

# The Peace Process in Colombia: Marcia Mejía Chirimia Speaks about how Communities and Organizations are Working for a Better Future

"Marcia Mejía Chirimia is an indigenous woman leader of the Sia people in the southwestern Pacific region of Colombia. She lives between the **Nonam indigenous community of Santa Rosa de Guayacán**, where her family resides, and the coastal port city of Buenaventura.

Although she grew up living calmly in her riverside community, she became a victim of the armed conflict in 2010 when her community was displaced to the city of Buenaventura due to threats from the armed groups operating in the river. After eleven months of displacement and living in a shelter in Buenaventura, Marcia and her community made an autonomous return to their territory and re-founded their community as the **Santa Rosa de Guayacán Humanitarian and Biodiverse Reservation** - a way of protecting their land and establishing a territory of peace only for the unarmed civilian population.

Now Marcia defends the culture and human rights of her ancestral community, especially focusing on the defense of women's rights. She works with **ACIVA**, a network of indigenous communities in the Colombian department of Valle del Cauca, and she is also a spokeswoman for **CONPAZ** (Communities Building Peace in their Territories). Through her work as a human rights defender, Marcia works for a lasting and true peace for all Colombian communities."



**Saturday  
October 15  
2:00-3:30 PM**

Bardstown Road  
Presbyterian  
Church  
Fellowship Hall  
1722 Bardstown  
Road

Hosted by Kentucky  
Interfaith Taskforce  
on Latin America  
and the Caribbean

Questions? Contact Angelyn ([angelyn42@yahoo.com](mailto:angelyn42@yahoo.com)) or  
David ([dhorvath@fastmail.fm](mailto:dhorvath@fastmail.fm))