

# TEMBLORES.

Bogotá, 25th May 2021

## **Statement to the public opinion and international community in view of the acts of physical and murderous violence perpetrated by the National Police of Colombia in the context of the National Strike demonstrations.**

After almost a month of social demonstrations in the context of the National Strike in Colombia, **Temblores NGO has continued reporting severe human rights violations perpetrated by the Public Force.** Despite multiple alerts raised by national and international media, and social and human rights movements and organizations, we are still registering an increase in the cases of police violence during the National Strike.

After a triangulation and complaints' verification effort, it was possible to identify **3,155 cases of police violence (not including disappearances)** registered in our GRITA platform between **6:00 AM on April 28** and **11:00 PM on May 24, 2021.** Among these cases, it was possible to determine the following figures:

- 955 victims of physical violence
- 43 murders allegedly committed by members of the Security Forces<sup>1</sup>
- 1,388 arbitrary arrests of demonstrators
- 595 violent interventions in the context of peaceful protests
- 46 victims of ocular damage
- 165 firearm shooting cases
- 22 victims of sexual violence
- 5 victims of gender-based violence<sup>2</sup>

Considering the increase in complaints associated with Police violence received in recent days, as well as irregular practices by the Security Forces that we have been documenting and communicating throughout the past few weeks, we express our concern and disagreement with the government's decision to delay the verification visit of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in Colombia. Contrary to the argument of the current Foreign Minister, Marta Lucía Ramírez, claiming that the national control authorities should conclude the investigations before receiving the IACHR, we consider that, due to the urgent character of the human rights crisis in the country, the visit of said international organization should be carried out in parallel to the proceedings of the

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<sup>1</sup> 18 homicides are under the verification process of circumstances related to time, mode of action, place, social context, and alleged perpetrator.

<sup>2</sup> In our previous communications we mentioned 6 cases of gender-based violence. However, after contrasting and verifying, it was possible to conclude that one of the people, who had identified themselves as victims of gender-based violence, was a victim of sexual violence.



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national institutions. The IACHR visit does not represent a threat to the operation of the control mechanisms. In fact, it would rather represent a support and a way to ensure that such investigations are carried out in compliance with international guidelines for the respect of human rights.

Due to the above, and given the unceasing systematic violation of human rights in Colombia, we reiterate our request to the Government to allow the visit of the IACHR in the shortest time possible. We demand that the government and, in general, the different state institutions, make decisions that favor and guarantee respect for human rights, and address the current crisis in compliance with constitutional principles and international human rights standards.

We will continue to rigorously record and verify complaints of Police violence and accompany the victims in their access to justice. We suggest that citizens check and follow our guides for Police violence cases documentation and that they carry out such process from a safe place, without jeopardizing their life nor their integrity. Likewise, we recommend that citizens use the following complaint and legal advice channels:

- a. GRITA <https://www.temblores.org/grita>
- b. Policarpa <https://www.temblores.org/policarpa>
- c. WhatsApp 313 677 9720
- d. E-mail: [grita@temblores.org](mailto:grita@temblores.org)

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