

Maloca Internationale

Peacebuilding and peacekeeping in Colombia widely depends on civil society human rights activists, as they are key actors working for the implementation of the peace agreements in the field. On November 21st, Indigenous leader Mario Jacanamijoy was found dead in the department of Caqueta, Colombia. Preliminary forensic examinations indicate the victim has been tortured. Mario was a prominent member of grassroots organizations fighting for the rights of the Inga ethnic group. He was also a spiritual follower of yagé medicine, ayahuasca, and one of the founders of the Union of Indigenous Yagé Medics of the Colombian Amazon, UMIYAC. The revitalization of traditional cultural practices is a way to foster ethnic identity among youth indigenous leaders. The Union of Indigenous Yagé Medics of the Colombian Amazon UMIYAC is working for the protection and promotion of these practices and identity. The death of Mario Jacanamijoy is part of the massive killing of grassroots activists that is undermining peacebuilding in Colombia. We ask the Colombian state to investigate the death of Mario Jacanamijoy, and the international community to make pressure over Colombian authorities in order to stop the massive killing of human rights activists. Finally, we kindly ask this forum to include in its report to the Human Rights Council a recommendation concerning the protection of youth minority human rights activists. And thank you.