cypher
/'sɪfər/
The dictionary definition of cypher is ‘a secret or disguised way of writing’. In many ways, this is the essence of comics storytelling – the image, rather than the word, is a disguise for many words, that can convey meaning, emotion, and can re/frame an entire narrative.

Rap and hip hop culture has taken the word and ascribed a new meaning: ‘an informal gathering of rappers, beatboxers and/or breakdancers in a circle, in order to jam musically together.’ This, too, we find relevant to this project, in that we are bringing together artists and HRDs in freestyle collaboration of activism and art with the aim of informing, elevating and inspiring.

For us, this captures the spirit of why we are working in comics and guides how we facilitate the process of creative production.
This edition of Cypher is somewhat different than usual. Rather than focus on a specific human rights defender story, we have worked with artists to present a contextual perspective on the protests movements underway in Colombia, Palestine and Myanmar, and the repression. In each case, efforts have been made to silence HRDs and to prevent the story from reaching international attention, not to mention attempting to smear and discredit HRDs.

The collection of iconic moments from each of these movements is part of the environment in which HRDs work - and try to stay safe. Understanding this helps us start to understand the choices HRDs face, the challenges they must overcome and the costs such determination and resilience can impose.
All you need to make a comic is pencil and paper. A tangible, non-digital medium, reminds us that comics, visual storytelling can be done anytime, anywhere under almost any circumstances. All you need is a story to tell. True that, yet sometimes circumstances allow for nothing else than pen and paper, making it somewhat challenging to get the story out into the digital world. Circumstances that restrict the access to a scanner, security reasons or computer crashes leave us with the decision to put the importance of getting the story out over the technical quality. Such is the case with our first story. We took the liberty to trace parts of the handwritten text where necessary to ensure its readability. When autocratic administrations make a serious effort to literally isolate its population from raising their voices, I believe it is self-evident to provide an outlet to make those voices heard in the global human community.

June 2021
1 February - The military detains Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint and other senior figures from the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) in an early morning raid, hours before Myanmar’s new parliament was set to meet for its first session.

The military, known locally as the Tatmadaw, declares a state of emergency for a year, claiming that there had been fraud in the elections held in November 2020.

2 February - In Yangon, people bang pots and pans and sound car horns in protest. Doctors and student groups call for civil disobedience campaigns.

3 February - Civil disobedience campaign begins - in response, the military government block Facebook, Messenger and WhatsApp.

4 February - Protests spread to Mandalay.

6 February - The Tatmadaw orders blocks on Twitter and Instagram, where human rights defenders and protesters had been sharing information, and then a blackout of the entire internet. Tens of thousands of people take to the streets to protest against the coup in Yangon and other cities.

7 February - Largest protests throughout the country since 2007 take place.

8 February - Military imposes curfew and bans gatherings of more than 5 people.

In the weeks that follow, the government would order for protesters to be shot and would arrest human rights defenders and other leading anti-coup organizers. The civil disobedience campaign spread and international condemnation followed. Thousands are arrested and reports of torture emerge.

Artist first story: Anonymous

Artist second story: Sina Wittayawiroj sina.wittayawiroj

Sina Wittayawiroj is a freelance illustrator. Born in 1986, Sina grew up in Nonthaburi and Bangkok. Since 2020 most of his work has been related to political activism. He is the founder of “Democratic illustrator” and continues to paint for the movement until now.
I grew up in a third world country where we were taught not to stand out, to speak out and to stay quiet. The generations before us had little idea of human rights, freedom and wealth. Our country had been enclosed from the idea of the outside world. Luckily, I grew up in a time when Myanmar was finally opening up little by little. And a shift from military regime to democracy was in sight, with Aung San Suu Kyi’s party paving the way. We only had what’s known as “quasi-democracy”, and a very short span of it. But it meant the world to us.
Feb 1st (Monday) Fear rushed through my body. Unrest has gripped Myanmar. I could visibly see dozens of military trucks filled with armed soldiers surging around. Phone signals and the internet were all cut off. The country’s ruthless military had seized power in a coup d’état on the morning of February 1st. My miserable world turned upside down.

Feb 6th (Saturday) All of Myanmar has lost connections with the world. Thousands of people came to the streets that day, voicing their rights. This was just the beginning of our fight against the military which had been in power since 1962. Our people were strong. They were creative and fearless. Over 60,000 people joined the protest nationwide.

Members from different communities joined hands leading to the 22222 revolution.

无比网络

Feb 8th

Water cannons were used on peaceful citizens. A teenage girl was shot mercilessly by the police purposely aiming for her head. She was the first hero to have fallen, but sadly, not the last.

DON’T GO TO WORK
FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

REST IN PEACE KYAL SIN

“EVERYTHING WILL BE OK”
Over the next couple of days, 20,000 thugs were also released. From prisons around the country and were paid to commit arson, murder, and cause chaos in the city. People started banging on pots and pans as a sign of protest, and to alert one another, but no police ever intervened when these thugs rummaged the neighbourhoods. With unfocused visions and slurred speech these thugs were highly suspected to be drugged by the military.
From that night onwards, until the violence escalated, there were volunteers from every neighbourhood who staged as "night-watchers".

leave us alone!

Things just seem to have gone worse. As I lay in bed, I wept at the photos of strangers. Strangers that risked their lives for the country's future. The fallen heroes who had to pay their lives one way or another due to the brute force used by the junta. Many restless nights followed as our mental health was seriously damaged.
Tanks were also roaming on the streets of Yorgan. Snipers were seen on balconies and people dressed in non-military clothing were also holding guns together with the soldiers. Some of them even laughed at protestors using sling-shots against them.

1200+ individuals were arrested, charged or sentenced. Over 300 students were also charged with penal code 505A and were put on trial at the end of the month. On the 12th March, over 2000 people were arrested. Our country reached a death count of 70+ in violent crackdowns by both the police and the soldiers. In just a few days, the death toll spiked to 200+ people and March was by far the most violent month for the country. By the end of the month, 536 have been killed with 2729 people in detention.
But with every action comes an opposite and equal reaction—the soldiers had run out of money due to the people actively participating in the CDM (Civil Disobedience Movement). With escalating violence from the military terrorists, they stole things such as hospital machines and monitors all the way to cars, motorbikes and money.
April came. April marked our Burmese New Year - a time of fun, joy and excitement where people came together and splash water at each other as a custom of “cleaning away evil spirits.” Devastating, it was, to see hundreds more having to pay their lives to the “evil” junta assaulting citizens.

Our people would get beaten up for trivial matters like wearing a black mask or shirt, for treating injured people; children as young as five were even shot to death mercilessly by these “terrorists.” Absurdity at its finest.
236 Deaths in 46 days.

"To all fallen heroes, May your sacrifices be forever remembered"

There were also reports and testimonies from soldiers who have escaped their military bases to protest along with the people that there were stimulants mixed inside their meals to keep them energetic and feel more alert. While these soldiers were asked to love us, citizens, they were also being tortured by the leaders they clearly served. Pathetic...
While in the rural region war was breaking out, our urban lifestyle also altered. Three things the military terrorists were inspading civilian's phones, bags and vehicles for weapon. They were clearly afraid. They didn't show it, but fear and worry engulfed them—it was visible.

Pressure from various international organisations along with our people's movement had instilled fear inside them. What's their solution? Kill more citizens. If they were going to die, they were going to pull innocent people with them. UN held several meetings but could not do much due to the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation opposing every single statement made about the country of Myanmar.
A new government was also being formed – the National Unity Government (NUG). Hope wasn’t at all lost. But we were hanging by a thread. One tiny mistake could cost the youths their lives, the citizens their hopes, and the country as well.

“Please store up 3 months worth of supplies, everyone,” the NUG government said in a press conference at the beginning of June. Were things going to escalate further?
SAY "NO" TO DICTATORSHIP #SAVEMYANMAR #WENEENJUSTICE
Palestine

6 May - Palestinian residents of Sheikh Jarrah, under threat of forced expulsion from their homes, hold public iftar meals to break the Ramadan fast and build solidarity. Israeli settlers attack the gathering and incite violence.

7 May - On the final Friday of Ramadan, Israel deploys large numbers of forces to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and harass and intimidate those attending prayers, leading to protests and violence.

8 May - Protests focused on Sheikh Jarrah continue, as Israeli forces deploy against worshipers in Al-Aqsa mosque following prayers. Protesters are met with tear gas, rubber coated steel bullets and live ammunition. With images of the assault shared on social media, both the Israeli government and Palestinian armed groups issue threats.

10 May - With Israeli forces continuing attacks against protesters in Jerusalem, Hamas fired rockets against Israel. Israel launches an aerial campaign against Gaza, setting off

11 May - Protests erupt throughout the West Bank and in Palestinian and mixed cities and towns in Israel. Human rights defenders in Israel documenting violence committed by Israeli armed vigilante groups and settlers, as well as police, are targeted, while in the West Bank, settlers attack human rights defenders defending land and villages near illegal settlements.

Human rights defenders at the forefront of documenting violations committed by Israel have come under repeated attack, including detention, physical attack and smearing campaigns. On social media, companies have removed posts or suspended accounts at the request of the Israeli government, which ultimately led many companies to issue apologies.

Artist: Samir Harb

I am an architect, cartoonist, and geographer. In my work, I explore the forms of injustice and how it is articulated in banal materials and day-to-day spaces and human practices. The comic narrative is the medium to talk about politics, space, geography and many subjectivities.

I am a research fellow at the Freie Universitaet Berlin in the Human geography department, working on the political ecology of cement production.

Instagram
samir_harbss
The Israeli occupation divided the Palestinian people and their land into separated geographical entities. Each one operates under a different juridical, political, or security system.

Israel annexed East Jerusalem. Under the Israeli planning regulation,

A wall made from concrete separates Jerusalem from the West Bank. The Israeli planning policies in Jerusalem is systematically dispossessing Palestinians from their land, property, and culture.

A wall made from concrete separates Jerusalem from the West Bank. The Israeli planning policies in Jerusalem is systematically dispossessing Palestinians from their land, property, and culture.

Gaza since 2006 is under an extreme military blockade that prevents people and basic materials from moving in and out of that area. A condition that makes Gazans life very difficult to cope with day-to-day needs.

One must look at Israeli control as an apparatus that generates multiple zones of conflict, and not a single one.

Such zones made Palestinians disparate and disconnect. In the last 73 years, Israel maintained this geographical fragmentation to prevent the Palestinians from imagining a collective cultural continuity.

Then, what difference did the current events make?

Despite the Israeli attempts to divide Palestinians, the current events showed that Palestinians have stood up collectively to prove that such a system failed to reach its goals. Moreover, the protest showed the deep disagreement of the multiple forms of oppression Israel is practising against Palestinians living in Palestine-Israel.

A new imaginary of continuity has emerged.
The recent events started in Jerusalem.

It was the first day of Ramadan.

On April 13, The Israeli police ordered the closer of Bab al-Ahmiyad (Damascus Gate).

The first clashes began simply because the Israeli police denied Palestinian access to their public space.

Bab al-Ahmiyad is where Palestinian families and friends gather in the night during Ramadan month to celebrate the end of a long day of fasting and worshipping. Bab al-Ahmiyad has constantly been subjected to intensive security control by Jerusalem municipality and the Israeli police.

Closing Bab al-Ahmiyad, especially in the month of Ramadan was a provocative Israeli move. It sparked anger amongst Palestinians.

The Israeli police launched a brutal crackdown on protesters.

- Beating
- The arrest of protesters
- Shooting rubber bullets
- Teargas everywhere

The Israeli police brutality began to circulate fast across various social media platforms.

That was the moment when protests started to assemble every evening around Bab al-Ahmiyad.

What was different this time is that the events were streaming live. The circles of protest and activities were expanding day by day.
Bab al Amoud is a 10 min walk to Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood.

The protests began transforming into a disagreement on the Israeli municipality attempts to displace more than 818 Palestinian families in the east Jerusalem area.

Uprooting Palestinian from their homes in Jerusalem is not new. Since the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem in 1967, The Israeli municipality planning unit has been systematically attempting to transform the demographics of Jerusalem by replacing Palestinian with Israeli settlers.

The planning criteria is a complex one, and has been ongoing under the protection of the Israeli juridical apparatus in order to appropriate Palestinian land, annex east Jerusalem, and devoid the city from Palestinian culture and existences.

Palestinians in Jerusalem have been in a perpetual defence against being uprooted from their land, property, and homes.

At this moment, many protesters and activists started to gather spontaneously in Sheikh Jarrah as an alternative place to Bab al Amoud. Instead, Ramadan iftar eating ceremonies were organised in the streets of Sheikh Jarrah, in front of the Al-Kurd family house.
According to Mona Al-Kurd, the story goes as follow:

Nabil Kurd, the father, was living in his mother's house.

Nabil's plan was for a modest expansion. As starter, it was enough to build a one-room apartment including its facilities, a bathroom and kitchen.

When Nabil decided to get married and establish his own family, he thought to expand his mother’s house.

In the beginning, he was seeking a construction permit from the Israeli Jerusalem municipality to build the extension. But the city rejected his request to obtain permission to build.

The extension taken by Israeli Settlers

As many Palestinian Jerusalemites do, Nabil decided to build without a permit. Usually, the municipality of Jerusalem does not offer Palestinians permits to renovate, fix, or expand their homes to make it harder to live in Jerusalem.

After completing the house, the Israeli court decided to close the home and prevent the Al-Kurd family from moving in.

After several years of closing the house, the difficult part of the story was when the court allowed Israeli Settlers to move to the Al-Kurd house.

The twins Muna and Muhammed Al-Kurd were 11 years old when they witnessed the dispossession of their own home. On top of that, they were forced to live with the settlers in the same house.

Today they are fierce human right defenders.
Palestinians in different Israeli cities began to protest against the Israeli government’s policies of property and land dispossession.

The protests began taking new meaning. What is happening to Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah is also taking place in other cities.

Protests started to move beyond Sheikh Jarrah and Bab al Amoud.

It was a turning point that these protests began taking place at the same time. The calls to support Sheikh Jarrah began to take form.

* See detailed Legal account on the absentee's property law by Addalah human rights and legal centre at www.addalah.org/en/Law/view/538

Protests in Jaffa began to move under the slogan of “Jaffa is not for sale.”

AMIDAR is the Israeli housing authority. It organised an auction to sell Palestinian houses in Jaffa.

These houses are for Palestinian people who are no longer in Israel. Based on the absentee’s property law were sold in the market.

These houses belong to Palestinians who were expelled from Palestine in 1948.

The protests in Jaffa resonated with the same demands to stop the Israeli policies of the dispossession of Palestinian property in Jerusalem.
On May 8, the Israeli police stormed into the Al-Aqsa mosque. After that, the images of the Israeli police evacuating the Haram Al-Sharif and brutally attacking worshipers began to circulate across social media like wildfire.

Invading the Al-Aqsa mosque in Ramadan was highly provocative for Palestinians due to its symbolic meaning.

Streaming live events on social media was one of the key factors in showing how the Israeli police violence operates.

This event articulated the moment of collective disagreement among Palestinians living in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza.

It was a tipping point to consolidate international awareness of the extreme practices of the Israeli government apartheid regime against Palestinians. To invade and evict Palestinians from the Al-Aqsa was to deny the existence of Palestinians, their cultural connection to Jerusalem.
Israel carried out multiple airstrikes in the Gaza strip. That destroyed various buildings and led to many human losses. 11 days of the heavy airstrike.

The attack on the media offices of Al-Jazeera and the Associated Press was one of the most striking images that circulated in the media. It meant that news and images of the nature of Israel’s airstrikes destruction could not circulate out of Gaza to the world.

Yet again, social media and live streaming could capture the broad picture of what was going on. Disturbing live videos began to circulate, showing people anticipating airstrikes in their homes to see if their building would be the next target.

However, a young rapper’s video went viral. The filming took place in front of the rubble of a destroyed home. The young rapper was walking in front of it as the size of the destruction unfolds in the background.

His voice has reached millions across the globe.

My only mission is to make people listen.
What began to be evident during these events, it does not matter what geography (under Israeli control) a Palestinian inhabits. The Israeli regime is transversal and omnipresent.

May 15, the Nakba Day, or ‘Catastrophe’, is the day to commemorate the Palestinians’ loss of their homes and force to leave after establishing the state Israeli on their land in 1948.

A collective imaginary of disagreement began to appear starting in Sheikh Jarrah, Silwan, Al-Aqsa, then spreading to Jaffa, Nazareth, Haifa, Lod, Akko, Ramla, Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron, and Gaza. And many other locations.

A call for a general, commercial strike began to take place on May 18.

Protest began to expand on various level. The general strike was a widespread call for all Palestinians to join. The collective response to the commercial strike by Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories signalled a moment of unification between the two geographies.

Palestinian workers and Palestinian economy are dependent on the Israeli market, the strike caused an interruption in the flow of commerce in Israel.

Palestinian in many areas in the West Bank and inside Israel have refused to open their business.

The general strike defined a new constellation of a unified popular resistance across the fragmented Palestinian geographies.
An Unprecedented Wave of Palestinian Solidarity Statements

Activists for Palestinian rights celebrate movement away from the "two-sides narrative" but do the statements go too far? (Image reference)

By Elizabeth Keen

We must not forget the international solidarity and its importance in shaping a clear position against the Israeli limitless atrocity.

A Letter
Against
Apartheid.

EMERGENCY PROTEST
Justice for Palestine
Fly the Flag
Assemble at Embankment
marching to Hyde Park
Sat 22nd May - 1pm

An estimated 180,000 people joined London's latest pro-Palestine protest.

Organisers say the march was the largest Palestine solidarity demonstration in UK History.

A moment demanded clearly the end of this process of making the life of Palestinian devoid through denying the Palestinians the right to live.

Staff at University of Manchester demand end to Tel Aviv University ties

In an open letter, 24 members of staff at the University of Manchester say they are developing a policy of divestment in Israel against pro-Israel research.

Celebrities joined the wave of protest, despite the fact of loosing reputation and personal gain.

Bella Hadid, a supermodel for top cosmetics, fashion and perfumes brands...

... made her position clear against the Israeli apartheid regime, thus unlocked new geographies of awareness.
On June 28

The Israeli municipality of Jerusalem ordered nineteen families to demolish their own homes or else the municipality will carry the demolishing works.

When the Israeli municipality demolishes Palestinian homes, Palestinians are forced to pay the expenses of demolishing.

But due to the high expenses that Israeli municipality puts on the fees of demolishing, many Palestinians chose to demolish their own homes within a period of 24 hours.

Standing against all forms of displacement of Palestinians is key to end the Israeli occupation.

The story has not finished, 1,500 people are threatened to be displaced in Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah, and other areas of Jerusalem.

For more news from Sheikhjarrah and Silwan follow these accounts:

- Saleh Zighari: https://www.instagram.com/salehzighari/
- Muna Al-Kurd: https://www.instagram.com/munakurd15/
- Muhammad Al-Kurd: https://www.instagram.com/mohammedelkurd/
- Sheikhjarrah Units Official: https://www.instagram.com/sheikhjarrahunitsofficial/
- Silwan: https://www.instagram.com/savesilwan/
- Sheikh Jarrah Artist: https://www.instagram.com/bijkijazz/
28 April - Colombians take to the streets to protest a controversial fiscal reform introduced by President Ivan Duque. Activists had warned that the measure would exacerbate inequality. Cali becomes a focal point of the protests.

29 April - Protests spread as Colombia security forces use excessive force against the protesters.

30 April - More demonstrations in more cities and towns materialize as images and videos of repression are shared on social media.

1 May - By 1 May, the motivation for the protests have shifted to opposition to the corruption endemic in the country and against the use of force by the state against civilians.

2 May - President Duque withdraws the propose law, but protests continue to increase.

9 May - Indigenous woman human rights defender Daniela Soto received two gunshots to her abdomen from armed civilians in armoured vans in the La María area of Cañas Gordas, south of Cali. During the attack, at least 11 indigenous human rights defenders from the Indigenous Guard were also injured.

In 2 months of protests, local civil society organisations have documented at least 4687 cases of violence by Colombian security forces, including 44 killings where the alleged perpetrator is a member of Colombian security forces. At least 2005 protesters have been detained. (See more at: radiotemblores.org)

Women have been in the forefront of organising and protesting. At least 28 have faced sexual violence.

The government’s response to the protests has been both repression and attempts to discredit the human rights defenders and organizers.

Artist: Lucas Ospina
Instagram @luisaponcas
“Violence has never been our tool,” says Francia Márquez, an important social leader, in Siloé, the biggest low-income neighborhood of Cali, in the middle of the day, in the middle of the street, on the morning of May 4. The night before, in that area, 3 young people were killed in the crossing of forces between civilians and police.
“For several nights we had watched with fear and anguish how the police attacked our young people who came out to protest for their rights,” says Vanessa while covering part of her face with a black scarf. And he continues: “We came to the conclusion that if we were going to do social work, we should do it well: in the front line, putting the body to defend the protesters.”

“Mamás primera línea”
“If they erase it 20 times, we repaint it 40 times. Nobody or nothing makes us feel shy”, says one of the graffiti artists who returned to the San Mateo Redoma today from 10 am to paint for the third time the murals on the bases of the Carlos Ramírez Paris Bridge in Cúcuta. “It is that thinking differently in this country has always been synonymous with violence. It hurts them that we reveal the truth, and just as they cover up military killings they want to cover up our messages of rejection of the government”, an art student at the University of Pamplona said indignantly.
Piisciis, Nova and Aixid

“We were very scared because everyone in Colombia is afraid of ESMAD,” Piisciis said in an interview, referring to the Escuadrón Móvil Antidisturbio, or Mobile Anti-Disturbances Squadron. “They are violent and aggressive with us.”

Nova said: “We resisted with art and vogue. We were scared, but the people and the love from the public was our gasoline to go up there and confront the police.”
Indigenous groups tear down the statue of the Spanish founder of Bogotá

“We continue our mandate to develop historic justice against crimes against humanity,” the indigenous movement maintains in a kind of statement. “With the strength of the people, we continue on permanent strike and call for a general strike in Colombia to advance, a strike capable of teaching those who have governed us for more than 200 years that governments must have respect for the Colombian people who build collective and popular power”, they assure.
Women Who Shield The Young

“In the midst of the protests, a group of women from a popular neighborhood in Cali organizes a community pot offering young people their support and a hot meal. The mothers of the Meléndez resistance point know the reality of the young and long for a better future for their daughters and sons.”

Mujeres que escudan a los jóvenes de la primavera colombiana en Cali
Guardia Indígena del Cauca

“As a result of the repressive response of the authorities to the protests, at least a dozen members of the Indigenous Guardia have been injured while trying to protect and defend protestors from the disproportionate use of force deployed by state authorities in cities across Colombia.”

Statement of solidarity with the work of the Guardia Indígena in Cauca
Daniela Soto

“On 9 May 2021, indigenous woman human rights defender Daniela Soto received two gunshots to her abdomen from armed civilians in armoured vans in the La María area of Cañas Gordas, south of Cali. During the attack, at least 11 indigenous human rights defenders from the Indigenous Guard were also injured.”

Indigenous woman human rights defender Daniela Soto and the Indigenous Guard targetted during protests
Mauricio Villa, father of Lucas Villa

“Now we do have to meet in hearts. There, in that place where you wanted us to see each other, not with our eyes but with our hearts,” said Mauricio Villa, father of Lucas Villa, the young student killed by 8 shots when he peacefully demonstrated on the viaduct that connects Pereira with Dosquebradas in Risaralda.

Video: [Bailando, así le dio el último adiós el papá de Lucas Villa a su hijo](#)
Álvaro Herrera, a young music student, was arrested for filming hitmen who were shooting at protesters in front of the Ciudad Jardín neighborhood, an upper-class neighborhood in Cali where some neighbors and policemen created paramilitary groups to attack the protesters. Captured by them, beaten and threatened with disappearance, he was handed over to the police and, handcuffed, forced inside a police station to confess on video that he was a “vandal”. The video went viral and thanks to the action of his friends and lawyers, he was released hours later thanks to a court order.

https://twitter.com/LuisaPoncas/status/1400162493142601730
“The live shows of the protesters contain their voices and their movements. They do not annihilate the other, their action is not to shoot, it is to publish, to put the repressor in the light, even when it prefers to operate at night and in the dark. They are anti-military images, they operate in search of stopping the annihilation as a way of response. These images contain a democratic demand. They appeal to the public, that the military force has its obstacle not in another military force that confronts it in its own lethal terms, but in the political, legal, democratic forces."

Los en vivo: estar vivos y ser vistos
José Alberto Tejada and his journalistic team

“This Friday, June 4, in the middle of a coverage of demonstrations, Esmad agents fired in the direction of the journalists of Channel 2 in Cali, José Alberto Tejada and Jhonatan Buitrago. In the same area, a member of the human rights brigade claimed that a police officer said that the journalist “holds on to shoot.” Channel 2 is a community media that has covered the events of the national strike. During this time, their security and integrity have been compromised by the stigmatization and attacks that come from the public force and armed civilians.”
Spreads of ambiguity

“Intolerance of ambiguity is the mark of an authoritarian personality.”
- Theodor Adorno
Dressed in the costumes of Batman and the Joker, two marchers carry messages that turn common phrases into ironic slogans.

The artists confront the solemnity of power with ambiguous messages that enrich the language, give a broader understanding of reality: they evade a unique interpretation of the facts.

“There’s an English idiom, ‘Stop and think.’ Nobody can think unless he stops.”
— Hannah Arendt
Find us online

frontlinedefenders.org/cypher