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As international scholars conducting research in Colombia, we value the contribution of the Truth Commission to end the armed conflict and build a lasting peace.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 the Truth Commission has not been able to fully carry out its mandate. It is impossible to calculate the multi-faceted impact the pandemic has had on its work, from difficulty travelling to take testimonies around the country, to having to adapt and hold sensitive truth hearings online; and one commissioner even died of Covid-19. These setbacks have created challenges for the write-up of the final report, due November 2021.

In the face of these challenges, universities in Colombia and abroad, civil society organisations, and the international community have recognised and supported the work of the Truth Commission inside and outside Colombia, to help it complete its work. However, the impact of the pandemic is such that the Commission will struggle to produce the final report by the original deadline, to the highest possible quality; as it has not had the full three years mandated by law as effective working time.

We are hopeful that the Colombian Constitutional Court will also recognise this, and extend the mandate of the Truth Commission, to make up for the time lost in the pandemic.

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