

## Public Statement

### Popular Feminist Organization (OFP) Supports the Indigenous Movement of the Regional Indigenous Council of Colombia (CRIC)

The **Popular Feminist's Organization (OFP)** and the **Social Movement of Women** against war and for peace, express solidarity with the Indigenous Movement of the **Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca (CRIC)** in their just struggle to defend their territory and autonomy. These women and men are committed to the defense and protection of life and peace through dialogue and action. Their dignity, respect and neutrality give them the political and moral authority to demand that all legal and illegal armed actors leave Indigenous peoples' territories, and respect their sacred right to life. Indigenous peoples do not want to be dragged into war and conflict.

Indigenous ways of life and worldviews are rooted in a balance with Mother Nature and require that their territories be free of all armed groups and any other presence that threatens life itself. After many years of trying to achieve a political agreement with the government and armed groups which respects the principles of autonomy and neutrality, Indigenous peoples have decided to initiate a process of healing within their territories and communities through the use of dialogue, traditional medicine and social mobilization. The efforts of Indigenous peoples in this region to heal their territories have been misrepresented and stigmatized, and the public has been misinformed.



A woman from Cauca delivers a message and call for solidarity at the OFP anniversary, July 20, 2012

The protection and defense of the autonomy and worldviews of Indigenous peoples in Colombia, as well as the preservation of their ancestral territories as sacred spaces, contribute to keeping a balance with Mother Nature and to building a just and equitable country which respects and values diversity.

As life-giving women, we speak out against war and call for dialogue and understanding in order to find a solution to the current situation. We call on the international community to engage in political diplomacy in order to avoid a worsening humanitarian crisis.

We reject the way in which the State has addressed this situation-refusing to engage in dialogue and cooperation as a means of resolving social conflicts in the communities. Likewise, we reject the biased coverage that the mainstream media have given to this situation.

**We call on women's organizations, social organizations, unions and human rights organizations to accompany and stand in solidarity with the struggle of the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca (CRIC), in particular with the communities and the territory of northern Cauca. We call on you to join us in our efforts to provide our country and the world with accurate information about the situation, to expose the misinformation, and to commit to supporting and standing in solidarity with Indigenous peoples.**

**MOVIMIENTO SOCIAL DE MUJERES  
CONTRA LA GUERRA Y POR LA PAZ  
ORGANIZACIÓN FEMENINA POPULAR**

July 2012