

In the early hours of Wednesday, the 9th of September, Police Officers in Bogotá, Colombia, brutally murdered Javier Ordóñez, a lawyer and father of two. This murder, far from being an isolated incident, constitutes yet another tragic chapter in the long history of the violence and terror that the Colombian state has used to cement its authority and silence any voice that would demand a better world. But, just as Colombia has a long history of violence, it has an equally long history of resistance and solidarity in the face of injustice, a new page of which is being written today even as we speak. Led by the nation's youth, protesters have taken to the streets in major cities across Colombia, demanding justice for Javier Ordóñez, an end to police brutality, and a more just society. For days now, they have faced extreme police repression, not only having to contend with tear gas and batons, but also live ammunition fired by the police and paramilitaries. At least ten people have been killed, and hundreds more have been wounded. Still, protestors have refused to back down, continuing to take to the streets in massive numbers, firmly asserting their resolve to continue fighting until state violence in all its forms is abolished.

We would like to express our complete solidarity and support for the movement in Colombia. The struggle for abolition and freedom will not be waged in one city, or in one country, or on one continent. It is a global struggle which unites people of every language, faith, and culture in the demand for a world where we can all grow and thrive together, and where the words liberty, equality, and justice are more than just empty phrases chiseled onto the gates of prisons and court houses. Our homeland is the whole earth, and until freedom is realized everywhere, it exists nowhere.

Justice for Javier Ordóñez, George Floyd, and every other victim of state violence throughout history. From Bogotá to Minneapolis, people are standing up, and their voices will be heard.