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Crisis in Colombia: A Call to Protect Children from Violence and Exploitation

In light of the escalating crisis in Colombia, where surging homicide rates, rampant drug trafficking, and intensified activities by armed groups such as the ELN and FARC dissidents have led to over 100 social activist killings, widespread displacement, and a historic high in drug crop cultivation as of October 2025, the Children's International Rescue Foundation urgently calls attention to the overwhelming burden on Colombian police units. These forces are stretched thin amid rising urban violence, judicial assassinations, and transnational threats including human trafficking networks exploiting vulnerable borders with Venezuela. Children, in particular, face heightened risks from exploitation, recruitment into criminal organizations, and the fallout of terrorism that has seen a 169% increase in mobility restrictions and 117% rise in mass displacements this year alone.

As a global NGO dedicated to safeguarding at-risk youth worldwide, we emphasize the critical need for enhanced collaboration between international organizations and local authorities. NGOs must step in to provide essential resources such as specialized training, advanced surveillance technology, and safe havens to bolster police efforts in dismantling organized crime syndicates, disrupting human trafficking routes, and protecting vulnerable children from abuse and coercion. The failure of initiatives like the “Total Peace” policy to curb these threats underscores that governmental resources alone are insufficient; collective action is imperative to restore security and hope for Colombia’s future generations.

The Children’s International Rescue Foundation stands ready to mobilize support and urges donors, partners, and policymakers to prioritize this humanitarian imperative. Together, we can empower overburdened law enforcement and shield the innocent from the shadows of violence.

The Founding Board of Children’s International Rescue Foundation

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