



Afro-Colombian Human Rights Defenders Campaign strongly condemns the assassination of another community leader in the area of Buenaventura, Colombia

Demetrio Lopez was shot several times on Saturday, March 23 in the town La Caucana, located at 15 kilometers from Buenaventura. Mr. Lopez was the president of the La Caucana Community Council.

According to the [communication](#)ⁱ issued by the Black Communities Process' Human Rights Group, Mr. Lopez resigned his position as president because of irregularities on the election of the executive committee and legal representative of the Community Council and concerns about his own security

The ACHRD campaign joins the demand to the Colombian Attorney General's office and the Inspector General's office to investigate the circumstances surrounding this murder and to bring all responsible to justice. Eliminating the culture of impunity is imperative to ensure the security of the Afro-Colombian human rights defenders. Death threats have become an everyday experience for Afro-Colombian human rights defenders. A number of these threats become reality without the government paying any attention to them. None of the leaders have received proper protection and in these cases where threats resulted in actually assassinations the governments response has either been inadequate or non-existent. , As a result, the perpetrators of these egregious violations of the human rights of Afro-Colombia leaders and people are secure that their violence, intimidation and threats will be met with silence and lack of action from the Colombian government.

The Afro-Colombian Human Rights Defenders Campaign exhorts the international human rights community to publicly condemn the assassination of Demetrio Lopez and urge the Colombian authorities to effectively ensure the protection of the Afro-descendant human rights defenders.

In the light of the Minister of Interior Fernando Carillo's visit to Washington, DC this week, ACHRD Campaign urges allies to rise with the Minister what concrete steps are being taken by the government to ensure the protection and safety of Afro-Colombia human rights defenders and their communities.

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ⁱ http://renacientes.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=948:asesinaron-a-demetrio-lopez-lider-del-consejo-comunitario-la-caucana&catid=59:alertas-y-denuncias&Itemid=272