

STATEMENT BY U.S.-BASED ORGANIZATIONS CALLING FOR A CUT-OFF OF SECURITY AID TO COLOMBIA AND AN END TO REPRESSION OF PROTESTS IN COLOMBIA

As U.S.-based activists, advocates, and companions of the human rights of all Colombians, we have seen with growing alarm in the weeks since the protests began in Colombia repressive actions by the Colombian security forces against largely peaceful demonstrations.

The daily deluge from Colombian streets and countryside of horrific images and videos of abuses, and the myriad credible reports about the Colombian government's systematic acts of repression, have demonstrated not only a continuing but an escalating attack on the core of human dignity. These images, accounts, and reports demonstrate a refusal of Colombian state agents to acknowledge some of the most basic and fundamental rights of the Colombian citizenry.

The escalation of repression by the police forces, the increasing involvement of the armed forces, and statements of support for these forces by high-level government ministers and supporters indicate a deafness of the Colombian government to the growing international and Colombian clamor for the repression to stop, for the human rights of all to be respected, and for the pursuit of genuine dialogue.

Because the Colombian government appears dead set on continuing and escalating the repression against mostly non-violent and peaceful demonstrators, we call on the Government of the United States of America to immediately stop all police and military assistance and arms and crowd control equipment sales to Colombia.

We urge the Colombian government to end the security force violence, ensure accountability for the abuses, search for the missing, and establish a meaningful dialogue to address the underlying economic and racial inequality and denials of basic human rights that gave rise to the protests.

AFL-CIO	Healing Bridges
Amazon Watch	International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights
Amnesty International USA	Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
ARRAIGO. ORG	Movement Rebel
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	Presbyterian Church (USA)
Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)	Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America	Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
CODEPINK	School of the Americas Watch
Colombia Human Rights Committee	United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Denver Justice and Peace Committee (DJPC)	Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
EarthRights International	Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective
FOR Peace Presence	World BEYOND War