

11th May 2021

As UK-based scholars conducting research in Colombia, we express our horror at recent events in Colombia, and call on the British government to support calls to protect the right to peaceful protest.

Since the beginning of the National Strike on 28 April, over 380 people have been reported as disappeared. At least 20 people have lost their lives in clashes between the armed forces and protesters, and there have been widespread reports of the use of sexual violence, racialized persecution and indiscriminate force against protesters.

We are committed to supporting our partners and colleagues in Colombia. We admire the way in which university leaders in Colombia have offered to act as a bridge for dialogue between social movements, communities and interest groups. We offer our own good offices to support this dialogue from afar in whatever way possible.

We call on the UK government to do everything within its power to stop the violence and to encourage efforts for meaningful national dialogue and the resolution of the structural problems of inequality and impunity that have shaped the protests over the last days.

SIGNATURES

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31. Juliana Velez Echeverri, University of Reading
32. Katherine Gough, Loughborough University
33. Kerry Prior, King's College London
34. Kyla Sankey, Queen Mary University
35. Larisa Sioneriu, University of Bristol

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39. Lina Malagón, University of Ulster
40. Lucia Brandi, University of Liverpool
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42. Matthew Brown, University of Bristol
43. Mo Hume, University of Glasgow
44. Monica Amador-Jimenez, University of Bristol
45. Naomi Millner, University of Bristol
46. Neil Burnside, University of Strathclyde
47. Olga Sorzano Montana, City University
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49. Peter Watson, University of Leeds
50. Roddy Brett, University of Bristol
51. Roxani Krystalli, University of St Andrews
52. Sabine Michalowski, University of Essex
53. Sam Ritholtz, University of Oxford
54. Sanne Weber, University of Birmingham
55. Simon Rushton, University of Sheffield
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57. Tara Van Ho, Lecturer, University of Essex
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59. Thea Pitman, University of Leeds
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Embrace Dialogue Academia (EDA) brings together academics working on different aspects of the Colombian peace process.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this statement are the views of individuals, and do not reflect the views of the institutions named.