

# Murders and Enforced Disappearances Presented as False Combat Casualties by State Agents Caribbean Coast Subcase

## The investigation and the trial

CASE

03

Murders and Enforced Disappearances Presented as False Combat Casualties by State Agents

Caribbean Coast Subcase

## Location:

North of Cesar and south of La Guajira



## Period:



From January 9, 2002 to July 9, 2005

## Military unit:

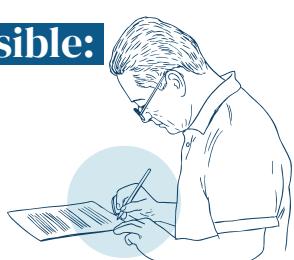
Artillery Battalion No. 2  
La Popa (BAPOP)



## Those responsible:

12

public force defendants before the SJP



## Victims:



Victims

135

(people killed and disappeared in 77 incidents)



252

Relatives of victims  
(accredited to participate in this subcase)

## 1. Why does the SJP issue a restorative sentence?

The defendants provided truth and acknowledged responsibility after being found most responsible for murders and enforced disappearances illegitimately presented as combat casualties on the Caribbean Coast.

## 2. Who were sanctioned?

Guillermo Gutiérrez Riveros

Carlos Lora Cabrales

Elkin Rojas

Elkin Burgos Suárez

Efraín Andrade Perea

Manuel Padilla Espitia

José de Jesús Rueda Quintero

Eduard Álvarez Mejía

Juan Carlos Soto Sepúlveda

Yeris Gómez Coronel

Alex José Mercado Sierra

Heber Gómez Naranjo



## 3. What did the SJP find?



The SJP concluded that each participant played an essential role in a criminal plan in which people were killed and unlawfully presented as combat casualties, and, in some cases, this led to enforced disappearances, tortures, and persecutions.

**Without their participation, these crimes could not have been committed or sustained over time.**

**• Pattern 1:**

*Killings that occurred within the framework of a relationship of collusion between members of the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in the area.*

**• Pattern 2:**

*The killing of civilians who were not taking part in hostilities in order to maintain operational results figures, including people in vulnerable situations.*

## 4. For which crimes are they sanctioned?

**Crimes against humanity:** *enforced disappearance, murder, torture, and persecution.*

**War crime:** *willful killing of a protected person.*

## Identified harms

The SJP documented a multidimensional harm caused by stigmatization, impunity, the breakdown of family structures and the social fabric, the impacts on Indigenous and ethnic communities—Kankuamo, Wiwa, and the Community Councils of José Prudencio Padilla and Kusuto Ma-Gende—and the lack of information about the whereabouts and fate of the disappeared persons.

Among other identified harms are:

- **Material and property-related harms.**
- **Disruption of life projects, including those of searching women and of the daughters and sons of the murdered and disappeared persons.**
- **Impacts on mental and physical health.**
- **Transgenerational consequences.**

## 5. Projects of sanctions built jointly between victims and defendants:



1. **Comprehensive Memorialization Plan for the Caribbean Coast.** Includes the construction of a mausoleum and the reconfiguration of the Albeiro Flores and Édgar Beltrán Hurtado Park, in Luruaco.
2. **Center for Harmonization** for the Good Living of the families of the Kankuamo People.
3. **OMONAPA Comprehensive Cultural and Memory Center**, in the Wiwa People's territory.
4. **Nelson Enrique Romo Romero Cultural House**, in the José Prudencio Padilla Community Council.
5. **Multipurpose Houses:** "Healing memories, rebuilding lives", mainly aimed at individually accredited victims.
6. **Multipurpose productive strengthening** (urban and rural) "Sowers of Love and Peace," mainly aimed at individually accredited