

COLLECTIVE RIGHTS VIOLATED DURING THE PANDEMIC



PLATFORM REVEALS INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS BY INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA



BRAZIL



PERU



COLOMBIA



HONDURAS



GUATEMALA



MEXICO

Colombia registers highest community displacement rates in Latin America due to industrial development



BRAZIL PERU **COLOMBIA** HONDURAS GUATEMALA MEXICO

This is a summary of findings from a platform tracking community rights violations across 6 countries in Latin America, resulting from extractive and infrastructure projects during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A digital platform tracking collective rights violations during the pandemic has found that about 470 Indigenous, local, and Afro-descendant communities in Colombia were displaced by extractive, industrial and illegal projects in the country during 2020 and 2021.

Over the course of the pandemic, Colombia registered the largest number of community displacements in Latin America due to these projects.

The platform also showed that Indigenous Peoples represent 23 cases of community displacements. Out of these, nine were linked to mining, eight to agribusiness, four to energy projects, and two to gas and oil.

The Collective Rights Violated During the Pandemic platform is a free access digital tool developed by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) with the support of the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT).

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The extent of impacts

Overall, 531 Colombian communities faced collective rights violations due to industrial projects during the pandemic.

"The increase of displacements has also exacerbated the human rights violation of Afro-descendant Peoples in Colombia," said Clemencia Carabalí, President of the ASOM Cauca.

In addition to displacement, the communities also suffered an upheaval of their traditional livelihoods, increase in crime, a decrease in their access to water, and violation of their cultural sites. The platform indicates that in a majority of the cases, communities suffered damages to their lands' water, biodiversity, and soil.

A majority of the 531 communities had their collective rights violated by mining activities. Carabalí added, "Many of the megaprojects that are being developed in our territories took advantage of the pandemic to move forward, which they would not have been able to do under other circumstances."

The remaining communities were impacted by energy projects, agribusiness, gas and oil, infrastructure, and forestry activities. The most severely violated rights involved the right to a healthy environment and the right to collective domain of the territory, reported in 74% and 61% of the cases, respectively.

"Ethnic territorial rights were also violated, such as the right to prior consultation and free, prior and informed consent," added Carabalí. Other violated rights included the right to defend the ancestral land (58%); the right to decide their own development priorities (48%); and the right to physical and moral integrity (43%).

The platform also found that over 30 environmental rights defenders were targeted during these projects while defending their collective territories. Among communities affected by mining, the platform recorded instances of threats (46%), forced evictions (35%), murder (28%), disturbance of sacred and cultural sites (25%) and stigmatization (17%) in the displaced communities.

For more information, visit the [Collective Rights Violated During the Pandemic](#) platform. The platform presents information on projects linked to conflicts with local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and Afro-descendant Peoples in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru. It offers a comprehensive regional overview using interactive graphics and statistics tracking the impacts of the mining, hydrocarbon, forestry, agribusiness, and infrastructure sectors in these countries.

