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E-000719/2021

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(4.5.2021)

The EU gives high priority to this critical situation, raised also in the latest reports of the United Nations Verification Mission and of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR). As indicated in the statement of the High Representative/Vice-President's Spokesperson of 26 February 2021<sup>1</sup>, the EU fully supports the recommendations of the OHCHR.

The EU has raised its concerns with the Government, encouraging enhanced efforts to protect the population at risk and improve effectiveness of investigations, and to promote structural changes that will contribute to improving the human rights situation through implementing the Peace Agreement in its entirety. The EU will continue its diplomatic efforts in particular through its Special Envoy and the Delegation in Bogota, as well as with its Member States, in bilateral meetings and dialogues, while complementing Government efforts through its own programmes, projects and initiatives.

The EU provides financial support to the implementation of the peace agreement through a wide range of instruments, including the EU Trust Fund, the Instrument for Stability and Peace (IcSP) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The EU Trust Fund focusses on socio-economic reincorporation of ex-combatants and rural development<sup>2</sup> and through EIDHR, support is provided to human rights defenders. In addition, the EU provides considerable humanitarian support helping vulnerable populations.

Actions under the IcSP in the past four years sum up more than EUR 40 million in areas including demining, education, access to justice, support to the Ombudsman and the OHCHR, as well as support to all three institutions of the transitional justice system established under the peace agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/china/93908/colombia-statement-spokesperson-violence-against-human-rights-defenders\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/china/93908/colombia-statement-spokesperson-violence-against-human-rights-defenders_en)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fondoeuropeoparalapaz.eu/en/about-eutf/>