

Colombia

Question

In 2008, Colombia agreed to our recommendation to prosecute fully cases of extrajudicial killings, and take strong action to prevent their occurrence. We note that the most recent report of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights in Colombia acknowledged that in 2012, no new cases of 'false positives' were reported. Canada welcomes this finding. Could the Delegation of Colombia inform us of the status of the investigations and prosecutions of these crimes?

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Colombia:

1. Take further steps to prevent incidents of violence against all of its people, including targeted groups including community leaders, journalists, and land claimants by improving current protection and prevention programs, introducing education campaigns, and ensuring effective intervention/investigation by law enforcement officials.
2. Take further measures to strengthen the judicial system and to increase accountability for human rights violations, including by ensuring the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.
3. Continue to work constructively to implement the laws, decrees and resolutions that have been approved to combat violence against women and girls and to guarantee access to justice for victims of sexual violence.

Observations (if time allows):

We welcome the ongoing efforts by Colombia to establish a common human rights and International Humanitarian Law agenda in Colombia, and congratulate the delegation for the Human Rights Conference held in December 2012.

We welcome the steps taken by Colombia to address the root causes of the conflict and congratulate Colombia on the launching negotiations to end its conflict with the FARC. If successful, this initiative has the potential to improve dramatically the human rights situation in many parts of the country.