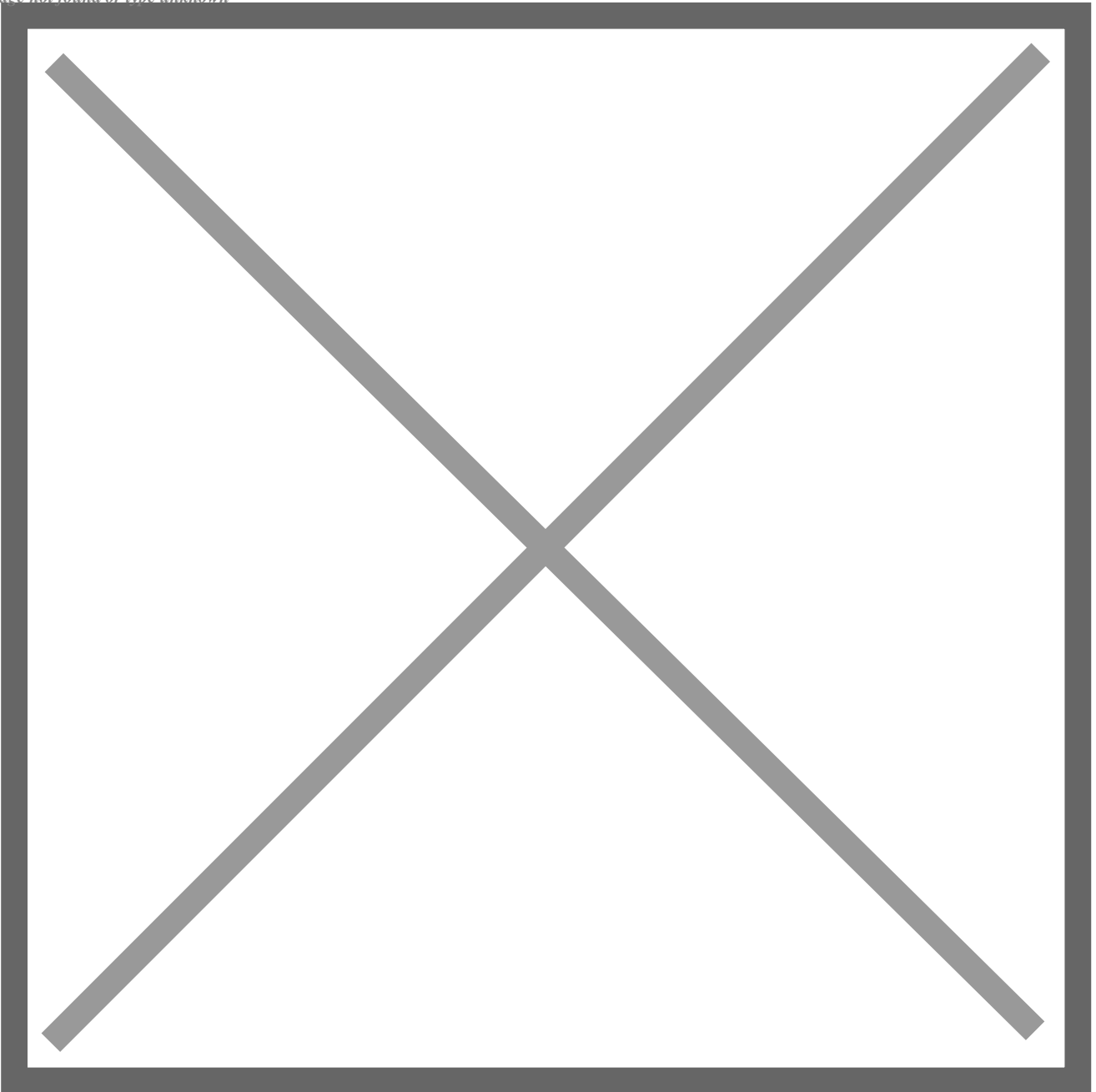


Well-known community leader assassinated in Bolívar, Colombia

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The Institute of Studies for Development and Peace (Indepaz) of Colombia denounced Friday the murder of a recognized leader of the municipality of Montecristo, in the department of Bolivar.

Bogota, August 19 (RHC)-- The Institute of Studies for Development and Peace (Indepaz) of Colombia denounced Friday the murder of a recognized leader of the municipality of Montecristo, in the department of Bolivar.

Indepaz indicated that the victim was identified as Herney Arrieta Meza, who was also a cultural and sports promoter and member of the JAC and Asojuntas in the village of Pueblo Lindo in the municipality of Montecristo, and was part of the campaign promoted by the president of the Historical Pact.

The organization specified that the event happened on August 13, when "the 33 year old leader was taken from his home by three men on Saturday, August 12 at night. His body was found the next day in the village of Puebla Linda."

For its part, the Ombudsman's Office issued Early Alert 018/21 for the municipalities of Arenal, Montecristo, Morales and Santa Rosa del Sur with its follow-up report No. 025/22 and TA 019/23 for human rights leaders and defenders. The organization stated that there is evidence of a risk scenario for people who defend human rights.

"The imposition of norms and other forms of social control by armed groups means a permanent risk of violation of the population's rights," emphasized Indepaz.

According to Indepaz, 108 leaders have been assassinated in Colombia in 2023 and 1,522 since the signing of the agreement.

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