



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Forty-second session

9–27 September 2019

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

### **Written statement\* submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2019]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## **Increasing Human Rights violations against the Nasa people in Cauca, Southwest Colombia**

With great concern, Society for Threatened Peoples has been observing the grave and increasing human rights violations against the Nasa indigenous people in the Cauca region in Southwest Colombia.

We observe an alarming development of militarisation, collective and individual human rights abuses as the Colombian state is starting a megaproject in Nasa territory without any previous consultation of its inhabitants. The Nasa state that they do not agree with the planned road infrastructure and even a more than 32m tunnel connecting the Orinoquia region and the Pacific coast for exporting natural resources. These would cross their territory and affect them fundamentally in a destructive way: their water reserves, their livelihood, officially national protected land and their sacred sites, and a sensible ecosystem with diverse endangered animals and plants, would be seriously harmed. Because they defend their rights, many Nasa leaders have received death threats through head money pamphlets and assassinations, above all in Valle Florida.

**Therefore, Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the UN Human Rights Council to urge the Colombian state:**

- To protect and respect human rights and prevent massacres, ethnocide, ecocide and genocide.
- To call upon the need for prompt investigation and criminal sanction of persons responsible for the number of death threats, aggressions and assassinations of indigenous leaders and civilians including crimes committed or supported by state and military agents.
- To dismantle, disarm and prosecute paramilitary and other armed groups committing human rights violations in Nasa territory. These must be brought before civilian jurisdictions.

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