

Berlin, Germany, July 30th 2023

Gustavo Petro Urrego

President of the Republic of Colombia

Dear Mr. President Gustavo Petro Urrego,
Dear Ms. Irene Vélez Torres,
Dear Ms. María Susana Muhamad González,

We are writing to you as concerned human rights organizations, political groups, social movements, local collectives, environmental activists, and citizens from different cities in Germany, to express our deep concern regarding the current situation faced by the Yukpa indigenous people in Colombia.

We had the honor of hosting a delegation of Indigenous leaders and authorities from the Yukpa People of Colombia, including Esneda Saavedra, the current National Councilor for Human Rights and Peace of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC). They decided to leave their land in the Serranía del Perijá to leave the unbearable humanitarian situation they have been exposed to for several years.

The Yukpa People, classified as at imminent risk of extinction by the Colombian Constitutional Court since 2009, is on the brink of disappearing forever due to the loss of 85% of their territory, which they depend on structurally for survival. This dire situation is primarily caused by multinational corporations, such as Drummond and Glencore, engaging in coal mining within their ancestral territory without proper consultation, thereby violating their fundamental right to free, prior, and informed consent. These corporations have also diverted crucial rivers necessary for the community's subsistence, incited paramilitary violence, and contributed to the prevalence of respiratory diseases. Shockingly, approximately 40 children lose their lives each year as a result, with no accountability or legal repercussions.

Despite the existence of a ruling from the Colombian Constitutional Court (**Sentencia T-713 de 2017**), which urge the Colombian government to demarcate the ancestral lands of the Yukpa Indigenous People, and which potentially represents a significant step towards resolving their problems, successive Colombian governments have refused to comply with it.

Mr. President of Colombia Gustavo Petro, we as part of civil society in Germany we want to express our deep concern about the serious humanitarian situation the Yukpa People are facing. Considering that your government is committed to achieve the PAZ TOTAL, **we are sending you this letter to invite you to comply with the Sentencia T713 de 2017 from the Constitutional Court. Without it, the Yukpa Indigenous People will never achieve the long-awaited peace.**

We eagerly await your prompt response and appreciate your willingness to comply with the mentioned ruling in advance.

The Yukpa Indigenous People have our full support in Germany.

Sincerely,