

"They wanted to bury us, but they didn't know we are seed."

The Popular Women's Organization OFP has spent 52 years building life, defending territory and demanding peace for women and communities. It has been formed by these voices and the work is woven from the deep love of mothers, daughters, sisters and companions who, in each municipality, have forged hope for life.

This history and work belongs to each and every one of the leaders of the Organization in the territories; but today, we have to tell the country and the world that the life of our sister and leader, **YOLI MARIA TOLOZA CARDOZA** of the Popular Women's Organization in the municipality of Puerto Wilches (Santander) has been claimed while doing this work

On June 27 at 11:00 a.m., two armed men on a Boxer motorcycle entered her home and took her life. She was in her home in the Torcoroma neighbourhood in Puerto Wilches, in front of the Popular Women's Organization headquarters, where she had her dressmaking workshop. Without a word, they shot her in the forehead; her neighbours and colleagues of the OFP mobilized to her aid to take her to the hospital, but she arrived without vital signs.

For more than a decade, our colleague was part of the coordinating team for the municipal organizational process; she grew as a leader, and she became a woman dedicated to working for women's rights in Puerto Wilches and the Magdalena Medio region.

Given the worsening of the armed conflict in Barrancabermeja and the region, we have insisted before different authorities on the need to generate security guarantees to protect the lives and permanence in the territory of women leaders, human rights defenders and the civilian population in general. Still, we feel that the project of death is advancing, snatching our lives.

The Popular Women's Organization, through local diagnoses and processes has developed and carried out actions, such as the human rights defence hearing in 2023 and the humanitarian missions in March 2024 which confirmed the risk to life in the region. Sadly, today we must report that our analysis is not wrong; on the contrary, it has cost us the life of one of our colleagues.

We **accompany** our sister in her struggle to the place she will be sown.

We **demand** all security guarantees for this painful process.

We **demand an immediate response from the national government and the security forces, justice for the events that have occurred, and protection for Yoli's family and the women of the Organización Femenina Popular process.**

Yoli María Toloza Cardoza,

We will not bury her; we will sow her.

Barrancabermeja - Magdalena Medio

June 27, 2024