

SENATOR JANET RICE

Greens Senator for Victoria



The Hon Senator Marise Payne
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT, 2600
via email: foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au

ELECTORATE OFFICE
Shop 2-3, 26 Lygon St
Brunswick East VIC 3057
P: (03) 9381 1446

SENATE OFFICE
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
P: (02) 6277 3225

Re: Massacres in Colombia

Dear Minister,

I am writing in relation to the massacres that have taken place in Colombia. Since the signing of the peace agreement with Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), hundreds of people have been killed, including activists, human rights campaigners and environmental advocates. Recently, police opened fire on protests in Bogotá, killing multiple people and wounding dozens more. I understand that the names of those killed are:

- Jorge Ordoñez (42),
- Andrés Rodríguez (23),
- Julieth Ramírez Meza (18),
- Jaider Fonseca (17),
- Freddy Mahecha (20),
- German Fuentes (25),
- Juan Mauricio González (27),
- Angie Paola Baquero (19),
- Christian Hurtado (27),
- Stiven Mendoza (26); and
- Gabriel Espinoza (31).

The Colombian government has worsened the situation, through its delays and failure to implement the peace agreement in full. Many Colombian citizens fear for their lives amidst conflict between paramilitary groups, drug cartels and government forces. Meaningful change that protects and empowers everyday citizens in Colombia will require genuine support and development.

I ask that you raise this issue directly, or via the Australian embassy in Bogota, calling on the Colombian government to implement the peace process, to respect the right of its citizens to protest, and to value and protect human life.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Janet Rice'.

Senator Janet Rice
Australian Greens Foreign Affairs spokesperson