

PF/Paimaneh

Briefing note for Paimaneh Hasteh
Introduction of the report on Colombia

Responding to an invitation from the Government of Colombia endorsed by the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC), the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues conducted a mission to Colombia with the support of various United Nations agencies from 5 to 9 July 2010. The purpose of the visit was to observe the situation of indigenous peoples that are victims of abuses related to the armed conflict and are in danger of extinction and the situation of the Awá people. The mission visited Bogotá, Risaralda, Valledupar in Cesar Department and Tumaco and El Diviso in Nariño Department.

The President of the Forum, ^{mm} Carlos Mamani, and Forum members Bartolomé Clavero, Margaret Lokawua and myself took part in the mission to Colombia. It was supported by two staff members of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, a staff member of the Office of the Special Representative for the Prevention of Genocide, as well as experts of the UN Country team of Colombia and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The report of the mission is based on interviews, data and information provided by national and departmental Government offices, independent governmental institutions, local authorities of the places visited, documentation from various United Nations system agencies, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), indigenous peoples' organizations, national and international non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. The Permanent Forum would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their great support in the mission.

Now, I would like to give the floor to Mr. Carlos Mamani, former Chair of the Permanent Forum who led the mission for a brief presentation of the report.

honorable

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