VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST PUBLIC ASSETS

Week from April 28 to May 2:

196. On April 28, 2021, in the city of Cali, some protesters demolished the statue of the Spanish conqueror Sebastián de Belalcázar, while in Neiva they demolished the statue of former president Misael Pastrana¹⁹⁹.

¹⁹⁸ Available at: https://noticias.caracol.com.co/bogota/video-del-brutal-ataque-de-vandalos-a-dos-policias-cerca-al-portal-de-las-americas?_amp=true

¹⁹⁹ Available at: <https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2021/04/29/video-tumban-estatuadel-expresidente-misael-pastrana-borrero-en-neiva/>

197. On April 30, Transmilenio transportation system in the city of Bogotá was attacked by several protesters. Of a total of 2,357 trunk buses that the system has, 174 suffered some kind of damage and of the 139 stations, 16 were attacked with stones, bars and sticks²⁰⁰.
198. On May 1, protesters demolished the statues of Gilberto Álzate Avendaño in Manizales and Antonio Nariño in Pasto²⁰¹.
199. That same day, a group of protesters incinerated a tollbooth on the Cali-Buenaventura highway.
200. On May 2, the office of the Mayor of Acacías - Meta was set on fire by a group of vandals. Likewise, another group of criminals entered the facilities of the local traffic entity and set fire to the officers' motorcycles²⁰².

Week from May 3 to May 9:

201. On May 4, in the city of Neiva, a group of mostly hooded protesters burned the toll station on the road that connects Neiva and Bogotá. Likewise, they attacked the Neiva mayor's office (where they broke windows), a Claro store (where cell phones were stolen), a Banco del Occidente office (which they burned) and a Bancolombia office (which was burned too)²⁰³.
202. On May 5, the plenary of the House of Representatives announced that it had to suspend its sessions since confrontations and attacks were taking place in front of

²⁰⁰ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/paro-nacional-2021-balance-tras-cuatro-dias-de-protesta-en-colombia-585351>

²⁰¹ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/paro-nacional-derriban-estatua-de-antonio-narino-en-pasto-585322>

²⁰² Available at: <https://eldiariodelllano.com/alcaldia-de-acacias-fue-quemada-en-asonada-protagonizada-por-vandalos/#:~:text=Alcald%C3%ADa%20de%20Acac%C3%ADas%20fue%20quemada%20en%20asonada%20protagonizada%20por%20v%C3%A1ndalos,-Published&text=Un%20grupo%20de%20v%C3%A1ndalos%20ingres%C3%B3%20equipos%20de%20c%C3%B3mputo%20y%20archivos.>

²⁰³ Available at: [eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/para-nacional-4m-en-neiva-vandalos-quemaron-peajes-y-atacaron-bancos-58616](https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/para-nacional-4m-en-neiva-vandalos-quemaron-peajes-y-atacaron-bancos-58616)

the National Capitol that endangered the personal integrity of congressmen and woman who were evacuated.

203. That same day, on Avenida Cali con Américas in the city of Bogotá, the vandalization of a SITP public transportation bus took place, an act that led the district authorities to point out that “an escalation of violence” was taking place in the capital city²⁰⁴.

204. On May 7, Misak indigenous people knocked down an emblematic monument of Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada in the center of the Colombian capital²⁰⁵.

Week from May 10 to May 16:

205. On May 16 in the city of Bogotá, the statue of Simón Bolívar part of the monument to the Heroes was set on fire and destroyed by protesters²⁰⁶.

206. On May 22, the Secretaría de Cultura Recreación y Deporte (SCRD) y el Instituto Distrital de Patrimonio Cultural (IDPC) (district culture, recreation and sports entity and the district of cultural heritage entity) decided to remove the sculpture of Bolívar Ecuestre as a preventive measure of any situation arising from the collapse of the monument, which could put at risk the lives of people who demonstrate in that place. The statue of Bolívar was seriously affected by the marches that have taken place in the framework of the national strike²⁰⁷.

Week from May 17 to May 23

207. The report from the Presidential Advisor for Human Rights and International Affairs of May 22 indicated that the damages have not only occurred in private property, but also in property for public use, such as:

- 1,136 public transportation vehicles
- 206 public transportation stations

²⁰⁴ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/intentaron-quemar-un-cai-en-bogota-con-uniformados-adentro-y-otros-15-fueron-vandalizados-en-la-noche-del-martes/202123/>

²⁰⁵ Available at: <https://elpais.com/internacional/2021-05-07/grupos-indigenas-derriban-la-estatua-del-fundador-espanol-de-bogota.html>

²⁰⁶ Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hm6Sf2ZQeIE>

²⁰⁷ Available at: <https://bogota.gov.co/mi-ciudad/cultura-recreacion-y-deporte/estatua-bolivar-ecuestre-sera-retirada-del-monumento-los-heroes>

- 114 security cameras
- 108 government infrastructure
- 49 fine photo cameras
- 61 traffic lights
- 28 tolls affected
- 37 traffic signs
- 21 cultural assets
- 04 weighing scales
- 01 critical infrastructure (bridge)

Week from May 24 to May 30

208. On May 24, in the municipality of Soacha, a Transmilenio bus (massive mean of mobility) was set on fire in Soacha, Cundinamarca²⁰⁸.

209. In the city of Tuluá - Valle del Cauca, the Palace of Justice was burned by vandals who were installing blockades in the roads to Jamundí, putting the life and integrity of the palace workers at risk²⁰⁹.

210. According to the balance made by the Ministry of Defense, public assets and government entities have been seriously affected, and the following figures were provided:²¹⁰

- 108 government infrastructures affected.
- 28 tolls affected
- 4 weighing scales affected
- 21 cultural assets affected
- 1 critical infrastructure (bridge)
- 114 security cameras
- 49 photo fine cameras
- 62 traffic lights

211. On May 28, 2021, the Mayor's Office of Popayán was set on fire by a group of hooded protesters, who used molotov cocktails to burn down the headquarters of the Municipal Ombudsman that operated within the mayor's office. For this reason, the mayor of Popayán found it necessary to declare a curfew starting at 5 in the

²⁰⁸ Available at: <https://www.elespectador.com/bogota/bus-de-transmilenio-fue-incendiado-en-soacha-cundinamarca/>

²⁰⁹ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/cali/paro-25m-denuncian-bloqueos-y-vandalismo-en-tulua-591144>

²¹⁰ Available at: <https://twitter.com/mindefensa/status/1397187790438342656/photo/1>

afternoon. The Secretary of Government of Popayán, indicated that they had to make a humanitarian corridor for the firefighters to enter the Mayor's Office²¹¹.

XIV. VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST PUBLIC FORCES

Week from April 28 to May 2:

212. On April 28, 2021, in the city of Bogotá, a group of people overturned a mobile police station in the San Victorino sector.
213. On April 28, in the city of Bogotá, a patrol with two members of the police was attacked with sticks and stones in the middle of the marches and demonstrations. The policeman, who were in the vehicle, were stopped by some of the protesters, who began to beat up the patrol. Unfortunately, the acts of violence were not only directed against the vehicle, as the protesters also attacked the policeman who was driving the vehicle, taking advantage of the fact that the window was down²¹².
214. That same day, protesters attacked the San Victorino police station, Bogotá, destroying a large part of it. The degree of violence that occurred at the San Victorino police station was of such magnitude that ESMAD had to intervene to safeguard the life and personal integrity of those who were at the station²¹³.
215. Towards the evening hours of April 28, a balance of the preliminary results of the first day of protests was released. It was reported the vandalization of:

*“14 buses, 10 in Cali and four in Bogotá.
2 private vehicles in Bogotá.
21 Transmilenio vehicles with graffiti and broken glass.
21 Transmilenio bus stations.
8 buses of the MIO of Cali and one set on fire.
9 MIO stations.
13 banking facilities affected in Cali, Neiva, Medellín and Bogotá.
16 photo fine cameras in Cali*

²¹¹ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/paro-28-de-mayo-intentaron-incendiar-la-alcaldia-de-popayan-592032>

²¹² Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-56989232>
<https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/video-patrulla-de-la-policia-fue-atacada-con-palos-y-piedras-en-medio-de-las-marchas-en-bogota/202109/>

²¹³ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/video-patrulla-de-la-policia-fue-atacada-con-palos-y-piedras-en-medio-de-las-marchas-en-bogota/202109/>

5 supermarkets in Cali”²¹⁴.

216. On April 29, 2021, ESMAD commander Alex Julián Saavedra was run over by a cargo vehicle in the middle of the demonstrations in Yopal, Casanare and is currently in critical condition in an ICU²¹⁵.
217. That same day, six policemen were attacked by masked men with an incendiary bomb (molotov). Of the six police officers, five had to be referred to hospital for severe burns to their face, hands, neck and body²¹⁶.
218. On April 30, 2021, Police Captain Jesús Alberto Solano died after being stabbed 4 times by a group of protesters in the municipality of Soacha, Cundinamarca²¹⁷.
219. On May 1, 2021, a group of people threw a molotov bomb that hit the head of an ESMAD member and injured 4 more policemen²¹⁸.
220. In total, on May 1, 167 members of the public forces were injured during the protests, some of them with firearms, knives, stones, and other blunt objects²¹⁹.
221. On May 2, police officer Ángel Gabriel Padilla was wounded with 35 stab wounds, by hooded men who took off his clothes to attack him. Currently he is in a very serious condition.

Week from May 3 to May 9:

²¹⁴ Available at: <https://www.asuntoslegales.com.co/actualidad/el-vandalismo-se-tomo-las-protestas-en-varias-ciudades-durante-el-paro-nacional-de-ayer-3161379>

²¹⁵ Available at <https://prensalibrecasanare.com/judicial/41211-en-estado-critico-comandante-del-esmad-casanare.htm>

²¹⁶ Available at: <https://es.euronews.com/2021/04/30/colombia-sobrecogedor-ataque-con-una-bomba-incendiaria-contra-seis-policias>

²¹⁷ Available at: <https://www.kienyke.com/bogota/jesus-solano-capitan-que-murio-por-ataque-en-protestas>

²¹⁸ Available at: <https://www.kienyke.com/bogota/jesus-solano-capitan-que-murio-por-ataque-en-protestas>

²¹⁹ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/tres-policias-heridos-con-arma-de-fuego-dejan-actos-violentos-en-cali/202152/>

222. On May 3, media outlets reported how some protesters fired firearms to the police and the civilian population²²⁰.
223. That same day in the city of Cali, a police helicopter recorded several demonstrators who burned tires on an avenue. The camera managed to show how one of the protesters used a firearm on several occasions against one of the policemen who was on the road²²¹.
224. In Santa Marta, on May 3, a group of protesters prevented a police squad from being attacked with stones by hooded citizens who infiltrated the marches. The citizens surrounded the policemen to prevent the attacks, and in this way, they showed that they did not agree with the violence and that all they want is to express their disagreement with the policies adopted by the Government²²².
225. On May 3, 2021, the Ombudsman's Office issued an official report in which it was established that, to date, 18 civilians and 1 police officer had died as a result of the violent acts within the demonstrations. In addition, 806 injuries were reported, of which 306 are civilians and 540 members of the armed forces.
226. This report also established that during the protests: **4,931** people carried sharp or pointed weapons or similar; **823** people incited or engaged in violent confrontations that could lead to assaults; **657** people consumed, carried, distributed, offered or commercialized psychoactive substances; and **4,931** sharp weapons were seized.
227. On May 4, in the city of Bogotá, the Secretariat of District Government reported that 16 police stations were destroyed²²³. The most serious incident occurred at the Aurora police station, which was burned with 10 policemen inside. The 10 policemen managed to get out in the middle of the flames. Unfortunately, 5 were injured and had to be taken to the hospital with serious burns²²⁴.

²²⁰ Available at: <https://noticias.caracoltv.com/colombia/con-videos-como-este-de-un-vandalo-disparando-policia-tambien-denuncia-violencia-en-su-contra>

²²¹ Available at: <https://noticias.caracoltv.com/colombia/con-videos-como-este-de-un-vandalo-disparando-policia-tambien-denuncia-violencia-en-su-contra>

²²² Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/paro-en-santa-marta-manifestante-protogen-a-policias-585849>

²²³ Available at: <https://www.noticiasrcn.com/bogota/vandalismo-en-bogota-atacan-al-menos-16-cai-de-la-policia-379215>

²²⁴ Available at: <https://www.noticiasrcn.com/bogota/asi-queda-cai-la-aurora-en-bogota-al-ser-quemado-con-policias-adentro-379224>

228. That same day, residents of the Café Madrid neighborhood prevented the area's police station from being vandalized by a group of people who wanted to destroy the it and attack the police officers who were inside. The residents of the Café Madrid neighborhood made a human chain to protect the integrity of the policemen and the station facilities²²⁵.
229. On May 5, 2021, in the Bosa neighborhood of the city of Bogotá, a group of uniformed police officers was attacked by some protesters. In the midst of the riots, this group of protesters attacked the local policemen with sticks and stones, and dragged one of them away to lynch him. Given this fact, several citizens expressed solidarity with the uniformed man who was seriously injured, they protected him from being attacked again²²⁶.
230. That same day, in the city of Bogotá, they tried to burn down a police station with members of the public forces inside. Likewise, 15 other stations in the city were vandalized²²⁷.
231. On May 5, 2021, two policemen were injured at the Portal de las Américas (important bus station) by some protesters, the policeman had aid by teams from the Secretaría de Salud (district health entity)²²⁸.
232. In the town of Usme, at the La Aurora neighborhood police station, citizens denounce that some vandals set fire to the station with approximately 10 police officers inside who managed to get out and five suffered minor injuries²²⁹.
233. On May 9, in the city of Cali, within the context of the national strike, a policeman was hit in the left eye. While the police officer was bleeding, he asked his colleagues not to abandon his wife and 11-year-old daughter. The projectile was

²²⁵ Available at: <https://www.vanguardia.com/area-metropolitana/bucaramanga/video-habitantes-del-cafe-madrid-evitaron-ataque-contra-el-cai-del-barrio-XE3732761>

²²⁶ Available at: <https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2021/05/05/video-angustiante-rescate-de-un-policia-por-parte-de-unos-manifestantes-en-bogota-imagenes-sensibles/>

²²⁷ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/intentaron-quemar-un-cai-en-bogota-con-uniformados-adentro-y-otros-15-fueron-vandalizados-en-la-noche-del-martes/202123/>

²²⁸ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/intentaron-quemar-un-cai-en-bogota-con-uniformados-adentro-y-otros-15-fueron-vandalizados-en-la-noche-del-martes/202123/>

²²⁹ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/intentaron-quemar-un-cai-en-bogota-con-uniformados-adentro-y-otros-15-fueron-vandalizados-en-la-noche-del-martes/202123/>

located two millimeters from his brain and completely destroyed the eyeball. Three days later it was necessary to go to surgery to remove his eye²³⁰.

Week from May 10 to May 16:

234. On May 10, 2021, in the city of Cali, 26-year-old policeman Yeison Carvajal was shot in the abdomen causing serious lesion to his intestines. The policeman regarding the attack he suffered stated that the public force: "**We are at a disadvantage, our weapons do not kill because human rights indicate it, but we do have to be shot with lethal weapons**"²³¹.

Week from May 13 to May 23:

235. On May 22, ESMAD member Juan Sebastián Briñez died after being shot in the abdomen by vandals²³².
236. That same day, there was a simultaneous attack on a police station and a municipal jail in the south of the country. The Florida local Ombudsman indicated that a fragmentation grenade was thrown against the facilities of the Miranda municipality jail and, thanks to the shielding of the structure, the damage was minimal; however, an inmate and a guard were injured²³³.
237. On May 23, 2021, a uniformed member of the Metropolitan Police of Bogotá who belongs to ESMAD team, was hit by an incendiary bomb in his face, causing him serious burns, for which he had to be transferred to the Intensive Care Unit in the General Hospital of the National Police²³⁴.

²³⁰ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/mi-papa-no-es-un-asesino-hija-de-policia-que-perdio-un-ojo-durante-protestas/202111/>

²³¹ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/le-dispararon-en-las-protestas-y-por-falta-de-ambulancia-llego-en-moto-al-hospital/202134/>

²³² Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/video-desgarrador-momento-en-el-que-un-grupo-de-policias-intento-salvarle-la-vida-a-un-companero-baleado-en-cali/202121/>

²³³ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/dos-heridos-deja-ataque-simultaneo-contra-cai-de-la-policia-y-carcel-municipal-en-el-sur-del-pais/202105/>

²³⁴ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/policia-fue-impactado-con-bomba-incendiaria-en-su-rostro-se-encuentra-en-uci/202119/>

238. As of May 22, according to bulletin number 10 of the Presidential Advisor for Human Rights and International Affairs, there are 1,049 uniformed injured people²³⁵, of whom 8 are still hospitalized.

239. Likewise, according to report number 10 of the Advisor's office, it was established that at the moment the affected and vandalized police assets are²³⁶:

- 474 Institutional vehicles
- 96 CAI
- 09 Police stations 04 sub stations
- 03 Police districts
- 02 National Police Offices
- 02 National Police specialty buildings
- 01 Control posts
- 01 Regional commands
- 01 School of Criminal Investigation
- 01 Police College
- 01 Health Dispensary

Week from May 24 to May 30:

240. On May 25, amid the expressions of peace that took place in Cali in the context of the national strike, a particular event occurred when several hooded protesters held a retired policeman, claiming that he was infiltrated²³⁷; however, after a while he was released.

241. That same day, the Governor of Valle del Cauca spoke about the situation that has been occurring within the context of the national strike, stating that "*the full weight of the Law is necessary against those who have carried out armed attacks against the public force*"²³⁸.

²³⁵ Available at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2021/Documents/230521-ESP-Infografia-DDHH-Paro-Nacional-2021.pdf>

²³⁶ Available at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2021/Documents/230521-ESP-Infografia-DDHH-Paro-Nacional-2021.pdf>

²³⁷ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/manifestantes-retienen-a-policia-al-crear-que-estaba-infiltrado-en-cali/202145/>

²³⁸ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/gobernadora-de-valle-del-cauca-todo-el-peso-de-la-ley-para-quienes-han-realizado-atentados-armados-contra-la-fuerza-publica/202117/>

242. On May 28, 2021, vandals in the municipality of Facatativá burned a Police substation. Members of the police who were inside the substation had to flee to protect their lives, as the vandals set the station on fire with the policemen inside²³⁹.
243. That same day, the National Police rejected the attacks suffered by a group of uniformed men in the city of Pereira. According to the institution's statement, the members of the police were on duty trying to prevent looting in a sector of the city of Pereira²⁴⁰.

CONCLUSIONS:

- As shown, since the first week of demonstrations, a large part of the protests and mobilizations that have taken place in the context of the national strike have not developed peacefully due to the behavior of some protesters and violent actors who have put the life and personal integrity of civilian population and public forces at risk. Likewise, due to all the violent acts that have occurred, the rights of the civilian population to food, health, mobility, economic, social and cultural development, work, and employment have also been threatened, even housing, water and sanitation.
- Despite the fact that, after the first week of the strike, it was already foreseeable that the demonstrations would end in riots, vandalism, looting and clashes between the protesters and the public force, the Comité Promotor del Paro Nacional 2021, (committee for the promotion of the national strike 2021) continues to call for new days of mobilizations, which ends in damage to the non-demonstrating civilian population. The fact that the committee maintains its attitude of calling for new mobilization days (even if they are in dialogue with the Government) makes the promoters responsible for the lives that are lost, the injured people (civilians or public forces) and the public and private assets affected. Furthermore, it is particularly worrying that the committee has not expressed its rejection to the violent acts perpetrated by the protesters in any of its statements.
- It is worth noting that millions of Colombians have expressed their deep rejection to the acts of vandalism and violence that have occurred since April 28 in the country. However, a month after the start of the national strike, the demonstrations continue and leave more than 17 dead, 1,040 civilians injured, 1,049 uniformed personnel injured and more than 500 missing persons; without the promoters of the national strike taking responsibility.

²³⁹ Available at: <https://www.eltiempo.com/bogota/incineraron-la-subestacion-cartagenita-de-la-policia-en-facatativa-592148#:~:text=Un%20grupo%20de%20manifestantes%20protagoniz%C3%B3,ubicada%20en%20el%20barrio%20Cartagenita>

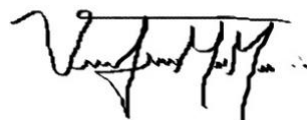
²⁴⁰ Available at: <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/en-vivo-paro-nacional-28-de-mayo-asi-avanzan-las-manifestaciones-en-bogota-cali-medellin-y-otras-ciudades/202152/>

- We see with great dismay that some minority protesters have directed their attacks against the media and journalists, thus affecting the freedom of the press that must be protected at all times, as well as the right to access to information of Colombians.
- We note with great concern that the protesters in the mobilizations are using sharp, pneumatic, fire and explosive weapons, which have caused injuries to both civilian population and public force members.
- We highlight that the road blocks that have taken place since the week of May 3, 2021, are permanent blockades that have limited the mobility of all Colombians and have prevented the transportation of food, vital medical supplies for the care of critical patients and fuel. Likewise, the blockades have led to the loss of the lives of two newborn children.
- We are concerned that road blockades continue, since the food security of Colombians has been seriously affected to such an extent that humanitarian corridors have been needed to supply some cities. Additionally, many animals have had to be euthanized, kilos of food have been thrown away, and food prices have risen significantly.
- We appreciate with concern the disinformation and incitement to violence that has been present on social networks in the context of the national strike, since instead of being means that serve to keep citizens informed, it has been used to fuel violence and misinform.
- We are quite concerned about the reports that the FARC and ELN drug trafficking and guerrilla structures have used the protests to carry out acts of violence and systematic attacks against the security forces and the civilian population.
- We are concerned that the sovereignty of Colombian is affected by external interference by the neighboring country of Venezuela and specifically by the first vice president of the ruling Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV).
- Taking into consideration the facts described in this report, as well as all the negative impacts that a large part of the demonstrations have had on the human rights of the civilian population, it is possible to affirm that the majority of the protest has been characterized by recurring to violence in a generalized and serious manner.
- The violence caused by the protesters in the context of the national strike has become manifestly generalized in the meet, thus exceeding the limits established in article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights regarding the right to

peaceful assembly, and calling into question the protection of protests in Colombia in light of said article.

By virtue of the foregoing, in consideration of the principles and norms of the American Convention on Human Rights, and considering that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential elements of democracy, thus we report on the alarming facts related to the violation of human rights surrounding the violent acts committed in the context of the protests triggered by the national strike in Colombia.

I present the President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights the assurances of my highest and distinguished consideration,



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In attention to

Mrs. Antonia Urrejola Noguera

President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
Rapporteur for Colombia, Ecuador and Nicaragua.