

Release 023 of 2022



## **Thanks to preventive measures ordered by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Sucre, the ninth victim of enforced disappearance was identified**

- Mr. Andrés Julio Herazo, who was exhumed in 2005 at El Palmar farm, was identified thanks to the articulated work between the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, the Unit for the Search of Persons Presumed Disappeared and the Office of the Attorney General.
- The dignified delivery of Mr. Herazo's remains was held on March 16th in San Onofre, Sucre, where later his funeral took place.

**Bogotá, March 16th of 2022.** Mr. Andrés Julio Herazo is the ninth identified victim in San Onofre, Sucre, thanks to the effect of the preventive measures ordered to protect land-spots with forensic interest, where it is presumed that victims of enforced disappearance were buried.

The articulated work between the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP), the Office of the Attorney General and the Unit for the Search of Persons Presumed Disappeared (UBPD, in Spanish) and the Unit for Victims permitted that last Wednesday the dignified delivery of the remains and the funeral of Mr. Herazo could be made, after decades of a tireless search for truth.

The finding of this 40-year-old man was made under the prevention measures adopted by SJP's Absence of Acknowledgment of Truth Section in order to protect the following four land-spots with forensic interest in San Onofre: the Municipal and Rincón del Mar cemeteries, as well as the farms El Palmar and La Alemania, where other victims' remains of enforced disappearance may be found.

Truth knocked on Mr. Herazo's family's door after years of uncertainty. Today they finally know what happened in 2004 when Mr. Andrés was forced to abandon the patronal festivities where he was participating as a bullfighter. On that day started the search for the father, husband, brother and son who everyone remembers as a man "that did not mess with anyone".

“Today ceases the question that Mariana was asking to the river, today she finally can stop questioning ‘where are you, little brother?’ From now she, and other relatives, can visit he’s resting place so this time it is him who protects their secrets”, said justice Alejandro Ramelli during the dignified delivery.

Mr. Andrés lives in his family’s memories as a tender man, joker and dancer. His identification was possible thanks to information submitted by the family. This allowed the UPBD and the Office of the Attorney General to develop an analysis that led to his full identification.

The Integral System for Peace progresses on the findings and identification of Colombians reported as missing during armed conflict. Recently, in that region, the SJP took judicial measures to guarantee victims’ demands of truth, justice and reparation. In the other hand, UPBD progresses on the Regional Plan of Montes de María and Morrosquillo, in search of 1.734 victims in 17 municipalities. 113 land-spots with forensic interest have been identified, were victims between 1948 and 2016 could remain.

## **Context**

A young miner, a fruit salesman from the beaches of Tuluá, a peasant from San Onofre, a bicycle repairman, a youngster who traveled bringing gallons of water to his village and a welder were the eight first victims delivered to their families last august of 2021 in Sucre.

The impulse given by the Special Jurisdiction, in compliance with the order dictated in the preventive measures to present a search plan in the region, facilitated the dignified delivery of these eight victims that were reported missing in Sincelejo, El Carmen, Tolú and San Onofre.