



Washington, D.C., June 10, 2019

To: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais Wilson, 52 rue des Pâquis  
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

and

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
1889 F Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006 USA

Via email: adesouza@ohchr.org

*Re: Submission to Questionnaire on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas:  
Environmental and Human Rights Defenders in Antioquia, Colombia*

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., which uses the power of law to protect the environment, promote human rights, and ensure a just and sustainable society. In response to the call for inputs for the forthcoming joint report on the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas, CIEL presents the following submission regarding the situation of environmental and human rights defenders in Antioquia, Colombia.

We respectfully draw your attention in particular to events that unfolded in this region just last month. On May 16, 2019, CIEL received reports that persons associated with the Movimiento Ríos Vivos and Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia, and perhaps others, had been wounded that afternoon in an attack between Tarazá and Valdivia in the department of Antioquia. Seven persons were injured and two were killed in the attack. One of those killed was Diana Gutierrez, a cousin of William Gutierrez, who serves as the President of the Asociación de Pescadores y Barequeros de Puerto Valdivia and is a leader in the Movimiento. We are deeply concerned that this attack represents the continuation of a pattern of attacks targeting family members of social leaders associated with the Movimiento as a form of reprisal for their opposition to a large hydroelectric project being undertaken in this region.

CIEL remains at your disposal should you require additional information in this regard. Our contact information is as follows:

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Country: CIEL is an international nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., USA. CIEL supports Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia (MRVA) and the communities in the municipalities of Briceño, Ituango, Toledo, San Andrés de Cuerquia, Valdivia, Sabanalarga, Peque, and Caucasia Antioquia, which are impacted by the construction and future operation of the Ituango Hydroelectric Project (also known as the HidroItuango dam). For this reason, we are focusing the information in this submission on the sub-region of Antioquia, Colombia.

Attribution: We respectfully request that the information contained herein be attributed to the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and to Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia (MRVA).

Thank you in advance for your attention to these urgent matters, as well as to the difficult and often dangerous situations facing environmental and human rights defenders in the Americas more generally.

Respectfully,

Carla García Zendejas  
Director, People, Land & Resources Program  
Center for International Environmental Law



**Response to the Questionnaire on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas  
Environmental and Human Rights Defenders in Antioquia, Colombia**  
Submitted by the Center for International Environmental Law  
June 10, 2019

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) respectfully requests that the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights take note of the threats and ongoing attacks targeting human and environmental rights defenders who oppose the Ituango Hydroelectric Project, located in Antioquia, Colombia. This situation will be the subject of the responses that follow.

**Responding to:**

- **Situation of human rights defenders:**

**What do you consider to be the contextual factors - positive and/or negative - that have had the greatest impact on the situation of human rights defenders in your country and/or region since 2016?**

**What are the main causes and/or risk situations that contribute to a situation of violence and vulnerability against human rights defenders?**

1. Environmental and human rights defenders face a heightened risk of violence when voicing opposition to large-scale infrastructure and extractive industry projects, including when such projects have multilateral development financing.

For example, Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia (MRVA) and communities<sup>1</sup> located in areas impacted by the construction and future operation of the Ituango Hydroelectric Project (also known as the Hidro Ituango dam) – including the communities in the municipalities of Briceño, Ituango, Toledo, San Andrés de Cuerquia, Valdivia, Sabanalarga, Peque, and Caucasia Antioquia – have experienced threats and acts of violence prior to and since the year 2016. (These threats and acts of violence are described in greater detail below.) These communities have been voicing concerns about damming the Cauca River since 2008, well before the dam project was approved in 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> CIEL supports Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia (MRVA) and which are impacted by the construction and future operation of the Ituango Hydroelectric Project (also known as the Hidro Ituango dam). With an international coalition, we have filed a complaint before the Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (MICI) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), challenging investments by the IDB in the project. See Support for Structuring the Ituango Hydroelectric Project (MICI-BID-CO-2018-0133), Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism, June 5, 2018, <https://www.iadb.org/en/mici/complaint-detail?ID=MICI-BID-CO-2018-0133&nid=23505>.

Currently, the Hidroituango dam is under construction on the Cauca River in northwest Colombia. It is planned to be the largest hydroelectric plant in the country.<sup>2</sup> The issues that affected communities raise include concerns about the dam's potential to cause severe environmental degradation, including extensive deforestation and habitat loss, negative impacts on air, soil, and water quality, and the flooding of 11,120 acres. Further concerns include the negative impacts of the project on many of the 180,000 people who depend on the river for their livelihoods, including for fishing, artisanal mining, and agriculture.<sup>3</sup> Some 700 families have already been forcibly evicted due to the project.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, environmental defenders and social leaders in the region have continuously pointed out that neither the company carrying out the project – state-owned Empresas Públicas de Medellín (EPM) – nor the Colombian government carried out proper surveys of those impacted by the project nor informed the affected communities properly about the project. EPM and the Colombian government have similarly failed to carry out adequate consultations regarding the project impacts or the resettlement plans.

As mentioned the Ituango Hydroelectric Project would be the largest hydroelectric dam in Colombia, the massive scale of this mega-project has required billion dollar investments and financing from a diverse set of institutions including multilateral development finance institutions and commercial banks. Among those institutions providing financing for Hidroituango are the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES), Export Development Canada, the Canadian pension fund (CDPQ), the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), and Germany's KfW IPEX. We would note the significance of the Inter-American Development Bank's<sup>5</sup> role in this project as it has not only provided loans and financing for project creation but it has also served as a way to leverage other investors for EPM.

The IDB's investment in Hidroituango is of great significance as its environmental and social policies and its development mandate are touted as a major factor in its involvement in the project. Ultimately, as with other mega-projects, the high level of risk that comes with project implementation is weighed against the capacity of institutions to carry out in depth environmental and social review so as to avoid undue harm. In the case of the Hidroituango project, more than 400 individuals from Antioquia who are a part of Movimiento Rios Vivos<sup>6</sup> have filed a complaint at the accountability mechanism<sup>7</sup> of the IDB to challenge the bank's decision to finance the project, as well as, its due diligence processes and monitoring of the project in Antioquia, Colombia.

<sup>2</sup> Hidroeléctrica Ituango, "Información general" ["General information"], 2016, <https://www.hidroituango.com.co/hidroituango/informacion-general/26#c26>.

<sup>3</sup> "Economía" ["Economy"], Alcaldía de Ituango, June 22, 2017, <http://www.ituango-antioquia.gov.co/MiMunicipio/Paginas/Economia.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> Maria Fernanda Lizcano, "Colombia: La muerte de Hugo y Luis, dos líderes que se enfrentaban a Hidroituango" ["Colombia: the death of Hugo and Luis, two leaders who confronted Hidroituango"], Mongabay, May 11, 2018, <https://es.mongabay.com/2018/05/asesinan-dos-lideres-ambientales-opositores-a-hidroituango-colombia/>.

<sup>5</sup> The Inter-American Development Bank has made several investments into the Hidroituango Project both from its public and private lending arm: <https://www.iadb.org/en/project/CO-T1250>, Apoyo a la Estructuración del Proyecto Hidroeléctrico Ituango; CII. 11794-04 EPM: Ituango Hydropower Plant. <http://www.iic.org/es/proyectos/colombia/11794-04/epm-ituango-hydropower-plant>; and "IDB Invest signs largest renewable energy project in Colombia," Inter-American Investment Corporation, January 4, 2018, <http://www.iic.org/en/media/news/idb-invest-signs-largest-renewable-energy-project-colombia#.WwREjFMvyF0>;

<sup>6</sup> Communities affected by Hidroituango dam in Colombia file complaint at IDB <https://www.ciel.org/news/communities-hidroituango-dam-colombia-file-complaint-idb/>

<sup>7</sup> The Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism case number MICI-BID-CO-2018-0133 <https://www.iadb.org/en/mici/complaint-detail?ID=MICI-BID-CO-2018-0133&nid=23505>

2. Environmental and human rights defenders face a heightened risk of violence when they live and work in areas that have been or continue to be the sites of armed conflict.

Aside from the many negative environmental and social implications of the Hidroituango dam project for communities, they are living with a heightened level of insecurity, in a historically ravaged area of Colombia. A region that still has high rates of violence, forced displacement and complex interplay between the FARC, the government and other armed actors stemming from Colombia's civil war. (See: Defensoría del Pueblo, Informe de Riesgo N° 003-17.) Families and community members who have depended on the Cauca River for their livelihood for generations, have been the victims of displacement and relocation several times before as they have had to flee their homes during the height of the armed conflict.

Indeed, the region in which this project is being conducted was marred by intense violence during the era of armed conflict in Colombia. Well over 50 massacres and hundreds of victims of enforced disappearance were documented in the 12 municipalities most impacted by the dam.<sup>8</sup> A critical concern arising from the construction of the dam is that it could result in flooding over mass graves located in the area, even as affected communities have consistently called for the exhumation of the graves, hoping to locate loved ones who disappeared during the conflict and to preserve historical memory through transitional justice initiatives.<sup>9</sup>

It should be noted that dam operations have already flooded some of the graves of people killed or disappeared during the war and once again displaced families and communities which had been removed from their homes during the armed conflict. In addition, the Colombian Human Rights Ombudsperson's Office (Defensoría del Pueblo) has noted disproportionate use of force and other failures to observe International Humanitarian Law, which has impacted the civilian population. (See: Defensoría del Pueblo, Informe de Riesgo N° 010-17 A.I.)

Responding to:

- **Attacks or restrictions:**

**What are the most recent statistics on attacks and restrictions against human rights defenders in the country or region? Please indicate the source of the information and indicate the period covered.**

**What are the main types of attacks and restrictions against human rights defenders in the country or region? Do you see any change since 2016? If possible, identify if there is a geographic area that needs to be highlighted in particular.**

**What are the consequences and impact of the attacks and restrictions at the individual and collective level (both in the scope of the organizational space and in broader social spaces)?**

<sup>8</sup> Hidroituango: Desaparecer a los Desaparecidos ["Hidroituango: to disappear the disappeared"], Human Rights Everywhere, May 2018, <https://desaparicionforzada.co/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Hidroituango-desaparecer-a-los-desaparecidos.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Joe Parkin Daniels & Brams Ebus, "Colombians who once fled war now forced to run from catastrophic flooding", The Guardian, June 12, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/12/colombia-river-cauca-breach-flooding-farc>; "Hidroituango: Desaparecer a los Desaparecidos" ["Hidroituango: to disappear the disappeared"], Human Rights Everywhere, May 2018, <https://hrev.org/blog/hidroituango-desaparecer-a-los-desaparecidos>.

1. Environmental and human rights defenders in the area affected by the Hidroituango dam experience continual threats and acts of violence, which appear to be aimed at silencing opposition to the project.

Members of Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia and other human and environmental rights defenders from the communities affected by the Hidroituango dam project face ongoing threats and acts of violence. For example, two members of MRV were assassinated in May 2018.<sup>10</sup> On May 2, 2018, Hugo Albeiro George Pérez was shot and killed – along with his young nephew – just hours before a protest against the dam that he had planned to attend.<sup>11</sup> The following week, on May 8, Luis Alberto Torres Montoya was shot and killed – along with his brother – while panning for gold in the Cauca River.<sup>12</sup> In addition, at least 27 of MRVA’s members received threats in 2018, according to MRVA’s documentation.<sup>13</sup> This is not the first time that MRVA members have faced threats and attacks; in 2013, at least two other members of MRVA had also been assassinated.<sup>14</sup>

2. A pattern of reprisals involving the violent targeting of family members of environmental and human rights defenders has been well documented in the area affected by the Hidroituango dam. These attacks appear to be aimed at destroying the social fabric of communities that voice opposition to the dam and forcing community leaders into silence through self-censorship.

MRVA has documented a pattern of attacks on family members of social leaders associated with the Movimiento Ríos Vivos (MRV) and the Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia (MRVA) in particular. According to the MRVA, some six relatives of MRVA members were assassinated in 2018 alone.<sup>15</sup> Most recently, on May 16, 2019, an attack took place between Tarazá and Valdivia in the department of Antioquia. Six persons were injured in this attack and two were killed. One of those killed was a woman named Diana Gutierrez. She reportedly died in a hospital in Valdivia some hours after the attack took place. Ms. Gutierrez was the cousin of William Gutierrez, the President of the Asociación de Pescadores y Barequeros de Puerto Valdivia and a leader in the Movimiento Ríos Vivos (MRV). It was also reported

<sup>10</sup> Colombia: Asesinato de dos integrantes del Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia, y dos de sus familiares [Colombia: Murder of two members of the Ríos Vivos Antioquia Movement, and two of their relatives], Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits Humains FIDH, May 11, 2018, <https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/colombia-asesinato-de-dos-integrantes-del-movimiento-r-os-vivos-antioquia-y-dos-de>; see also “¿Cómo proteger a nuestros líderes sociales?- A” [“How to protect our social leaders? Part A”], Semana en Vivo, YouTube (starting at min. 7:33), July 10, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zsWvzit80c>.

<sup>11</sup> Camila Taborda, “Comunidades de Hidroituango, otra vez de luto” [“Communities of Hidroituango, once more mourning”], El Espectador, May 3, 2018, <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/territorio/comunidades-de-hidroituango-otra-vez-de-luto>; “Hugo George, el líder social de Ituango que dejó a 10 niños huérfanos” [Hugo George, the Ituango community leader whose death leaves 10 children orphaned], El Tiempo, May 3, 2018, <http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/medellin/perfil-de-hugo-george-defensor-de-la-tierra-asesinado-212938>.

<sup>12</sup> “Asesinan a otro líder social en menos de ocho días” [“Another community leader is assassinated in less than eight days”], El Espectador, May 8, 2018, <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/medio-ambiente/asesinan-otro-lider-social-en-antioquia-en-menos-de-ocho-dias-articulo-754713>.

<sup>13</sup> “El año 2018 ha sido el del mayor número de ataques en contra de la oposición al megaproyecto Hidroituango” [“2018 has been the year with the largest number of attacks against the opposition to the Hidroituango megaproject”], Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia, December 18, 2018, <https://riosvivosantioquia.org/el-2018-ha-sido-el-del-mayor-numero-de-ataques-en-contra-de-la-oposicion-al-megaproyecto-hidroituango/>.

<sup>14</sup> “Threats against environmental rights defenders from Movimiento Ríos Vivos,” January 30, 2017, Front Line Defenders, <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/threats-against-environmental-rights-defenders-movimiento-r%C3%ADos-vivos>;

<sup>15</sup> “El año 2018 ha sido el del mayor número de ataques en contra de la oposición al megaproyecto Hidroituango” [“2018 has been the year with the largest number of attacks against the opposition to the Hidroituango megaproject”], Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia, December 18, 2018, <https://riosvivosantioquia.org/el-2018-ha-sido-el-del-mayor-numero-de-ataques-en-contra-de-la-oposicion-al-megaproyecto-hidroituango/>.

that at least one child or infant was injured in the same attack.<sup>16</sup> As mentioned above, this attack is consistent with a larger pattern of violence targeting family members of people associated with the MRV and MRVA and other human and environmental rights defenders in the area.<sup>17</sup>

3. Additional forms of reprisals against members of the MRVA have also been documented.

The MRVA has denounced numerous other forms of reprisals against its members, including cases of torture, trumped-up criminal charges, mass detentions, harassment, public defamation, discrimination, and surveillance.<sup>18</sup>

4. MRVA members' rights to the freedoms of association, assembly, and expression have been violated.

Severe violations of the rights to freedom of association, freedom of assembly, and freedom of expression have also been committed in response to continued opposition to the Hidroituango dam project by the MRVA and affected communities. MRVA has reported that as of January 2019 it had decided to hold its meetings at a plot of land that it is renting to serve as a refuge for members facing heightened threats, as it deems it too risky to continue holding its meetings in parks or other open spaces.

Similarly, MRVA and communities affected by the Hidroituango dam have been prevented from organizing and expressing opposition to the project.<sup>19</sup> For example, when MRVA held a large social protest in Valdivia in 2016, actors associated with paramilitary groups threatened the protestors, warning them that they were prohibited from chanting slogans expressing opposition to the Hidroituango project.<sup>20</sup> Despite the fact that MRVA had recorded these threats and filed a complaint regarding this incident with the authorities, investigations into the incident did not go forward, thus allowing those responsible for these threats to enjoy impunity.<sup>21</sup>

In addition, during the week of February 5, 2019, when the final gate of the dam was closed, the Government of Antioquia reportedly banned protests in areas downstream of the dam.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>16</sup> “Un muerto y siete heridos dejó ataque con explosivos en Tarazá, Antioquia” [“Attack with explosives leaves one dead and seven injured in Tarazá, Antioquia”], *El Espectador*, May 17, 2019, <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/antioquia/un-muerto-y-siete-heridos-dejo-ataque-con-explosivos-en-taraza-antioquia-articulo-861125>.

<sup>17</sup> “Los ataques a los familiares de los líderes son mucho más aterradores que los perpetrados directamente porque buscan desarticular el Movimiento opositor a Hidroituango” [“The attacks on family members of leaders are much more terrifying than those perpetrated directly against leaders themselves because they seek to tear apart the Movement that opposes Hidroituango”], *Movimiento Ríos Vivos*, Sept. 24, 2018, <https://riosvivoscolombia.org/asesinan-a-familiares-de-integrantes-del-movimiento-rios-vivos-antioquia/>.

<sup>18</sup> “Ríos Vivos Antioquia Movement (MRVA): History of the Case,” *Front Line Defenders*, 2017, <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/organization/movimiento-rios-vivos-antioquia-mrva>.

<sup>19</sup> “¿Cómo proteger a nuestros líderes sociales?- A” [“How to protect our social leaders? Part A”], *Semana en Vivo*, YouTube (starting at min. 4:17), July 10, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zsWvzit80c>.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.* at min. 5:24.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.* at min. 5:47.

<sup>22</sup> “Se levantan puestos de mando unificado nacional y departamental por Hidroituango” [“Unified national and departmental command centres were closed by Hidroituango”], *Valora Analitika*, January 16, 2019, <https://www.valoraanalitik.com/2019/01/16/se-levantan-puestos-de-mando-unificado-nacional-y-departamental-por-hidroituango/>.

Responding to:

- **Guarantees for the free exercise of the defense of human rights:**

**Do you consider there is any aspect of the normative, institutional and public policy framework that promotes or hinders the free exercise of the defense of human rights?**

**Have you identified as an existing problem in your country or in the region the misuse of criminal law to criminalize human rights defenders for their activity? If so, please indicate in which contexts it occur[s], which actors are involved, and what would be the main causes or the factors that generate it.**

**If relevant, under what crimes are human rights defenders wrongly accused? If possible, provide concrete examples.**

1. The adoption of and support for policies directly promoting increased violence by top military and government officials is certain to undermine the safety and security of environmental and human rights defenders.

The head of Colombia's army has reportedly ordered troops to "double the number of criminals and militants that they kill, capture or force to surrender in battle – and possibly accept higher civilian casualties in the process".<sup>23</sup> This reported policy is reminiscent of the policies that led to the "false positives" scandal involving the illegal killing of civilians in the mid-2000s.<sup>24</sup> Such a policy is particularly worrying in light of the fact that the security and safety of citizens in certain regions of Colombia, including in the areas affected by the Hidroituango dam project, have become increasingly untenable in recent months, with clear signs of even higher risk for environmental and human rights defenders and their families.

Concerns about such a policy are exacerbated by the fact that the reporter who published the abovementioned investigation, New York Times Andes Bureau Chief Nicholas Casey, faced serious harassment, including from former President Uribe and other prominent lawmakers, beginning immediately after the publication of the investigation.<sup>25</sup> He was forced to leave the country just one day after the report's release<sup>26</sup> due to this retaliation and concerns for his safety.<sup>27</sup>

2. Environmental and human rights defenders in Antioquia, Colombia have faced criminalization for their work, including for expressing opposition to the Hidroituango dam project.

For more than five years from March 2013 to June 2018, members of the MRVA faced criminal prosecution based on charges that included "disruption of public transportation services" and

<sup>23</sup> "Colombia Army's New Kill Orders Send Chills Down Ranks", New York Times, May 18, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/18/world/americas/colombian-army-killings.html>.

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> "New York Times Journalist Casey Leaves Colombia after Online Harassment by Lawmakers", Committee to Protect Journalists, May 20, 2019, <https://cpj.org/2019/05/colombia-nytimes-journalist-nicholas-casey-harassed-uribe-senators.php>.

<sup>26</sup> "New York Times journalist leaves Colombia as article on army chief unleashes far-right fury", Colombia Reports, May 19, 2019, <https://colombiareports.com/new-york-times-journalist-leaves-colombia-as-article-on-army-chief-unleashes-far-right-fury>.

<sup>27</sup> "Periodista del NYT que Publicó Artículo sobre Ejército Salió del País" ["NYT Journalist who Published Article about the Army Left the Country"], El Tiempo, May 19, 2019, <https://www.eltiempo.com/mundo/eeuu-y-canada/periodista-del-new-york-times-abandona-colombia-tras-articulo-sobre-el-ejercito-363892>.



“obstruction of public roads”.<sup>28</sup> This prosecution was entirely baseless, as the charges related to peaceful protests held on March 19, 2013 to express opposition to the Hidroituango dam project.<sup>29</sup> Further, those against whom these charges were brought had been detained illegally in the context of their participation in this peaceful demonstration.<sup>30</sup>

While the abovementioned charges were dropped in June 2018, members of MRVA continue to face other incidents of criminalization, which appear to be aimed at intimidating the affected communities so that they do not continue demonstrating or otherwise expressing opposition to the project.<sup>31</sup> Even as such criminal prosecutions continue, the reports that MRVA has filed with the authorities regarding criminal attacks against its members do not follow timely procedures.<sup>32</sup>

#### Responding to:

- **Please attach any documents that might be relevant and useful to the report (e.g., reports, flagship cases).**

We respectfully draw the Commission’s attention to the attached documents, which describe the situation of human and environmental defenders in the areas affected by the Hidroituango dam project in greater detail. These documents include:

1. Recent documentation from Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia:
  - Infographic of attacks on MRVA members in 2018;
  - Documentation of attacks against leaders’ family members entitled: *“Los ataques a las familiares de los líderes son mucho más aterradores que los perpetrados directamente porque buscan desarticular el Movimiento opositor a Hidroituango”*;
  - Final Mission Report A. *“Misión de observación y verificación sobre las condiciones de búsqueda de personas desaparecidas y preservación de las zonas donde se presumen están inhumados los cuerpos sin identificar a lo largo del cauce del cañón del Río Cauca, Antioquia, Colombia”*.
2. Recent report issued by the Coalition for Human Rights in Development:
  - “Attacks, Criminalization and Killings of Grassroots Activists” in Uncalculated Risks: Threats and Attacks against Human Rights Defenders and the Role of Development Financiers, Coalition for Human Rights in Development, May 2019, pp. 64-66, available at: <https://rightsindevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Uncalculated-Risks-Full-report-cmpr-h.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> The MRVA members who faced these charges included Isabel Cristina Zuleta, Dana Carolina Jaimes, Luz Piedad Mazo Orrego, Wilmar Alberto Garcia Castillo, Jorge Mario Garcia, Leovidier de Jesus Chavarria, Edwin Villegas Davila, Andres Antonio Vargas, Juaquin Eduardo Arrieta, Robinson Alonso Monsalve y Juan David Sucerquia Ortiz. “Precluye una de las tantas persecuciones penales en contra de líderes e integrantes del proceso de oposición a Hidroituango” [“One of the various criminal prosecutions against leaders and members of the process opposing Hidroituango has precluded], Debate Ciudadano de Hidroituango, June 2018, <https://debatehidroituango.blogspot.com/2018/06/precluye-una-de-las-tantas.html>.

<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

<sup>30</sup> Additional irregularities further marred this process, including the fact that, following their unlawful arrest, the demonstrators were transported in a helicopter belonging to Empresas Públicas de Medellín (EPM), the company that is constructing the dam project. *See id.*

<sup>31</sup> *Id.*

<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

3. Documentation from Colombian government entities:
  - Informe de Riesgo Antioquia – Briceño, 2016;
  - Informe de Riesgo Antioquia – Briceño, 2016-2.
  - Informe de Riesgo N° 010-17 A.I. Defensoría del Pueblo Colombia
  
4. Examples of criminalization by public officials:
  - Plan for Prevention and Protection of Movimiento Rios Vivos Antioquia *“Plan de Prevención y Protección Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia Escenarios de riesgo, acciones y medidas de prevención, protección, reparación y garantías de no repetición”*.