



Black Communities'

Process in Colombia

The Afro-Colombian Human Rights Defenders Campaign

## President Santos, are you counting women killings?



**The Afro-Colombian Human Rights Defenders Campaign** repudiates this crimes and the brutal assassination of Estella Cortes Vasques a teacher from the city-port of Buenaventura.

Estella Cortes was found suffocated, her head in a plastic bag, a chain around her neck and her throat cut on August 13, 2013, in her house in “Los Pinos” neighborhood. Mrs. Cortes was a teacher in the river community of Anchicaya, municipality of Buenaventura. The community recognized her as a loving and dedicated teacher despite the fact that the municipality was not paying her for her work.

The murder of Estella Cortes is not an isolated event. Since January 30<sup>th</sup> this year, [seven women](#) have been reported assassinated or disappeared in Buenaventura along. Disappearance is a situation that almost invariably ends in death.

On August 8, 2013, 44 years-old [Lilia Helena Piedrahita](#), was also killed with two of her sons in Tumaco, department of Nariño, by a member of “Los Rastrojos”, the re-organized paramilitary group that operates in the neighborhood La Ciudadela.

The perilous situation that women of Buenaventura face and the generalize violence in Black people’s neighborhoods, have been consistently covered-up by the authorities in order to present a positive image of the city to foreign investors. President Juan Manuel Santos has been so eagerly denying the grave situation of human rights in Colombia that he even when to the extent of [closing the door to the UN offices in the country](#).

When it will be enough for President Santos and his administration? To end violence against women needs serious determination the Colombian government. President Santos has to move from rhetoric to concrete and effective action to demonstrate a real commitment with human rights and the end of violence against women.

Contact information: [charominarojas@gmail.com](mailto:charominarojas@gmail.com)

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