

**10th Forum on Minority issues**

**Item 5. Minority youth: agents of change for peace and stability**

Geneva, 1th of December 2017

Peace building and peace keeping 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 Friday, November 24th 2017, renowned indigenous leader **Mario Jacanamijoy** was found dead together with farmworker Duber Prieto in a rural area in the Department of Caquetá, Colombia. Preliminary forensic examinations indicate that both victims have been tortured.

Mario was a prominent and respected member of Tandachiridu Inganokuna, a grassroots organization fighting for the rights of the Inga ethnic group. He was also a spiritual follower of yagé-medicine (ayahuasca) and was 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 this practices and identity; the death of Mario Jacanamijoy is part of the massive killing of grassroots activists that is undermining peace building 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 after the signing of the peace agreements.

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, it will help us to continue our work on Colombia.