

Statement of the Centre for Atlantic and Global Studies (CAGS) on the current situation in Colombia

May 11, 2021

The members of the Centre for Atlantic and Global Studies (CAGS) along with other scholars of Leibniz University Hannover wish to express their concern about the current situation in Colombia. We condemn the escalation of police, military and paramilitary violence directed against social and political protestors.

We understand the protests as a legitimate expression of discontent with current conditions in Colombian politics and society. These should not be met with violence nor criminalized. We call on the Colombian government to ensure that the demonstrators are able to protest peacefully. Furthermore, we demand that the violent attacks by the police and the military in connection with the protests are investigated and that those responsible are prosecuted according to the full extent of the law.

We also call on the Colombian government to address the precarious human rights situation in their country as evident in an increase in violence against public figures as well as members of civil society and a growing number of internally displaced persons. Domestic conflicts can only be resolved by strengthening democracy, engaging in honest and constructive dialogue with all parties and respecting the rights of all people - not by responding with violence.

We strongly support existing international expressions of solidarity from both academia and the general public.

Signed by:

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