

PUBLIC STATEMENT - EARLY WARNING No. 001 ASSOCIATION OF AFRO-DESCENDANT CAMPESINOS OF MARÍA LA BAJA (ASOCAAFRO), COLOMBIA
DATE: 27 JANUARY 2026

SUBJECT: WARNING REGARDING OLEOFLORES' PROFILING, HARASSMENT AND SABOTAGE OF COMMUNITY LAND ACTION IN CONTESTED STRIP OF LAND (LA FRANJA)

The families of **ASOCAAFRO** inform the country and the world that, as of yesterday, **Monday, 26 January 2026**, we have begun the legitimate and peaceful recovery of the strip of land adjacent to the Irrigation District in Montes de María, María la Baja, Colombia.

Given the serious acts of harassment that have transpired in recent hours (on 27.01.26), we issue this **URGENT WARNING** in light of the imminent risk of confrontation provoked by the private company.

1. CONTEXT OF LEGITIMACY (26 JANUARY): The ASOCAAFRO families are seeking the restitution of the La Franja land, one of their traditional territories, from which they were violently evicted. The La Franja land is currently classified as “vacant” state-owned land and has been partially sold to and occupied by private sector companies. However, the land was not vacant to begin with; we were always there. The process for **ASOCAAFRO** families to recover the land began yesterday with on-the-ground presence and verification by the **ASOCAAFRO families, the Land Restitution Unit (URT under its Spanish acronym),** and humanitarian accompaniment from the **Inter-Ecclesial Justice and Peace Commission (IEJPC)**. The presence of the URT and IEJPC confirms that our struggle is peaceful and seeks to vindicate our rights in the face of State inaction.

2. PUBLIC DENUNCIATION: PROFILING AND SABOTAGE ATTEMPTS (27 JANUARY): We denounce to the public and the competent state authorities that today, **Tuesday 27 January**, the company **OLEOFLORES and its beneficial owners** has escalated its intimidation strategy through two specific actions:

- **Profiling and Threats:** We warn of the hostile presence in the area of a high-level company employee, who, accompanied by company administrators, engineers, and private security guards, has been **photographing, recording, and individually profiling** ASOCAAFRO *campesinos* and leaders. This action has been accompanied by veiled threats from company personnel, with intimidating phrases such as “*you don't know what you're getting yourselves into.*”
- **Invasion and Sabotage Using Workers:** In addition to the profiling, at approximately **7:00 a.m.**, the company sent a crew of **about 15 workers** to the same strip of land where we were located. Under the pretext of “carrying out work,” this action seeks **to disrupt peaceful possession**, generate friction, and provoke a confrontation between workers and *campesinos* to undermine our claim.

3. URGENT CALL TO STATE AUTHORITIES: While the company deploys this strategy of confrontation and profiling, the state authorities responsible for safeguarding our possession and right to access the land (**the National Land Agency - ANT, the Rural**

Development Agency - ADR, the Ministry of Agriculture) and for our physical security (Police, María la Baja's Mayor's Office) are conspicuous by their absence.

We make an urgent appeal to the **Ombudsman's Office** and the **Procurator General's Office**. We require your **IMMEDIATE** presence to verify these acts of harassment and prevent the provocation from escalating into violence.

We publicly hold the company OLEOFLORES responsible for any physical aggression or false charges that our community members may suffer as a result of these profiling actions.

ASOCAAFFRO *From the Recovered Strip, María La Baja.*