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Perpetrated attacks against civil society organizations in Colombia

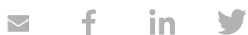
On January 19, 2022, the social organization headquarters', in Colombia, Arauca, was attacked with explosives that lead to one death and several injured.

Human Rights International Network Europe (RIDHE), in its capacity as an international organization specially dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean region, vehemently condemns the above-mentioned events.

The perpetrated attack reaffirms civil society organizations' concerns over the increasingly growing militarization in the territory and its consequent implications for the fulfillment of local leader's fundamental rights, as well as the communities of Arauca inhabitants, who raise their voices against the territorial disputes between the paramilitary groups and their persistent interference in the departments of the Colombian State.

Bearing in mind the aforementioned events, RIDHE calls upon the European Union to:

- Prioritize the human rights deteriorating situation in Colombia, incorporating into the European political agenda mediation strategies and dialogue mechanisms between the international community and Colombian civil society actors.
- Convincingly condemn the attack perpetrated against the headquarters of the social organizations of Arauca through the implementation of practical external actions within the framework of the EU strategy, to support Colombia towards a transition to peace and respect for international law and human rights standards.
- Support human rights defenders, as well as intervene in actions regarding their empowerment.
- Support civil society organizations, especially organizations specialized in the defense of human rights in Colombia.



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