



STATEMENT No. 2

The Peasant Farmer's Movement of Cajibío, again expresses concern about violent events happening in the department of Cauca, and more specifically in the municipality of Cajibío, after the appearance of the pamphlet "Carlos Vásquez Castaño Command" of the paramilitary organization United Self-defense of Colombia (AUC), where they threatened more than 70 people from social leaders, indigenous, government officials, public officials and delinquents.

Events that occurred:

1. Two days after the appearance of the pamphlet, Mr. Manuel Flores and Carlos Olarte former mayor of the Municipality of Cajibío were arrested by state agencies. Both men are coincidentally named in the pamphlet.
2. Following the threats, there have also been cases of forced displacement of people named in the pamphlet.
3. After the appearance of the pamphlet, communities have reported the presence of strangers asking for community members and announcing the recruitment of young people, forcing them to be on permanent alert.
4. On Friday March 4 at the village of La Cima, township La Venta, two girls were stopped by masked men. One of them, who is 12 years old was missing for three days and returned home on Sunday March 6th with clear signs of physical abuse.
5. On Saturday March 5th Mrs. Elsy Elena Astudillo Cometa, 32 year old mother of two, was killed in crossfire between army troops, police units and the FARC, in the Township of Caramel Cajibío. A 17 year old male was also seriously injured in the incident.
6. During and after the experience of all these events, we have gone to the Ombudsman's (Defensoría) Office, the local Ombudsman (Personería), Mayor's office, Ministry of Interior and Vice President and the response to this tragedy has been minimal.

We demand

- 1 - That the State take appropriate measures to protect the lives of communities.
- 2 – That the intellectual and material authors of the threats are investigated and punished.
- 3 – That the departmental and municipal government to call on communities and organizations to collectively build proposals for protection and prevention of human rights violations and these State entities do not pose the further militarization of the territories as the only answer.

We ask

- 1 -Human Rights bodies Institutional Human Rights movement and Social processes to file complaints with the State in protest of the plight they are facing today the communities of Cauca and Cajibío
- 2 - We call on the bodies of control, the International Community, Human Rights Organizations, National and International agencies and the Social Movement, to accompany "The Caravan for Life" to be held in April, in order to verify and make visible the imminent danger faced by communities in the municipality of Cajibío and Cauca.