

**Communication to the Office of the Prosecutor of the  
International Criminal Court:**

**Violence Against Trade Unionists in  
Colombia as a Crime against Humanity**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**submitted on 9 October 2012**

**by**

**European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights**

together with



and



**Structure of the Communication:**

- I. Introduction..... 1**
  
- II. Background and Facts: Anti-union violence in Colombia ..... 5**
  - 1. Context of anti-union violence in Colombia ..... 5
  - 2. Selection criteria for the presented cases ..... 20
  - 3. Facts of the selected cases ..... 22
  
- III. Examination of available information and Legal Analysis..... 52**
  - 1. Jurisdiction of the ICC ..... 53
  - 2. Crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC: Crimes against humanity ..... 53
  - 3. Individual criminal responsibility ..... 74
  - 4. Admissibility ..... 93
  - 5. Interests of justice..... 110
  
- IV. Conclusions..... 111**
  
- V. Annex..... 113**
  - 1. List of abbreviations and glossary..... 113
  - 2. List of names mentioned in the communication ..... 115
  - 3. Information on chain of command ..... 118
  - 4. Statistics on anti-union violence ..... 120
  - 5. Map of Colombia ..... 144

## Table of Contents:

<b>I. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II. Background and Facts: Anti-union violence in Colombia .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. Context of anti-union violence in Colombia .....	5
a. Quantitative aspects of anti-union violence in Colombia.....	6
b. Qualitative issues of anti-union violence in Colombia and recent developments .....	13
i. Circumstances and patterns of crimes against trade unionists.....	15
ii. Public discreditation and negation of trade unionism as a whole .....	17
iii. Impunity and lack of the guarantees of prevention and non-repetition .....	18
c. Summary.....	19
2. Selection criteria for the presented cases .....	20
3. Facts of the selected cases .....	22
a. Maria LUCERO HENAO (02/2004).....	22
b. Trade unionists of Arauca (08/2004).....	28
c. Luciano Enrique ROMERO MOLINA (09/2005).....	36
d. Alejandro URIBE CHACÓN (09/2006).....	43
e. Guillermo RIVERA FÚQUENES (04/2008) .....	47
<b>III. Examination of available information and Legal Analysis.....</b>	<b>52</b>
1. Jurisdiction of the ICC .....	53
2. Crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC: Crimes against humanity .....	53
a. An attack directed against any civilian population.....	53
i. Attack.....	54
ii. Directed against any civilian population.....	55
iii. Policy element.....	57
b. Widespread or systematic nature of the attack .....	67
i. Widespread attack .....	68
ii. Systematic attack .....	69
iii. Conclusion .....	70

c.	Underlying acts of violence .....	70
d.	Nexus between individual acts and the attack .....	71
e.	Conclusion .....	74
3.	Individual criminal responsibility .....	74
a.	Modes of liability.....	75
i.	Joint perpetration or commission through another person (Article 25(3)(a) of the ICC Statute) .....	76
ii.	Encouragement (Article 25(3)(b) of the ICC Statute) .....	76
iii.	Assistance (Article 25(3)(c) and (d) of the ICC Statute) .....	77
iv.	Superior and command responsibility (Article 28 of the ICC Statute).....	78
b.	Identification of possible perpetrators .....	80
i.	Military .....	80
ii.	Police.....	82
iii.	National Government: administration of President URIBE and “parapolitica” ....	83
iv.	DAS.....	85
v.	Paramilitaries .....	86
vi.	Preliminary conclusion .....	86
c.	With knowledge of the attack (Article 7(1) of the ICC Statute).....	88
i.	Legal requirements.....	88
ii.	Analysis.....	90
4.	Admissibility .....	93
a.	Complementarity, Article 17(1)(a) and (b) of the ICC Statute.....	93
i.	Ongoing investigations and prosecutions in Colombia .....	95
ii.	Unwillingness, Article 17(2) of the ICC Statute.....	97
iii.	Inability, Article 17(3) of the ICC Statute .....	103
iv.	Conclusion .....	108
b.	Gravity threshold, Article 17(1)(d) of the ICC Statute.....	109
5.	Interests of justice.....	110
	<b>IV. Conclusions.....</b>	<b>111</b>

<b>V. Annex.....</b>	<b>113</b>
1. List of abbreviations and glossary.....	113
2. List of names mentioned in the communication .....	115
3. Information on chain of command .....	118
a. Illustration of the chain of command in Colombia.....	118
b. List of Ministers of Defence and Commanders in charge 2002-2011.....	119
i. Ministers of Defence 2002-2011.....	119
ii. General Commanders of the Armed Forces (Comandante General de las Fuerzas Militares) 2002-2011 .....	119
iii. Commanders of the National Army (Comandante del Ejercito) 2002-2011 .....	119
4. Statistics on anti-union violence .....	120
a. Information provided by the Escuela Nacional Sindical (ENS).....	120
b. Statistics from CCJ/ ENS, “Imperceptiblemente nos encerraron” .....	132
c. Statistics from UNDP, “Reconocer el pasado, construir el futuro” .....	140
5. Map of Colombia .....	144