

APPENDICES

Appendix I: List of landmark cases represented by lawyer German Romero

Lawyer **German Romero**, a member of the DH Colombia (Red de Defensores y Defensoras de Derechos Humanos) team, is dedicated to representing victims of serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity in emblematic cases in Colombia, as illustrated by the following cases:

1. Representation of victims of enforced disappearances at the Palais de justice ;
2. Support for the representation of victims in criminal proceedings relating to the massacre on 21 February 2005 of members of the community of San José de Apartadó by the XVII Brigade of the national army;
3. Investigation into more than a dozen retired army generals for their involvement in extrajudicial executions ;
4. Supporting and representing indigenous communities in cases of homicide and enforced disappearance, such as those suffered by the leaders of the Resguardo Cañamomo Lomapieta and the Arhuaco people;
5. Investigations against senior members of the national police force for acts of torture, stigmatisation, bodily harm and homicide in connection with demonstrations between 2013 and 2021.
6. Criminal investigations carried out by the Attorney General's Office for crimes of extrajudicial executions against senior officers still in active service, such as **General Emiro José Barrios Jiménez and General Jorge Enrique Navarrete**, and investigations against **General Diego Luis Villegas Muñoz**, Commander of the **Vulcain** Task Force, and **Colonel Nelson Velásquez Parrado**.
7. Investigation into the commander of the national army, Mario Montoya, for his responsibility in over 2,000 extrajudicial executions.

Appendix II: Details of at-risk episodes involving the lawyer Germán Romero

Under the concern of the IADO and other international organisations such as the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), Amnesty International, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the International Commission of Jurists, among others, as well as the UN Special Rapporteurs, who have also condemned the Colombian State's inaction on behalf of **lawyer Romero Sánchez and his family**, who have also been subjected to surveillance, threats and attacks for carrying out their duties, the events that occurred are described below:

1. **July-August 2019:** between these two months, calls were received at night on the mobile phone of someone close to the lawyer, insisting that Romero Sánchez should call back; during the call, voices were heard behind the caller directing the conversation.
2. **On 20 August 2019**, as he was returning from a hearing in the town of Popayán, Romero Sánchez and one of his escorts assigned by the National Protection Unit (UNP) were followed by two people on a motorbike. These motorcyclists carried out surveillance at various points near his home and also travelled in the opposite direction of the road near the same site¹.
3. **On 4 September 2019**, during an operation orchestrated by four people, Romero Sánchez had **his laptop stolen**. It contained testimonies, evidence and sensitive and confidential information against senior officials of the national army and other state officials that DH Colombia has collected in recent years for the protection and defence of the victims of serious human rights violations that Romero Sánchez represents. Other electronic devices and money that were next to the laptop were not lost. Thanks to two surveillance cameras, it is possible to identify the four people involved in the operation; however, on 26 September, the **Attorney General's Office decided to close the investigation without having presented any results**².
4. **On 3 October 2019**, he received a **direct death threat**. Unknown men called his private home in the early hours of the morning, saying, "**I'm not going to leave you alive for the rest of your life, do you hear me?**" A few minutes earlier, Romero Sánchez had left his home to take his daughter to school. The call was received by his partner and mother of his two daughters.

Between 2021 and 2022 (for one year), **German Romero, his partner and his two minor children were forced to leave the country as exiles due to the multiple harassments and threats they were subjected to, and a few weeks after their return to Colombia, the persecution continued.**

¹ <https://dhcolombia.com/2019/10/04/nueva-amenaza-a-representante-de-victimas-y-defensor-de-derechos-humanos-german-romero-sanchez/>

² <https://www.elespectador.com/judicial/abogado-de-victimas-de-agentes-estatales-denuncia-robo-de-informacion-y-hostigamientos-article-882099/>



5. **On 19 April 2023**, as he was leaving the offices of **DHColombia**, the defender noticed someone asking a security guard in the building questions about him. On seeing him leave, the person began to photograph him. A few days later, **on 24 April 2023**, as the defender was arriving at his place of residence, he was approached by two men who shouted at him and pointed their hand in the shape of a pistol, then one of them made a sign to cut his throat while approaching him and saying "(...) **we are going to kill you**".
6. **Between 4 May and 15 May 2023**, on two occasions, men on motorbikes (whose number plates were included in the complaints filed) carried out surveillance and took photographs in front of **DHColombia's** offices; on both occasions, when members of the defender's protection programme approached the men, they quickly fled, confirming the suspicion that they were indeed carrying out surveillance. Then, **on 18 May 2023**, a van drove through the protection programme's car, blocking its path: three men were inside, one of whom took photos of the programme. Lawyer **Romero Sánchez** provided the authorities with the van's licence plate number, but to date no result has been obtained.
7. **Between 17 and 24 November 2022**, the defender received several strange calls: during one of them, he received another call asking him "if he knew where his daughters were".
8. **Between 21 and 23 December 2022**, the defender received at least four intimidating calls, two of which made direct threats and clearly referred to surveillance and monitoring: "**we are watching you and have been watching you since you came back**". One of these calls was made to the defender's home telephone number, which is an absolutely private number, known only to the telephone operator providing the service. Another call was made to the defender's partner and another to the defender's mobile phone, again stating "**he's back, you know how we'll carry on**". These serious threats were made on the same day that lawyer German Romero Sánchez called for the opening of an investigation against members of the national police force for their role in the murders committed in Bogotá during the demonstrations on 9 and 10 September 2020.
9. **On 2 September 2023**, as the **DHColombia** team was moving offices, a man on a motorbike was taking photos of the work, in particular of the protection regime granted to the defender by the National Protection Unit (UNP) and of his movements; when the defender and a member of the regime approached to check what was going on, the man fled the scene.
10. **On 13 September 2023**, a vehicle with two men followed the defender around his house: intelligence activity which included one of them following the defender on foot from his house and returning to his house.
11. **On 17 October 2023**, as part of the procedure for accessing and consulting the intelligence, counter-intelligence and reserved costs files of the defunct DAS, ordered by the JEP on behalf of relatives and representatives of the victims of the seizure of the Palace of Justice, **a judicial police officer from the SJP's Investigation and Charging Unit (UIA)** told lawyer Germán Romero that "by order of your superiors (**UIA prosecutors**), as the victims' lawyer, at the end of the proceedings you must let them review the notes

they have taken on the proceedings". The lawyer did not authorise this review, as it was a verbal and abusive order, **which encroached on the work of legal representation and had no legal basis.**

- 12. On 30 October 2023**, a man dressed in black and looking like a soldier took videos and photos at the home of German Romero Sánchez, at the time when the defender's daughters usually come home: the aim was to document the manner, time and manner in which the guards leave the building to do their work. When confronted by the guard, the man fled. According to the same guard, the man was wearing a device under his jacket, possibly a weapon. **These actions follow the complaint lodged by the defence lawyer, German Romero, concerning the irregularity of the decisions of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP)** because a retired colonel, associated with organised crime structures, was denied the benefit of an appearance before the JEP.