

## *Welcome to ABColombia's Summer 2021 newsletter!*

**ABColombia hopes that you are keeping well during this pandemic. Here is our June 2021 Newsletter.**

In Colombia since April 28th, social protests started all over the country. One of the main reasons was the tax reform and health reform law proposals that the government was trying to push through the congress. Although initially the strike committee, university students and other people were only trying to persuade the government to not present these reforms. Day after day the demonstrators discovered and added more reasons to continue protesting.

More than 40 days of mobilisations have been completed in the main cities of Colombia. Unfortunately, all the protests have not been peaceful, the police have used excessive force, lethal weapons and other measures that have been against the rights of the protesters. The protests have left people seriously injured, forcibly disappeared, women raped, dead people and towns and cities roads cut off for weeks.

Please see our latest articles below. We also invite you to follow us on [twitter](#) and [instagram](#) for weekly updates regarding Colombia.

### **Take Action**

#### **[EARLY DAY MOTION #4 PROTESTS IN COLOMBIA - ABColombia](#)**

On 11 May 2021 Tony Lloyd MP and nine others tabled an Early Day Motion – a statement in the British Parliament expressing their concern about the human rights violations perpetrated against the social protests across Colombia. SO far 87 MPs have signed this EDM please check if your MP has here [EDM Number 4](#) Protesters in Colombia. If not please ask your MP to sign it. You can find details of your MP and a standard letter here. **This is something you can do to support human rights and peace in Colombia.**

### **News**

#### **[Humanitarian situation in Colombia dramatically deteriorates](#)**

Whilst the eyes of the world have been on Colombian cities and the repressive use of violence by the police against the social protesters there has been a growing humanitarian crisis in the rural areas.

#### **[Use of the military in social protests weakens democracy and eliminates dialogue](#)**

Social protests broke out in Colombia on 28 April 2021, they were initially triggered by tax reforms, structural inequality and poverty, as well as, other underlying grievances including the lack of implementation of the Peace Accord, the number of social leaders being killed and failure to address previous grievances from national strikes held in 2019 and 2020. The social protest met with repressive and brutal policing...

#### **[Demining in Colombia must remain a priority](#)**

Following the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action last month, ABColombia reflects on the ongoing and growing presence of antipersonnel mines in Colombia and the damage they cause to civilians.

#### **[London in solidarity with Colombia](#)**

*Wednesday 5 May 2021*, London joined other cities throughout the UK, Europe and around the world in hosting a rally to show solidarity with the people of Colombia. Londoners – Colombians and friends, old and young – gathered in support of Colombia's peaceful protesters. They denouncing to the world the brutal repression and human rights violations carried out by the Colombian police ....

## [Declaración en el parlamento británico sobre Colombia \(Early Day Motion\)](#)

El parlamento británico condena el abuso por parte de la policía colombiana en contra de la protesta social en Colombia. Express News Report.

### **Public Statements**

[International civil society organisations urge the Colombian Government to guarantee the peaceful exercise of the legitimate right to public assembly and social protest, enshrined in the Colombian Political Constitution and to protect the lives of those who exercise it.](#)

**The Duque Administration Declares War on Social Protest:** Social organisations in Colombia outline the dangers of Decree 575 of 2021:

[PUBLIC STATEMENT BY ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND HUMAN RIGHTS NGOs](#) This statement addresses with concern the role that some businesses have played – both national and international – during the National Strike.

[United Nations and the Organisation of American States condemn Colombian Police repression](#) in response to the excessive use of force by the police against the demonstrators during the Social Protests. The UN and the Organisation of American States (OAS) rapporteurs, on 14 May 2021, issued a joint statement...

### **About ABColombia**

**ABColombia** is the advocacy project of a group of five leading UK and Irish organisations with programmes in Colombia: CAFOD, Christian Aid UKI, Oxfam GB, SCIAF and Trócaire. Amnesty International and Peace Brigades International are observer members. Founded in 1997 to work on the question of forced internal displacement, it has since expanded its mandate to cover human rights and development. ABColombia's purpose is to influence decision makers in the UK and Ireland and, through them, European level decision making – with a view to resolving the human rights and humanitarian crisis in Colombia and achieve a lasting peace and equitable and sustainable development. ABColombia's thematic areas of work are: Natural resources access and control; Land and territory; Conflict transformation and peace building; Women and conflict-related sexual violence; and Protection of defenders and their working space.

### [ABColombia Reports \(English & Spanish\)](#)

