



Thompson Rivers University Students' Union
Local 15 Canadian Federation of Students

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Señor Juan Manuel Santos
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26, Bogotá, Columbia

February 23, 2018

Prevent the Endangerment and Displacement of Indigenous Communities in Chocó

Dear President Santos,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union we are writing to urge you to ensure urgent humanitarian aid is provided to forcibly displaced and confined communities in **Chocó**, to prevent the displacement of Indigenous communities from their territories, and to guarantee Indigenous civilian's rights as victims of the armed conflict by ensuring that the Colombian government and the Colombian National Army are not drawing civilians into the armed conflict.

We are deeply troubled by reports from Amnesty International of government operations and bombings that have impacted and displaced the Indigenous communities of Chagpien Tordó, Santa María Pangala, and Estrella Pangala.

We strongly believe that you and the government of Columbia have a responsibility under international law to investigate these reports, including international humanitarian law which requires parties to armed conflict to distinguish between the civilian population and combatants. If your investigation finds these reports to be true, then we would urge you to immediately halt all operations that illegally harm these Indigenous communities and hold all accountable officials responsible for these actions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Gilbert
President
TRU Students' Union

Caitlin Orteza
Vice-President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc: Director of Victims' Unit Yolanda Pinto de Gaviria, Ambassador Nicolás Lloreda Ricaurte