

PUBLIC COMPLAINT

Santiago de Cali, August 16, 2026

On August 15, 2026, at approximately 5:30 p.m., at the intersection of Calle 9 and Carrera 44 in Cali—the site of the ruins of the Vanesa building, which collapsed during the August 10 earthquake—a disaster zone where the complainant had served as a volunteer operator of essential equipment vital for the rescue effort, such as a rotary hammer and a grinder, the following acts constituting violations of fundamental rights occurred:

1. **Arbitrary detention and intimidation:** During his rescue efforts, the complainant observed constant surveillance directed at him by uniformed personnel from the State of Israel. Later, while he was alone, he was surrounded by at least ten (10) people, among whom were:
 - Several individuals dressed in civilian clothing and wearing Israeli reflective vests, whom the complainant identified as members of the Israel Defense Forces or personnel affiliated with the Zionist army of Israel.
 - Members of the Colombian National Police.These individuals surrounded him, intimidated him, and subjected him to an irregular interrogation on the spot, in an atmosphere of psychological terror, while also coercing him into handing over his cell phone to the Colombian police officer present.
2. **Expulsion from the disaster zone and obstruction of his humanitarian work:** Although the complainant was carrying out humanitarian work as a volunteer rescue worker, he was forced to leave the site of the Vanesa building ruins, preventing him from continuing his work to support the earthquake victims. The expulsion occurred for the sole reason that the complainant was recording a video at the location where the presence of Israeli soldiers was evident, was wearing a scarf bearing the words “Free Palestine,” and quietly uttered the phrase “Free Palestine”—actions protected by the constitutional right to free speech, and actions which in no way violated any rights of those present nor interrupted any rescue efforts, since the members of the Zionist group WERE NOT ENGAGED IN ANY ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE RESCUE OF EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS.
3. **Attempted unlawful appropriation (*apropiación indebida*) of personal documents:** During the procedure, the National Police requested the complainant’s identification documents for verification purposes; they showed that he had no criminal record. However, an individual dressed in plainclothes, identified by the complainant as a member of the Zionist group, insisted on physically snatching the ID card from the police officer; the complainant refused, asserting his right not to hand over his documents to or answer questions from individuals who are not authorized officials of Colombia.

4. **Seizure and deletion of information from his cell phone:** As part of the intimidation, the police seized the complainant's cell phone, reviewed its photo gallery, and deleted content related to the incident—without his consent and without a court order authorizing such action—thereby violating his rights to privacy and to the protection of personal data.
5. **Political expression and retaliation:** Subsequently, in response to the violence and arbitrariness of the events, the complainant strongly condemned the attack, stating that those responsible were “Zionists, fascists, and perpetrators of genocide.” This statement, prompted by the harassment he faced, is a legitimate expression of his political views and his solidarity with the Palestinian people, and cannot be used as justification for the violence and repression directed against him.
6. **Recurring pattern:** These incidents are part of a recurring pattern by the State of Israel of acting hostilely toward volunteer rescue workers who display symbols in support of the Palestinian resistance against the genocide by the State of Israel, or who express their opposition to the presence of these forces in the city of Cali. It hinders the work of these volunteers, who have been present at critical locations since the very first day of the disaster. Consequently, it puts at risk the lives of those still trapped in the rubble awaiting rescue.

We strongly urge the relevant oversight bodies to guarantee the right to freedom of expression and to ensure that the humanitarian work carried out by volunteers during this difficult time for Colombia can proceed unimpeded. Colombian sovereignty must be respected, and under no circumstances should foreign entities be allowed to exercise authority over Colombian citizens.

Finally, we hold the office of the mayor of Cali, Alejandro Eder and Abelardo de la Espriella responsible for any physical or psychological harm that may be inflicted upon the volunteers who, from day one, have been saving lives and standing in solidarity with the cause of the Palestinian people, and for the deaths of people still trapped in the rubble who could be rescued by those who are today being intimidated, singled out, and expelled from search-and-rescue areas.

Cali is resistance, the effective love of the people, and solidarity.