

A PREVIEW FROM THE "EARTH DEFENDERS" GRAPHIC NOVELLA

# LACADENA DE COLOMBIA

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

THANKS TO FLOR DEL TRÓPICO, OF CORPORACIÓN CAMINOS DE MUJER, AND TO KISSY BER ARÁMBURO VIVAS, SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY LEADER, MASTER IN INTERCULTURALITY, AND MEMBER OF THE PROCESS OF BLACK COMMUNITIES (PCN) FOR DETAILED ADVICE AND GUIDANCE. THANKS ALSO TO MADRE ADVOCACY DIRECTOR JM KIRBY AND MADRE HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER LAURA BARON-MENDOZA FOR THEIR HELP AND INPUT.

TO CHARLIE FOR HIS WRITING AND ART WORK VISUALIZING THESE ISSUES, TO LONNIE FOR HIS WORK COLORING THE DRAWINGS AND TO REBECCA FOR HER EDITORIAL OVERSIGHT.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPORT WAS FUNDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) AND HAS BENEFITTED FROM ADDITIONAL REVIEW BY ANGELA KARIUKI, PROGRAMME OFFICER AT UNEP.

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# La Cadena de Colombia

The Bay of BUENAVENTURA COLOMBIA

THE COLOMBIAN CONSTITUTION MADE A PROMISE TO THE AFRO-COLOMBIAN PEOPLE TO PROTECT THEIR TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES.

AND THE LAW KNOWN AS LEY-70 GRANTED THEM LEGAL RECOGNITION OF THEIR TERRITORIAL RIGHTS AND THEIR CULTURE.

I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL GET LOS NIÑOS OUT OF THE WATER TODAY!

STAND ASIDE MORTALS FOR I...

..THE HERO OF VALLE DEL CAUCA WILL SUPER SALTAR..

...OVER THE BAY!

THEIR SKIN WILL BE SO WRINKLED...

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL THEM FROM THEIR ABUELAS!

¡SALTO!

¡VAMOS!

THE AFRO-COLOMBIAN PEOPLE OF VALLE DEL CAUCA REJOICED IN THIS LAW AND THE FUTURE IT WOULD GUARANTEE.

YOU DID IT MI HERMANA!

WHOA!

\* MY SISTER.

BUT THAT PROMISE...?

HAS YET TO BE FULFILLED.

FIVE YEAR LATER...

TONIGHT, A  
LARGE FIRE RAGES  
IN THE PORT OF  
BUENAVENTURA.

OVER FORTY  
HOMES HAVE BEEN  
DESTROYED.



IT'S THE THIRD FIRE THIS MONTH  
IN THE OVER-PACKED LA OLLA.\*

THE DEATH TOLL AND THE CAUSE OF  
THE FIRE ARE UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME.

\*AN IMPOVERISHED NEIGHBORHOOD



THE MAYOR IS ADVISING  
RESIDENTS TO LEAVE.

THESE MAKESHIFT HOUSES ARE  
UNSAFE. THEY'RE UNPERMITTED...  
AND SLATED FOR DEMOLITION.

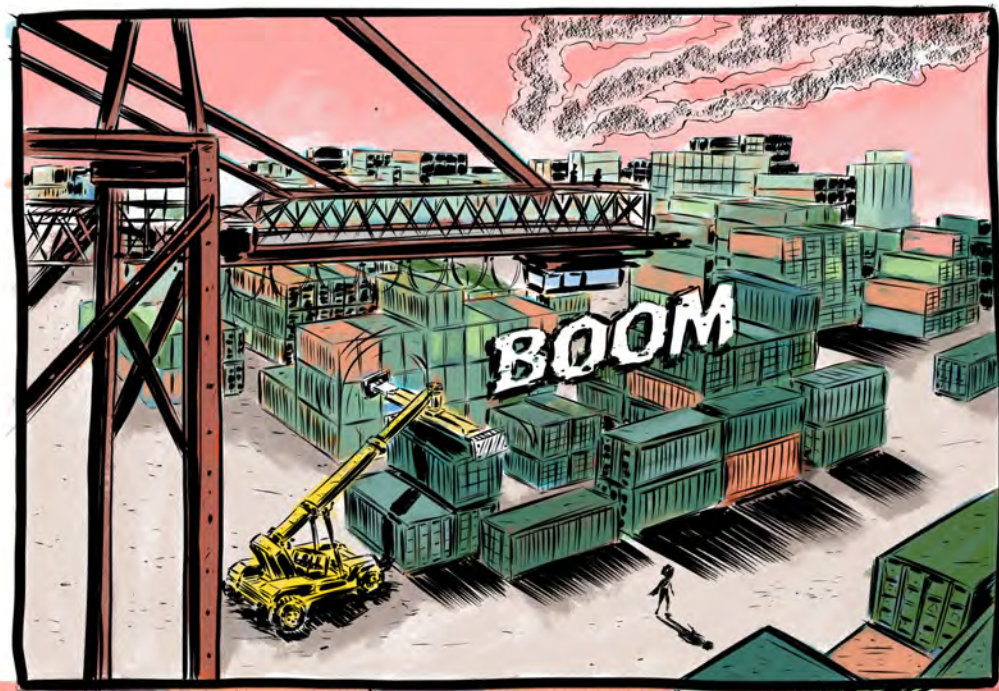




MEANWHILE, AFTER YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION, THE NEW SHIPPING PORT OF BUENAVENTURA IS BECOMING A CENTER OF GLOBAL TRADE.



MORE ON THIS AFTER THE BREAK.



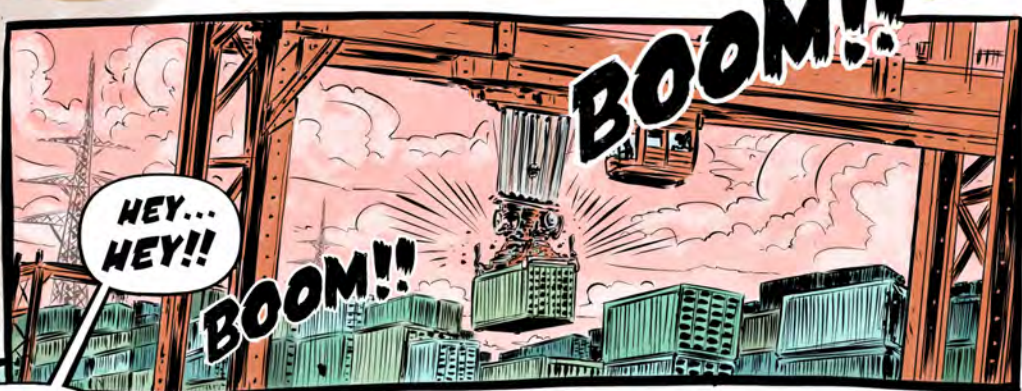


CARINA, DO YOU SEE THIS CHONTADURO FRUIT OF THE PALM?

WE NEVER CUT DOWN A TREE.

UNLESS WE REALLY NEED IT.

WE LEAVE IT, SO THAT IT MAY THRIVE. WE CANNOT THINK ONLY OF OURSELVES BUT THE SURVIVAL OF THE TERRITORY, OUR COMMUNIT--



HEY... HEY!!

BOOM!!



WAKE UP!

YOUR HOME IS GONE, PARCERA.\*



HAH!

AND YOU CAN'T KEEP BATHING IN THE BAY.

PAVED OVER.

IT'S TOXIC.

LOOK AT YOUR SKIN, I CAN LIGHT MY CIGARETTES OFF OF YOU!

LANNNNDDDDY!!

\*COLOMBIAN SLANG FOR A 'FRIEND OR ACQUAINTANCE'.



LANDIA!!

THERE YOU ARE!



GET OUTTA HERE!!

HURRY!

I'VE GOT NEWS!



I MET SOMEONE WHO MIGHT HELP US.

HOURS LATER.

THIS IS IT AHEAD!

"SOY UN ESLABÓN EN LA CADENA Y LA CADENA NO SE ROMPERÁ AQUÍ"

LET'S BEGIN... IT'S CLEAR--

**BOOM!!**

-- THIS PORT IS BENEFITTING OTHERS AND DESTROYING US.

...THOSE FIRES WERE DELIBERATE. WE NEED TO HELP THE HURT AND DISPLACED FAMILIES.

BUT THOSE WHO SPEAK OUT, ARE "DISAPPEARING"!

AND THE MAYOR'S COMMENTS... 'UNPERMITTED'?!?

WE'RE BEING DISPLACED -- PUSHED OUT!

FROM LAND WE LEGALLY AND RIGHTFULLY OWN!

VIOLENCE TOWARDS OUR SISTERS IS GETTING WORSE.

DRUG DEALERS PREY ON OUR ORPHANED KIDS-- WHO'VE LOST EVERYTHING.

AND THE OFFICIALS WHO SHOULD PROTECT US ARE ON THE BOARDS OF THESE PORT COMPANIES.

IT'S TOO MUCH!

WHAT DO WE DO CAMILLA?!?

WE MUST BAND TOGETHER.

DEMAND AN INVESTIGATION.

\*I AM A LINK IN THE CHAIN AND THE CHAIN WILL NOT BREAK HERE.



MAYBE IT IS BEST TO JUST...

...LEAVE?

NO! WE ARE HERE.

¡PRESENTE!

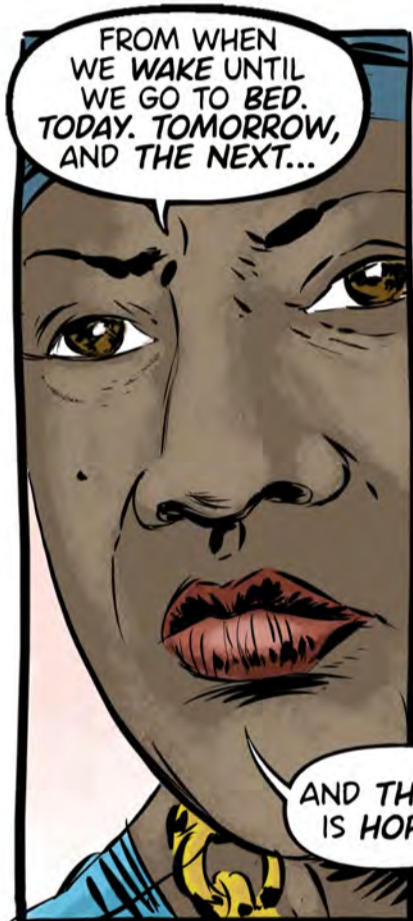


THEY CANNOT USE OUR LAND WITHOUT OUR FREE, PRIOR, INFORMED CONSENT! THIS IS OUR RIGHT!



EVERY DAY WE FIGHT -- IS A DAY WE RESIST OUR OWN ERADICATION.

WE DRAW ON OUR ANCESTRAL STRENGTH.

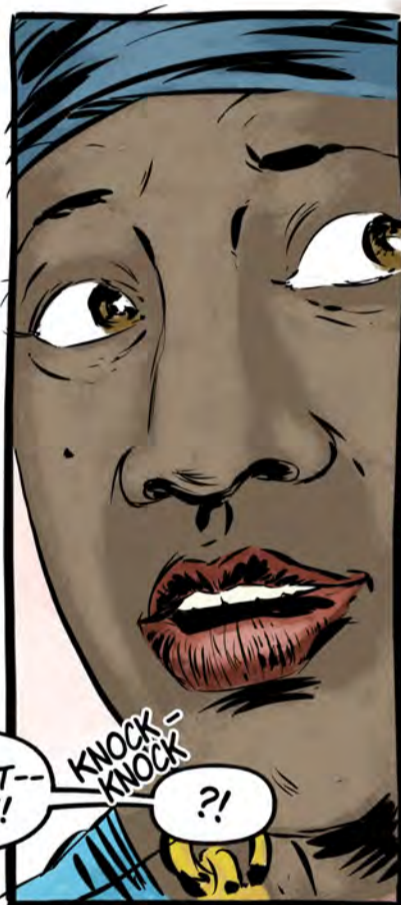


FROM WHEN WE WAKE UNTIL WE GO TO BED. TODAY. TOMORROW, AND THE NEXT...

AND THAT-- IS HOPE!

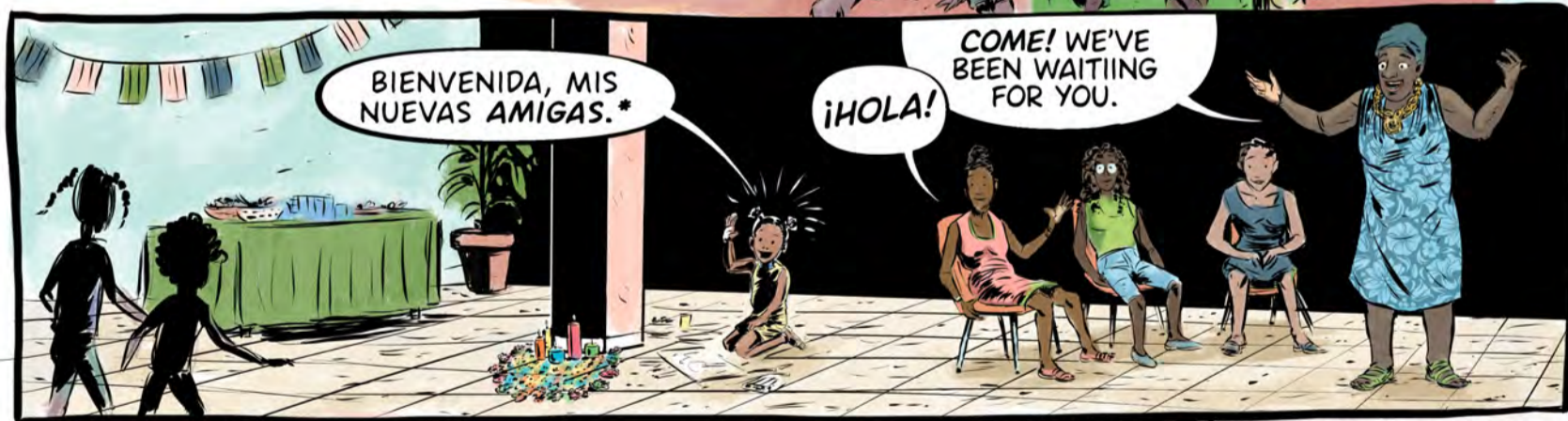
KNOCK-KNOCK

?!



AH-HAH! LOOK WHO MADE IT...

...A YOUNG HERO AND HER SIDEKICK!



BIENVENIDA, MIS NUEVAS AMIGAS.\*

¡HOLA!

COME! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

\*WELCOME, MY NEW FRIENDS!



MIRA\*...

...I GOT A MOM WHO FIGHTS!

\*LOOK...





DECADES OF CIVIL WAR AND ONGOING VIOLENCE FORCIBLY DISPLACED MILLIONS OF COLOMBIANS. AFRO-COLOMBIAN LANDS ARE PARTICULARLY TARGETED.

COLOMBIA'S 'LEY 70' GUARANTEES AFRO-COLOMBIANS COLLECTIVE RIGHTS TO THEIR TRADITIONAL LANDS, YET FEW COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY EXERCISE THOSE RIGHTS. IN 2021, NEARLY 80,000 AFRO-COLOMBIANS WERE NEWLY DISPLACED, CLEARING THE WAY FOR MEGAPROJECTS LIKE THE BUENAVENTURA PORT.

IN ADDITION TO SYSTEMIC RACISM, AFRO-COLOMBIAN WOMEN FACE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

SINCE 2016, 1000 HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN COLUMBIA. IN 2023 ALONE, 79 ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS WERE MURDERED, MAKING COLOMBIA THE DEADLIEST COUNTRY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS.

# EARTH DEFENDERS

**THE UNTOLD STORIES OF ACTIVISTS  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**SIX ORIGINAL STORIES THAT SHINE A  
SPOTLIGHT ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
DEFENDERS, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND THE  
URGENT NEED TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT.**

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