

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
50<sup>th</sup> Session, 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2022

**Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**

**ORAL STATEMENT OF PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL**

***Speaker: Kim-Mai Vu***

Thank you Mr. President,

PBI welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur.

In Kenya, the Missing Voices Coalition documented 187 alleged extrajudicial executions in 2021, an increase of 29 compared to 2020. Of grave concern are the long delays in investigation of extrajudicial executions and in the courts, threats to witnesses and human rights defenders who fight against police violence; and the resulting denial of justice for victims and family.

In line with the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, it is imperative that Kenya operationalize the Coroners Service Act, enacted in 2017, that establishes an independent National Coroners Service. However, as of yet no Coroner-General has been appointed and no Service has been established. The operationalization of this Act would be a significant step towards prompt, effective and impartial investigations of extrajudicial executions.

In Colombia, extrajudicial executions persist. Despite the reforms introduced in the 1990s, practice shows that the Minnesota Protocol is not properly applied. In cases where the rural civilian population is presented as having been killed in combat by the armed forces, as in the recent case of the Puerto Leguizamo massacre in April 2022, or where there are serious doubts about how events occurred, victims and human rights organizations denounce the lack of implementation of the Minnesota Protocol by the armed forces.

Similar situations occur in the cases of civilians arbitrarily executed in contexts of social protest, where military criminal justice continues to operate and substantially affects due process especially the initial evidence gathering phase of the legal proceedings. The cases of Dilan Cruz, the youth of Cali and the 9 September massacre are emblematic examples.

We are also concerned about the lack of security guarantees for the families of the victims, their legal representatives and the persistent re-victimization as well as the widespread impunity for extrajudicial executions.

Thank you Mr. President.