

STATEMENT BY THE CEDECOL'S PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

The CEDECOL Peace and Justice Commission, in the face of the critical situation in our country, wishes to share the following reflection and assessment:

1. The Peace Commission has always worked for the construction of peace and reconciliation. Our accompaniment has been primarily to the victims of the armed conflict.
2. The Commission has permanently opted for active nonviolent action. We consider it legitimate to protest peacefully and to concentrate on expressing its discontent. In the same way, we do not support armed demonstrations from groups outside the peaceful demonstration.
3. We reject the participation of these groups infiltrated to harm the public and private good. Still, we also object that the peaceful demonstration of civil society is delegitimized, labeling it as the result of terrorism and drug trafficking.
4. We reject the excessive use of force by state security agencies to quell the protest. The excessive use of force has left 31 people killed, 1,220 injured, 9 cases of sexual violence, 87 missing, 9 cases of sexual violence, 18 victims of eye injuries, 200 assaults caused by the police, and 1565 violent acts. (Numbers reported between April 28 and May 4, 2021, Source: Indepaz).
5. We invite the Government, as an established authority, to open the doors to a broad and sincere dialogue, that with political will, heed the clamor made by millions of Colombians concentrated in different cities of the country.
6. We encourage the churches to accompany this process with prayer, participation, and a reconciling presence, with an autonomous voice independent of political interests.
7. We ask our sister churches and organizations in other countries to show solidarity with us by spreading and influencing before the instances that can be heard by the Colombian Government.

Shalom,

CEDECOL Peace and Justice Commission