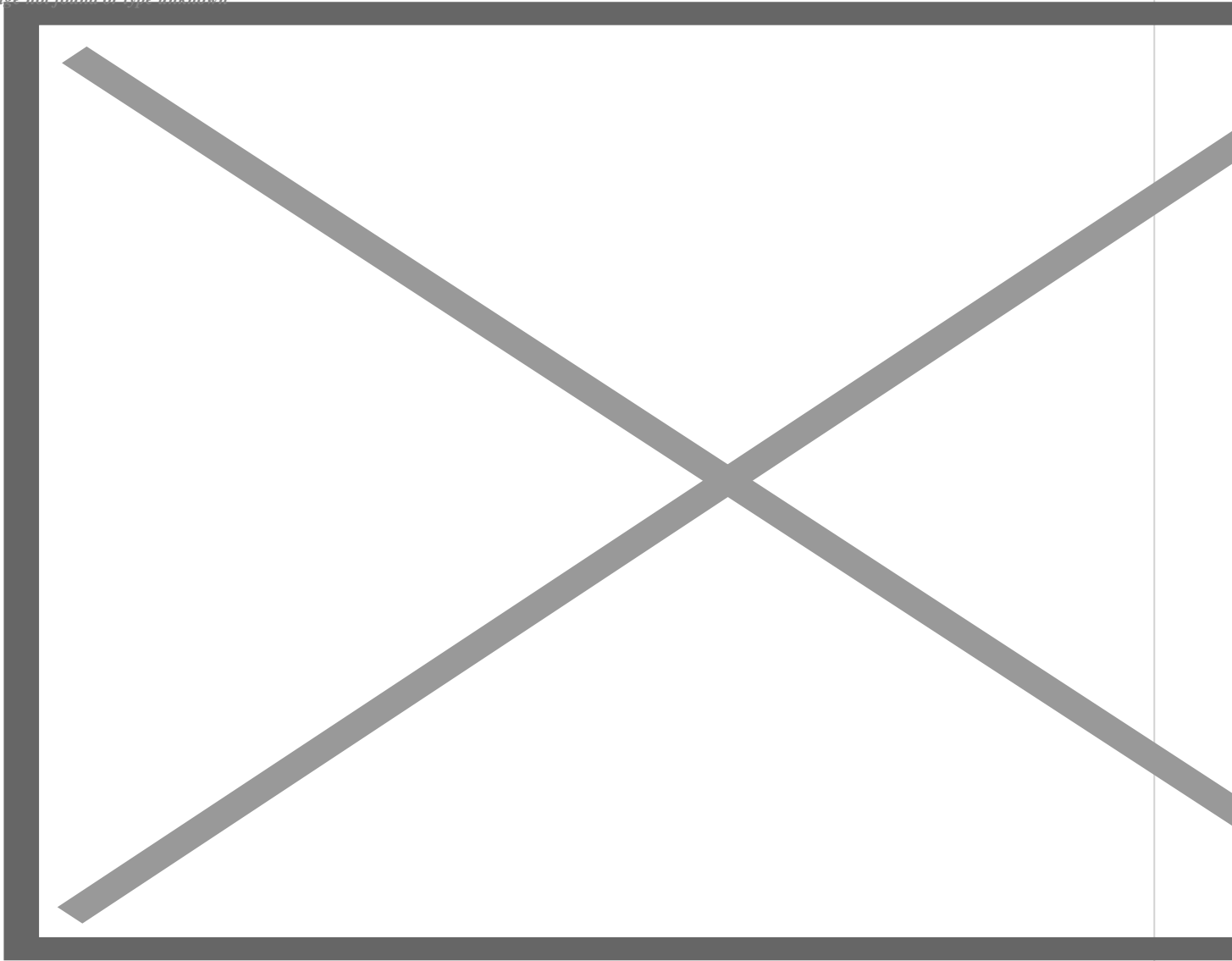


ALBA-TCP condemns acts of police violence in Colombia

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Through a communiqué, the countries of the integration bloc expressed their concern for the victims of physical violence, arbitrary detentions, reports of disappearances, cases of sexual abuse and the deaths of at least 31 people during the repression of social protests.

ALBA-TCP repudiated the excessive use of force by security agents of the Colombian State, and called on its authorities to protect human rights, the right to life and personal safety. The Alliance stressed that the use of violence does not resolve the structural causes of situations of social injustice, and expressed its hope for peace for the people of Colombia, and for dialogue and common sense to prevail.

The Institute for Development and Peace Studies (Indepaz) confirmed on Wednesday 31 fatalities during the national strike and social outbreak that has shaken the South American nation for the eighth consecutive day.

According to this non-governmental organization, the number of fatalities is in accordance with the information provided by human rights organizations such as Plataforma Grita, Temblores, Red de DDHH Francisco Isaías Cifuentes, and Campaña Defender la Libertad, among others.

The list includes the names of the victims, age, department, city, date of death and presumed perpetrator, a section in which the Mobile Anti-Riot Squad of the National Police (Esmad) stands out for its repeatedly repressive actions.

The Indepaz report also put at 1,220 the number of injured, 87 missing and 18 people with eye damage as a result of police violence, according to estimates.

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