

DECLARATION OF GENOCIDE

Perpetrated by the Government of Colombia against Afro-Colombians

Whereas, we the undersigned people understand that:

- The Colombian government has been complicit in violence perpetrated against Afro-Colombians through its military.
- The Colombian government has operated in conjunction with illegal paramilitary organizations in targeted assassinations of Afro-Colombian community leaders and the bombardment of Afro-Colombian communities in the Chocó region
- The Colombian government and paramilitary organizations are involved in extrajudicial military executions, forced evictions, violent land seizures, threats and harassment of community organizers, as well as their family members and associates.

Therefore, we understand that this harm can only be described as acts of Genocide and Ethnocide by the Colombian government. *Genocide, as defined in Article II of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted on December 9, 1948 explained that "genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."*

In addition to the acts of Genocide perpetrated by the Colombian government and Para-military forces collaborating with the Colombian military, acts of Genocide and Ethnocide can also be attributed to the Colombian government's policies. This is evidenced by the following:

- Centuries of institutionalized racism, exclusion and neglect perpetrated by the central government of Colombian on Afro-Colombians
- Deliberate acts of violence and intimidation that have led to mass displacement and the creation of the second largest displaced group in the world
- Violent and illegal evictions from traditional lands that are coveted by the government, armed groups, and business interests (Afro-Colombian territories are located in or near regions that are rich in resources like oil, gas, coal or other minerals, or regions coveted by corporate interests for agro-industrial projects).
- The adoption of trade policies, particularly the Colombian Free Trade Agreement with the United States, that have continuously degraded the living conditions of Afro-Colombians.
- The failure to abide by Colombian laws granting property rights to Afro-Colombians in the Chocó region

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 (773) 493-0900 (Phone) (773) 493-9819 (Fax) nbufchi@sbcglobal.net www.nbuffront.org

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