



Communique Committee of Experts

Committee of Experts condemns the femicide of an 18-month-old girl in Antioquia, Colombia

Washington, D.C., February 1st, 2021. The [Committee of Experts \(CEVI\)](#) of the Follow-up Mechanism to the [Belém do Pará Convention \(MESECVI\)](#) expresses its absolute condemnation for the alleged femicide of Sofía Codavid, an 18-month-old girl, at the hands of her father, committed on December 18. According to information received by the Committee, the girl died from a beating and wounds inflicted with a sharp weapon.¹

In this regard, the Committee expresses its most sincere condolences to the mother and family of Sofía Codavid and requests the Colombian State to make a strong statement on the case and to take all the necessary actions to address and repair the damage caused to the victims of this case, under the highest international standards, providing, among other issues; i) psychological and medical care not only in crisis situations but also on an ongoing basis; ii) the inclusion of the mother and the relatives of the victim in all stages of the process until they can effectively access justice; iii) the necessary tools for those in charge of procuring and administering justice so that Sofía's mother and her relatives are not revictimized throughout the process; iv) the corresponding compensation; v) measures of non-repetition; and vi) all the actions required to ensure comprehensive reparation.

On the other hand, the Committee salutes the Colombian State for the arrest of the alleged femicide and urges it to continue the investigations in this case and others related to violence against women and girls: i) using a gender perspective; ii) placing the act under the criminal offense of femicide or aggravated femicide, according to the case; iii) keeping the alleged aggressor in detention and giving him an exemplary sanction if his responsibility is proven; iv) investigating the alleged acts of violence prior to the event and, where appropriate, taking them into account in adjudicating this case; and iv) protecting the girl's mother and her relatives from possible violence that may be exercised against them.

¹ Ver: <https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2020/12/19/reconstruccion-minuto-a-minuto-asi-fueron-las-ultimas-tragicas-horas-de-sofia-cadavid-la-nina-de-18-meses-asesinada-por-su-propio-padre-en-rionegro-antioquia/>.

The Committee of Experts is at the disposal of the State of Colombia to grant technical collaboration in this or any other matter related to gender-based violence against women, adolescents and girls.

The Committee of Experts is the technical body of the MESECVI responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the process of implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. It is composed of independent experts, appointed by each of the States Parties among their nationals, who exercise their functions in their personal capacity.