



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

May 28, 2019

BY EMAIL: contacto@presidencia.gov.co

Snr. Ivan Duque Marquez
President of the Republic of Colombia
Palacio de Nariño
Bogota, Colombia

Dear President Duque,

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), representing over 72,000 academic staff across Canada, denounces the political violence against labour, human rights and Indigenous rights activists in Colombia that has worsened in the past months.

According to the International Trade Union Confederation, paramilitary groups have assassinated over 500 trade union and human rights defenders since 2018 alone. Colombian authorities must address this surge in violence immediately. We urge you to intensify efforts to prevent such murders and ensure that those responsible are held to account.

As part of the international community of educators, CAUT stands in solidarity with our sister organizations in Colombia and we will continue to monitor closely the human and trade union rights situation in the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Robinson
Executive Director

/mmp

- c.c. The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada
(Chrystia.Freeland@international.gc.ca)
Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez, Ministerio del Interior de Colombia
(servicioalciudadano@ministerior.gov.co)
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