



Indigenous Council of the Guambian People
NIT 817.000.162-9
www.pueblomisak.org

Carrera 2° No 11-21– tel 092- 825-1211 y fax 825-1019- Silvia, Cauca

517 YEARS AFTER THE INVASION CAUSING THE LARGEST ETHNOCIDE IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND, THE BARBARISM AND ASSAULTS AGAINST NATIVE COMMUNITIES STILL CONTINUE FOR THE PEOPLE OF ANCESTRAL MISAK, COLOMBIA.

We of the ancient community of Misak, children of water, dreams, and stories, reside in the province of Cauca and have lived through over 517 years of systematic barbarism, ethnocide, death, and distress. We are a people that, since the mid-19th century, have been part of the process of organizing the indigenous movement in the province of Cauca and the rest of Colombia to publicize to the country and world that we are the first inhabitants of the ancestral lands of the continent Abya Yala (America) and thus have a **SACRED RIGHT** which gives us the authority to proclaim that we are an ancient nation and legitimate children of Mother Nature.

This historical legacy has been for the Misak, as well as for other peoples, the basis of the fight for the principles of Territory, Authority, Autonomy, Identity, and Self-Determination that are constantly flowing through us and weaving through our voices as we promote the life, dignity, and freedom that are inexistent in Colombia. Our fight has always been in defense of Mother Earth; our words have fallen on the deaf ears of capitalism and the powerful families that govern our country with a model inherited from the invasion and colonization of Northern countries through theft and looting—still following the patriarchal model based on the subjugation and destruction of human beings and the environment. Our historic struggle has always been for respect, life, solidarity, and sovereignty, but the response of governments has been based on the logic of development, progress, and excessive accumulation, separating the human being from Mother Earth and establishing indiscriminate exploitation. This mindset has turned everything into commodities: water, earth, humankind, native peoples, biodiversity, social justice, ethics, rights, dignity, and freedom of all Colombians who are exposed by the selling of them all to the highest international bidder. Our historic fight has attempted to spread the message about the current dangers to human life-- that our mother is mortally wounded, that the climate in which we live today has experienced an increase of 2 ° in its temperature, that 50% of the damage to Mother Nature is irreversible, that 30% of our species are disappearing-- all products of ambition for economic, political, and military domination. We have fought to re-establish the harmony between nature and men, which is only possible when there is equity and social justice, and when our mother is granted her due respect.

But the response of governments has been the same as always; they try to silence us through death, ethnocide, threats, displacement, discrimination, xenophobia, censorship, and "democratic security" that criminalize all that we say and do. In addition, they enact laws that are intended to bring us down. Likewise, the voices of groups and organizations that mobilize in support of human rights and life are persecuted with the complicity of the Colombian government because, in this country, those who exercise the right to dissent and that of opposition are cataloged as military objectives.



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Within the long list of actions perpetrated by the government and armed groups to various indigenous peoples and human rights organizations, today we must report to the country and world that last Tuesday, April 27, 2010, an email containing a pamphlet bearing the official AUC logo arrived to the Ancestral Authority of the Misak in Silvia, Cauca, Colombia and several other leaders. It threatened us and requested that we abandon our fight against the government, *"...Order the indigenous leaders to throw out the speech and archaic facts used to support indigenous rights and ideologies that attack the good and noble intentions of the government to create peace ... "* declaring the military objectives of 2 ancestral governors of the Misak tribe, 11 mothers, 4 Misak public relations/radio specialists, and 19 fathers who are currently leading important processes of re-existence at the community level. They also warned, *"... immediately suspend internal and external processes that are committed to upholding this fight ... we are not responsible for what may happen to leaders of the Guambian people ... "* This threat is a critical reality of the country in which the government has always ignored these actions and does not make declarations or put forth effort to protect life and its integrity, becoming an accomplice by inaction and omission. It continues to contradict the rights consecrated in the Constitution, which guarantees life, respect, multiculturalism, and autonomy of peoples, in addition to the obligations of the Colombian state to comply with international treaties-- such as the 169 Agreement of the International Labor Organization and the UN Universal Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Therefore, the Misak people, based on the SACRED RIGHT and its Misak Cultural Permanence Plan denounce before the international and national communities the danger to the right to life of our leaders, and we request that human rights organizations, the UN, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS, conduct follow-up investigations into this threat. We also demand that the Colombian State begin its own investigation and provide immediate protection to the Misak people and the persons explicitly threatened and comply with the ruling 004 of the Constitutional Court, which noted the disappearance of important native peoples if the government does not guarantee the implementation of effective and widespread policies.

**OUR FIGHT IS FOR LIFE OF HUMANITY, NOT FOR DEATH; WE WILL RE-EXIST
FOREVER IN TIME AND SPACE.**

ANCESTRAL TERRITORY OF THE MISAK PEOPLE
SILVIA, CAUCA
COLOMBIA.
MAY 01, 2010.
ANCESTRAL AUTHORITY OF THE MISAK PEOPLE