Human Rights Council, 46th session
Geneva, 15 March 2021

Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council’s attention

Oral statement delivered by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Madam President,
The Final Peace Agreement was an important step towards overcoming the social and armed conflict. However, the government's unwillingness to implement it has made the human rights situation increasingly deplorable.

According to the report presented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, "In 2020, 76 massacres were documented, involving the death of 292 people, and 248 peace signatories have been killed". 1

My name is María Eugenia Mosquera Riascos, family member of a victim, human rights defender and member of the Association of Victims Communities Building Peace in Colombia2.

In this opportunity we present a situation that requires the Council's attention, the case of Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca, where human rights violations, threats, assassinations, forced disappearances, extortion, displacement, dismemberment, confinement, recruitment, sexual violence and expropriation of collective territories are on the rise. Terror is imposed by paramilitary-type structures that operate despite heavy militarisation.
In this context, in January I received threats3, which are directly related to my work of accompaniment and defence of human rights in this part of the country.

We call on the Member States and the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to pay attention to these situations of violations in Buenaventura, an area where there are many foreign economic interests; to exhort the national government to implement the Peace Agreement, to dismantle the remaining paramilitary structures; to comply with the Acuerdo del Paro Cívico de Buenaventura4, to prioritise social investment and not militarisation.

Thank you.

[Translated from the original in Spanish]

2 CONPACOL https://comunidadesconpaz.wordpress.com/
3 FOR Peace Presence y otras organizaciones escribieron una carta pública sobre estas amenazas: https://peacepresence.org/2021/02/01/nuevas-amenazas-contra-maria-eugenia-mosquera-riascos/
4 https://www.mininterior.gov.co/content/gobierno-logra-acuerdos-para-levantar-el-paro-civico-en-buenaventura