



# South America Report

January  
2021



## Aim of the Report

Global Human Rights Defence is committed to the promotion of human rights of minority and marginalized groups. Through this report, GHRD collected highlights from different media sources that show Brazil and Colombia's current situation. January of 2021, has been a month in which multiple human rights violations have occurred, indigenous people in both countries have been affected by the lack of government protection. Threatens, attacks against their integrity and life, and the absence of measures to combat the current collapse within the health system are increasing their vulnerability situation. In this part of the continent violence against women, prisoners and climate activists is taking place, exposing them to scenarios in which their lives are in danger.

This report is intended to raise awareness about the difficulties that minorities and marginalized groups have to face during these times. GHRD want to bring to light violations that cannot be ignored, situations that are happening and need to be exposed. This report is a tool to represent the voice of those who cannot speak for themselves.

GHRD calls upon the national and international bodies for a constructive policy change in Brazil and Colombia. It is time to take actions and stop ignoring these multiple human rights violations.



<b>Country:</b>	Brazil
<b>Population:</b>	212 million (212.673.512)
<b>Capital:</b>	Brasília
<b>Largest city:</b>	São Paulo
<b>Major languages:</b>	Portuguese is the official language of Brazil. However, there are more than 305 indigenous ethnicities that speak 274 different languages.
<b>Religion:</b>	64% of the population in Brazil (about 123 million) declare themselves to be Catholic; 22.2% (about 42.3 million) declare themselves Protestants (traditional evangelicals, Pentecostals, and neo-Pentecostals); 8% (about 15.3 million) declare themselves without a religion: atheists, agnostics, or deists; and others represent 3.2%.
<b>Ethnicities:</b>	Approximately 47,73% of people in Brazil are white, 43,13% are 'pardo' (combined European, Native and African ancestry), 7.61% is black, 1,09% are Asian ancestry, and 0,43% are indigenous
<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	79,8 years for female and 72,8 for male.

Source: Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística

## Human Rights Issues in Brazil

The groups that are most vulnerable to human rights violations are the ones that suffered the most during Brazil's colonial past: the indigenous and black people. To this day, these ethnic and racial minorities remain more distant from all spheres of power and, consequently, become more exposed to suffer different kinds of discrimination. During more than 300 years of slavery in the Americas, Brazil was the largest importer of African slaves. Furthermore, Brazil was also the last country in the western to abolish slavery in 1888.<sup>1</sup> Nowadays, institutional racism is so ingrained that it is possible to perceive discrimination against black people in Brazilian society.

### The current situation in Brazil

Police violence is a recurring human rights violation in the country, which disproportionately affects the black community. According to Human Rights Watch, in 2019, the police in Brazil killed 6,357 people, one of the world's highest rates of police killings. However, almost 80% of the victims were black.<sup>2</sup>

Regarding the Brazilian native people, the indigenous population has suffered from the impacts of the recent burning and deforestation of the Amazon rainforest. Since Jair Bolsonaro became the President in January 2019, his administration team has weakened the enforcement of environmental law what has impacted indigenous communities. For instance, deforestation in the Amazon rose by 85%, and invasions of Indigenous territories to access their resources increased by 135%, according to the nonprofit Indigenist Missionary Council<sup>3</sup>. Thus, the indigenous population is even more vulnerable to the current Brazilian government, which acts negligently towards the environment and does not present effective protection measures.

1. United Nations, 'Racial Discrimination and Miscegenation: The experience in Brazil'. Available at: <Racial Discrimination and Miscegenation: The Experience in Brazil | United Nations> Accessed on 8 February 2021

2. Human Rights Watch, World Report Brazil Events of 2020. Available at: <World Report 2021: Brazil | Human Rights Watch (hrw.org)> Accessed on 8 February 2021.

3. Human Rights Watch, World Report Brazil Events of 2020. Available at: <World Report 2021: Brazil | Human Rights Watch (hrw.org)> Accessed on 8 February 2021.

## Highlights of January 2021

During January, several human rights against minority and marginalized groups have been violated in Brazil:

- The mismanagement of the coronavirus crisis in Brazilian prisons has caused increased deaths and a rapid scattering of the virus among the prisoners. Brazil already has a delicate situation in its jail regime due to overcrowded prisons and the inmates' lack of humane conditions.
- The lack of specific measures to contain the virus in indigenous communities has worsened their situation, to the point that some experts are starting to refer to the case as genocide.
- The negligence of the Brazilian government to fight the Coronavirus and its deadly consequences in the region of the Amazon lead to some national and international organizations to bring a claim before the IACHR.

## COVID-19 has aggravated Human Rights violations in Brazilian prisons



*Brazilian prisoners live in overcrowded cells in precarious conditions © Photograph: Divulgación / OAB-CE*

The proliferation of the novel Coronavirus has brought an even more perverse reality to the prison population throughout the country, according to the report "The Pandemic of Torture in Prison", released on Friday, January 22 by the National Prison Ministry.

The Pastoral Prison Organization gathered complaints related to the violation of the right to health and optimal conditions for survival amid contamination by the virus. Due to the overcrowding of prison cells, it has been impossible to comply with health protocols. From the 90 claims of violations of Human Rights received last year between March 15 and October 31, 74,4% refer to negligence regarding medical care provision. The violations occurred and continue to appear when the Coronavirus continues to advance rapidly within the prison walls.

Additionally, the report included 53 cases of physical assaults within the prison, 52 complaints of humiliating and degrading treatment conditions. Among them, the absence of sunbathing, water rationing, unrestricted coexistence between sick and healthy prisoners and the obligation to remain in a "procedural position", seated with their heads



down and their hands behind their head for long periods.

More than 50 claims involve the negligence to provide material assistance, which includes the precarious supply of food, clothing, personal hygiene products and cleaning products. Mayra Balan, from the legal sector of the Pastoral Prison Organization and one of the authors of the report, criticizes the federal government's position and the total absence of a plan to fight the virus in the prisons.

"The pandemic and the mismanagement we have faced have allowed Covid-19 to be used as another instrument of torture in prison. When Jair Bolsonaro vetoed the mandatory use of a mask inside prisons, with a pen, he highlighted the extermination policy that is still underway", stressed Balan.

Furthermore, the Pastoral Prison calls out the fact that the register of data and information related to the pandemic and its impact on jails has been very insufficient. Tons of families were blinded regarding the status of the family members in prison. By October last year, only 9.71% of the prison population had been tested for Covid-19. Let's not forget that the Brazil's prison population is the 4th biggest globally with over 812.564 prisoners. The suspension of visitors and religious assistance to avoid contagion prevented the complaints from reaching external bodies such as Pastoral itself. Consequently, it is reasonable to think that the reality is even worse than what is currently known.

There are also testimonies about the aggravation of the prisoners' mental suffering and the development of psychological illnesses due to the brutality of the prison itself and the lack of information about relatives during the pandemic. Other complaints reported the interruption of health treatment for chronic diseases and outbreaks of other diseases such as tuberculosis, which, like Covid-19, affects the respiratory system.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the CNJ warned about the dangers of the proliferation of the Coronavirus in prison and encouraged magistrates to review the arrests of people at risk and those at the end of their sentences who had not committed violent or threatening crimes.

The adaptation to house arrest or electronic surveillance suggested by Resolution 62/2020 is precisely to avoid crowds and prevent contagion in prisons. The text also suggests reevaluating provisional prisons, with priority for pregnant women, nursing mothers, mothers or those responsible for children up to 12 years of age. People with disabilities, the elderly, indigenous people or others who fall into the risk group can also benefit from the Resolution, which is valid until March.

4. Lu Sudre, "Pandemia agrava violações de direitos nas prisões brasileiras, denunciarelatório"( Brasil de Fato, 2021) Accessed Pandemia agrava violações de direitos nas prisões | Direitos Humanos (brasildefato.com.br)

However, a survey conducted by the CNJ in June last year shows that only 32,500 people were removed from the units due to the pandemic. The number is insignificant and comprises only 4.8% of all persons deprived of liberty, excluding the open regime and inmates in police stations.

Mayra Balan adds that even with the Resolution guidelines, judges continue to decree new penalties in a closed regime, inflating the prison population and completely ignoring the high transmissibility of the virus inside the cells. "<sup>4</sup>

## Bolsonaro's policies for indigenous peoples reinforce genocide and colonialist practices



*Two indigenous Brazilian sail over the Ariau river, close to Manaus in the Brazilian Amazon in the midst of the pandemic © Photograph: Ricardo Oliveira / AFP*

The World Health Organization (WHO) has shown particular concern for the Americas' indigenous populations amid the current challenge of fighting Covid-19. However, this concern does not seem to be significant enough for the Brazilian government to encourage specific policies for protecting those peoples.

According to experts, the measures must take into account certain aspects, such as the distance between villages and hospital infrastructures, the different immune response of these populations, and the lack of resources in general, which affects the traditional communities. The Special Secretariat for Indigenous Health (Sesai) reports that it had carried out a series of inter-ministerial actions, such as the sending of tests and protective equipment, the donation of baskets of basic food and the preparation of health equipment in the regions. But the first reading shows that they were not enough. On July 15, indigenous entities used the word genocide to summarize the consequences of the lack of specific planning to contain the Coronavirus in the villages.

In an interview for the BemViver program, on RádioBrasil de Fato, the anthropologist Paulo Santilli, from the Universidade Estadual Paulista (Unesp), stated that the inaction is not surprising given the lack of respect that Jair Bolsonaro has shown to indigenous peoples since the presidential campaign. It goes further by emphasizing that the



treatment given to these communities is contrary to the Constitution: "Indigenous health, in recent decades, has come to structure a differentiated service, which takes into account the knowledge and healing practices of indigenous peoples. During these last decades, we have made decisive advances". He also stated that "In such a short time, in a matter of months, we have reached this debacle. Not only the total deterioration of these services but also in general with the Unified Health System". Santilli assures that the most vulnerable populations will suffer the most significant impact and that the minimum you can expect from a chosen candidate is to fulfil what the Constitution states.

In the most recent decision over Indigenous peoples, Jair Bolsonaro sanctioned the Emergency Plan to fight Covid-19 in these territories. Sixteen points were vetoed, including the government's obligation to provide access to drinking water and guarantee the distribution of hygiene and cleaning products, the development of specific actions to expand hospital beds, the release of emergency funds for indigenous health, projects installation of the internet in the villages, distribution of essential food baskets and easy access to emergency assistance.

However, Paulo Santilli believes that the government's position has similarities with welfare policies that refer to colonial Brazil. As such, he states: "Trinkets, perfunctory or appearance issues that become very serious at that moment. Not only because these overly paternalistic, tutelary policies were overcome, from a time before the Constitution, when the Indigenous were considered to be children and incapacitated madmen, they were tutored. In such an epidemic context, protective measures are distorted. So yes, the term is this: genocide".

In the anthropologist's words, it is impossible to measure the proportion of the damage made to the indigenous communities. In a period before the Constitution, some old genocide practices were reversed. During more than 400 years, the indigenous population was around 4 to 6 million people; however, by the end of the 1970s, the population decreased to a few hundred. It was then when new public politics surrounding early vaccinations, preventive medicine, recognition of territorial rights stopped the decrease. Notwithstanding, there is no way to think about mending given the current brutal setback, there is no way to do retouching.

Finally, it is important to keep in mind that the number of indigenous deaths and infected of Covid-19 is believed to be more serious than what has been presented by the government, with approximately more than 19.773 infected and 590 death.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Nara Lacerda, "Políticas de Bolsonaro para indígenas reforçam genocídio e práticas colonialistas"(BrasildeFato,2021) Accessed Políticas de Bolsonaro para indígenas reforçam | Direitos Humanos (brasildefato.com.br)

## Brazil Government is brought before the IACHR for systematic violations of Human Rights amid the health crisis in the Amazon.



An official of the public cemetery of Manaus is exhausted by the number of bodies to bury due to the Coronavirus. © Photograph: Juliana Pesqueira / Amazônia Real

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is concerned with the Brazilian scenario and reiterates its call for appropriate measures to be adopted for traditional and indigenous peoples. A claim has been brought to the Commission by a wide range of civil society organizations and social actors, which revealed the serious scenario of violations of the right to life, health and integrity, given the collapse in the health system in the state of Amazon and the lack of medical oxygen and hospital supplies during the pandemic. The information was received with concern by the chairman of the Committee and Rapporteur for Brazil, Chile and Honduras, Joel Hernández García, during an emergency meeting at the OAS organ's SACROI - Coordination and Timely Response Division for COVID-19.

It was pointed out to the Commission that the violations aggravated the rights of the Indigenous, quilombola and riverside populations of the Amazon, who were severely affected by Covid-19 due to the lack of access to reliable information about the disease and to protective measures and isolation that could curb the growing number of infected

and deaths. The organizations also highlighted to the Commission that the set of violations becomes even more alarming in the context of the pandemic in Brazil, which has been one of the most affected countries in the world, holding the records for the number of deaths and the worst country dealing with the crisis.

Katia Brasil, journalist and founder of the agency of independent and research journalism Amazônia Real, pointed out that the collapse in public health, especially in the Amazon is a historical case resulting from 40 years of negligence. In light of the pandemic, the calamity scenario is increasingly evident. "The disregard for health in Amazon is so appalling that Manaus is the only city, among the 62 municipalities in Amazonas, which has hospitals with an Intensive Care Unit - ICU. For this reason, many people have already died due to lack of beds in the capital and the countryside, before the current pandemic crisis of the new coronavirus" said the journalist.

The catastrophic scenario that proves the disasters of the pandemic in Manaus had been informed since August 2020. There were warning about the growth of cases and the lack of inputs and, on January 4 to the Ministry of Health lead by General Eduardo Pazuello, who was knowing that the health system could collapse only made a recommendation for early treatment with scientifically proven drugs that can cause cardiac damage and are inefficient to fight the Coronavirus.

Besides the claims presented to the IACHR amidst the difficult sanitary scenario, Brazil has repeatedly failed to comply with the recommendations of the Commission itself and other international bodies to face the pandemic adequately. The organizations have sent this month a request for a precautionary measure to the Commission demanding that the Brazilian state take urgent measures to guarantee the supply of oxygen, hospital supplies and in general decent sanitary conditions for the populating of the Amazon who need to use the public health network. This request is added to the various national and international complaints about the omissions and actions directed by the Brazilian government's political decision not to take measures to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, supported by the racist and ethnocidal ideas of its supporters, culminating in the violation of care protocols and in actions that aggravate the crisis.<sup>6</sup>

6. Amazonia Real, "Governo é denunciado na CIDH por violações sistemáticas aos direitos humanos em meio à crise sanitária no Amazonas" (Amazonia Real, 2021) Accessed

Governo é denunciado na CIDH por violações sistemáticas aos direitos humanos em meio à crise sanitária no Amazonas - Amazônia Real (amazoniareal.com.br)

# COLOMBIA



<b>Country:</b>	Colombia
<b>Population:</b>	48 million (48,258,494)
<b>Capital:</b>	Bogotá
<b>Largest city</b>	Bogotá
<b>Major languages:</b>	The overwhelming majority of Colombians speak Spanish (99,2%), but 101 languages are listed for Colombia in the Ethnologue database.
<b>Religion:</b>	79% of people declare themselves as Catholic Christians. 6% adopt Pentecostalism, 2% mainline protestant while 6% other protestants. 2% other religions and 5% is unspecified.
<b>Ethnicities:</b>	4.4% of the Colombian population belong to the 115 indigenous peoples; 7.3% of the Colombian population belong to the Afro-Colombian population; 0.01% of the Colombian population belong to the Romani people.
<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	77,10 years for female and 70,95 years for male.

## Human Rights Issues in Colombia

In Colombia, the component of civil struggles and wars was the seed from which ethno-racial discrimination germinates, which affected the discriminatory treatment that minorities in Colombia, mainly indigenous and Afro-Colombians have suffered for a long time. Even though the 1991 Political Constitution defined ethnic and cultural wealth as an ideal<sup>7</sup> recognizing and vindicating minorities' rights, indigenous and Afro-Colombians have not had due protection that guarantees their integrity, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The context of widespread violence and neglect of minorities has affected the enjoyment of fundamental rights and has intensified impoverishment, the state of defencelessness, and the loss of hope. Unfortunately, the highest poverty levels, social exclusion, and marginalization occur within areas where most minorities are concentrated.

Source: the National Administrative Department of Statistics



## The current situation in Colombia

Recently, several indigenous communities in Colombia have been affected by threats, acts of intimidation and attempts to evict them from their territories by illegal armed groups. They have called on the National Police and the National Army to guarantee their human rights within the framework of their functions. However, the state has failed to comply with its duty of protection; indigenous people feel invisible.

Indigenous and Afro-Colombian activists and social leaders continue to be targeted with attacks. In just 39 days in 2021, 22<sup>8</sup> social leaders have already been assassinated, and no national government action is known. The security measures are not enough; they must be real.

During the days elapsed in 2021, there have been ten massacres<sup>9</sup> in the national territory. Most of these massacres have occurred in Antioquia, Nariño and Cauca, a situation that shows the absence of the state and the weak institutional presence. In this environment, children, women and peasant used to be the most affected and vulnerable. It is evident that Colombia is experiencing a rise in violence, expressed in murders that must be stopped. The Colombian government cannot continue ignoring the massive human rights violations taking place within the territory; emergency measures must be taken.

7. Blanco Jaqueline, "Colombia multicultural, Historia del derecho a la inclusión, informe final de la Investigación", Revista Dialogos de saberes No. 22, 2005, p. 11.

8. Indepaz, "Líderes Sociales, Defensores de DDHH y firmantes de Acuerdo asesinados o desaparecidos", (2021). Available at: <<http://www.indepaz.org.co/lideres-sociales-y-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-asesinados-en-2021/>> Accessed on 9 February 2021

9. Indepaz, "Informe de masacres en Colombia durante el 2020-2021", Available at: <<http://www.indepaz.org.co/informe-de-masacres-en-colombia-durante-el-2020/>> Accessed on 9 February 2021



## Highlights of January 2021

In January 2021 various human rights violations occurred in Colombia

- At least 13 women became victims of femicide in Colombia during the early weeks of January
- An eleven-year-old climate activist receives death threats on Twitter by urging the government to provide children at home with decent internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Armed groups have threatened the indigenous community of Mojaudo and have violated their human rights

## Femicides in Colombia



Two women are holding a sign with the text: 'Abusing and killing a woman is not something cultural, it is a crime, and it should be directed and treated as such'. © Photograph: Jhon Kenedy Segura Grueso/ KenedyFilms

The brutal death of an eleven-year-old girl in January 2021 marks Colombia's 13th documented victim of femicide in 2021

On January 11 2021, Colombian authorities found the lifeless body of eleven-year-old Maira Alejandra Orobio Solís in Cauca, Colombia near the Monica Home, a place where vulnerable children reside. Maira's body has been found naked with signs of torture and sexual abuse according to the Governorate of Cauca. This incident has caused significant turbulence amongst the community of Cauca.

The day after the crime took place, the community marched on the streets while holding white balloons to protest and request justice for the young victim, asking the authorities not to let the perpetrator(s) stay unpunished. Meanwhile, social media exploded with hashtags such as #JusticiaparaMaira (justice for Maira) and #NiunaMenos (in this context: 'not one woman less') as a way for users to show their disapproval of this horrendous act.

Unfortunately, femicides like this are not unknown in Colombia. For many years, the citizens have been protesting, asking the government to prevent and combat crimes like these urgently. Since the law against femicide no.1761 entered into force in 2015, crimes of femicide are criminalized as an autonomous crime in Colombia. Article 104A of this law states that who causes a woman's death because of her womanhood or due to gender identity motives or where any of the circumstances as mentioned in the article apply, will

face imprisonment of two hundred and fifty months to five hundred months.

The Governate of Cauca has explicitly condemned the acts of violence that caused the girl's death and urged the competent authorities in an official statement to act quickly to clarify the facts and advance the prosecution of the perpetrator(s).<sup>1011</sup>

Sources:

<https://www.cauca.gov.co/Prensa/SaladePrensa/Paginas/COMUNICADO-A-LA-OPINI%C3%93N-P%C3%9ABLICA.aspx>

10. El tiempo, "En lo corrido de 2021 se han registrado 13 feminicidios en el país"(2021) accessed Feminicidio en Colombia: en lo corrido del 2021 se han reportado trece casos - Delitos - Justicia - ELTIEMPO.COM

11. COMUNICADO A LA OPINIÓN PÚBLICA (Cauca, 2021) accessed COMUNICADO A LA OPINIÓN PÚBLICA (cauca.gov.co)

## Threats against Colombian environmental activists



© Photograph via pexels.com by Chris Rodriguez

Eleven years old Colombian environmentalist Francisco Vera has received a death threat through social media which caused an online outrage amongst many people and fellow environmental activists in January 2021

On January 15 the young Colombian environmentalist Francisco Vera (often seen as the Colombian 'Greta Thunberg') received a death threat on his Twitter account after posting a video where he asked the government to provide decent internet access for children learning from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Francisco is known for his environmental campaigns and defence of children's rights.

In Colombia, threats against climate activists often happen and form a sensitive topic for many Colombians and are not taken lightly. According to the NGO Global Witness, an organization that focusses on links between natural resource exploitation and (amongst others) human rights abuses worldwide, Colombia has been considered the country with the most documented killings of climate activists in the year 2019. Although violence in

12. Manuel Rueda, "Francisco Vera, el niño de 11 años que recibe amenazas de muerte en Colombia por defender el medio ambiente" (BBC News, 2021) Accessed Francisco Vera, el niño de 11 años que recibe amenazas de muerte en Colombia por defender el medio ambiente - BBC News Mundo
13. Tatiana Rojas Hernandez, "Colombia encabeza listado mundial de ambientalistas asesinados" (El Tiempo, 2020) Accessed Colombia encabeza listado mundial de ambientalistas asesinados - Medio Ambiente - Vida - ELTIEMPO.COM
14. "ONU felicita labor de Francisco Vera, el niño ambientalista" (El tiempo, 2021) Accessed ONU felicita labor de Francisco Vera, el niño ambientalista - Proceso de Paz - Política - ELTIEMPO.COM
15. Oliver Griffin, "Colombia was deadliest country for land rights activists in 2019" (Reuters, 2020) Accessed Colombia was deadliest country for land rights activists in 2019 | Reuters

Colombia has been diminished since the peace deal of 2016 between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels and the government, many (climate) activists still face dangers during their work-related activities in Colombia. This topic has been widely discussed amongst many NGO's, and it seems that more action needs to be taken to protect the life of climate activists in Colombia.<sup>12131415</sup>

"Like other human rights defenders, environmental human rights defenders enjoy all the same rights and means of protection established in the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals Groups and Institutions to Organs to promote and Protect Human Rights and fundamental freedoms ...To this end, states must establish a safe and conducive environment for advocates without threats, harassment, intimidation or violence."

- *United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures, framework principles on Human Rights and the environment 2018, p.8*

12. Manuel Rueda, "Francisco Vera, el niño de 11 años que recibe amenazas de muerte en Colombia por defender el medio ambiente" (BBC News, 2021) Accessed Francisco Vera, el niño de 11 años que recibe amenazas de muerte en Colombia por defender el medio ambiente - BBC News Mundo
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14. "ONU felicita labor de Francisco Vera, el niño ambientalista" (El tiempo, 2021) Accessed ONU felicita labor de Francisco Vera, el niño ambientalista - Proceso de Paz - Política - ELTIEMPO.COM
15. Oliver Griffin, "Colombia was deadliest country for land rights activists in 2019" (Reuters, 2020) Accessed Colombia was deadliest country for land rights activists in 2019 | Reuters



## Threats and attacks on Colombia's indigenous communities



Illustrative. Two native women in the indigenous village of La Guajira, Colombia. Photograph via shutterstock.com by William RG

In January 2021 the Colombian indigenous community of Mojaudo received threats from the Colombian largest illegal armed group Las Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC)

On January the 22th, members of the Colombian indigenous community 'Mojaudo', including the governor, teachers and the indigenous guard were inspecting their territory when they suddenly got detained on their territory by armed men who belonged to the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces (AGC), also known as the 'Gulf Clan'.

The self-defence forces also detained three indigenous women, one of them being pregnant, who were collecting their subsistence crops. These women were threatened with weapons by the Self-Defence forces for them to provide information. When the armed men entered the village, they searched through every house to go through the indigenous community's possessions. They found rice, oil, lentils and other products, which the self-defence forces of the AGC saw as the property of another armed group; The National Liberation Army (ELN), which could be considered a threat to the forces of AGC. Within the community of Mojaudo, there is fear and concern about the direct threats

against three community teachers, who are being accused of assisting the ELN groups. The National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) expresses her concerns about the situation. The organization states that the Mojaudo community consists of 63 families, and at this moment, they are in complete confinement with no freedom of movement in the area, which can lead to food shortages. The organization has subsequently demanded the responsible authorities to carry out urgent actions of protection for the indigenous peoples of the department of Chocó and confront the armed groups that threaten the indigenous community's life and tranquillity. It is not the first time that indigenous communities are faced with threats or violence from armed groups. The indigenous groups are very vulnerable to the country's ongoing armed conflict. In many cases, this has resulted in the forced displacement of the communities.

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<https://www.onic.org.co/noticias/4114-asociacion-orewa-hace-una-alerta-urgente-sobre-la-grave-situacion-humanitaria-que-enfrentan-las-comunidades-indigenas-de-mojaudo-y-playa-blanca-en-bojaya-choco>

16. "COMUNICADO A LA OPINIÓN PÚBLICA"(Asorewa,2021) Accessed ASOREWA - DENUNCIA PÚBLICA

17. "Asociación Orewa hace una ALERTA URGENTE sobre la grave situación humanitaria que enfrentan las comunidades indígenas de Mojaudo y Playa Blanca en Bojayá, Chocó" (Onic, 2021) Accessed ONIC - Asociación Orewa hace una ALERTA URGENTE sobre la grave situación humanitaria que enfrentan las comunidades indígenas de Mojaudo y Playa Blanca en Bojayá, Chocó

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Global Human Rights Defence is concerned for all human rights violations of minorities and marginalized people. The lack of protection by the state, the absence of measures to support them have denied the opportunity to move forward and exercise their rights. GHRD condemns all these practices and calls upon the international community. We highly recommend that the international community look at these issues as:

- The extreme vulnerability of prisoners in the face of the pandemic demands that these people be treated as a priority group during the pandemic. Therefore, the international community must remain vigilant about how measures to prevent the proliferation of the Coronavirus, and the vaccination plan is being carried out to people in prison in Brazil to protect their right to health.
- There is a significant concern towards the absence of health facilities closed to the territories of the indigenous people in the Amazon and lack of resources in general which significantly aggravates the situation of these minorities amidst the coronavirus pandemic. It is feared that if special and strong measures are not taken immediately, we might be facing an unprecedented number of deaths and losses within the indigenous community. As such, The international community encourages the Brazilian government and its institutions to continue to make an effort to protect these communities' lives and health that remain in a vulnerable position during this difficult time.
- The escalating number of femicides committed by men in Colombia is dramatically increasing due to the weak joint inter-institutional and inter-jurisdictional, but also because of the patriarchal culture. If the Colombian government does not take proper measures, women will continue to die. The international community can make women voices heard and their rights recognized and respected.

Threats against climate activists often turn into assassinations. In the case of threats against children activists, who deserve special protection, the international community should protect their lives and offer efficient measures that eliminate the risk of attacks against their life and integrity.

- Today, indigenous peoples continue to suffer from severe threats, violence, and killings due to the unlawful intrusions on their territory by paramilitary groups. The indigenous peoples, who mainly reside in rural areas, are particularly vulnerable to

these kinds of conflicts as they mostly don't have the resources to stand up for themselves. It is thus necessary that the Colombian government urgently takes adequate measures to protect the lives of the indigenous peoples and act according to their legal obligations as set out in national and international Human Rights legislation. The international community should know about the severe human rights violations from which the indigenous communities in Colombia suffer. By addressing this topic to a broader audience, we can raise global awareness for these violations, and we can urge the competent authorities to take action.



# South America Report January 2021

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## Referential

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This report highlights the various human rights violations in Brazil and Colombia during January (2021). In compiling this report, GHRD used information from different sources that covered these grave inhuman violations.

Therefore GHRD wants to pay their gratitude to the following sources:

**Amazonia Real**

Independent and investigative journalism that gives visibility to populations and issues in the Amazon.

**ASOREWA**

A Colombian indigenous organization which fights and defences indigenous rights. ASOREWA offers a variety of news ranging from education and health to politics and culture.

**BBC News**

An operational business division of the British Broadcasting Corporation responsible for the gathering and broadcasting of news and current affairs.

**BrasildeFato**

Brazilian online newspaper and a radio agency. Brasil de Fato contributes to the debate of ideas and analysis of facts from the point of view of the need for social change.

**ElTiempo**

A Spanish daily newspaper published in Colombia. El Tiempo offers a variety of news ranging from politics and finance to sports and social events.

**ONI**

A Colombian Indigenous organization which daily publishes news related to indigenous people.

**Reuters**

An international news agency established in London. It is a guide for fair presentation and disclosure of relevant interests.

**UNWOMEN News**

The United Nations' news platform is dedicated to publishing issues related to women, gender equality, and empowerment.