

Human Rights Council, 39th Session

20th September 2018

Agenda Item 6 – Adoption of the UPR Report on **COLOMBIA**

Statement delivered by **Derek BRETT**

Contact: [derek.brett@ifor.org](mailto:derek.brett@ifor.org)

Mr Vice-President

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation is pleased to see that Colombia has accepted all the recommendations it received on human rights defenders.

But it is action, not words, which is required. As the Defensoria del Pueblo has just pointed out, human rights defenders in Colombia are in a perilous position.

Our Swedish affiliate, the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation, is engaged in accompanying the environmental activist group, Rios Vivos Antioquia, who are engaged in campaigning against the negative effects of the Hidroitungo dam, the biggest ever built in Colombia. Since the working group met in May, two Rios Vivos activists have been assassinated.

May I insert a personal comment? When I was born, my father was employed on hydroelectric projects in the Scottish highlands. At the time we thought this a wonderful, clean source of energy. All well and good, if you are dealing with an already depopulated area. But the much more massive hydro-electric projects of our age usually involve the displacement of thousands of people. Let us not beat around the bush. This is not acceptable.

„,is not acceptable.