

## UN, Pope Urge Peace After Colombia Massacre Arrest

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**BOGOTA:** The United Nations and Vatican have called for an immediate end to violence against civilians in Colombia following the arrest of a key suspect in the Cajibío massacre that killed 20 people.

Authorities confirmed the detention of Jose Alex Vitonco, also known as “Mi Pez,” accused of orchestrating the April 25 attack in the southwestern Cauca region. Security officials identified him as a senior figure within a faction of the Central General Staff (EMC), a dissident group linked to former FARC rebels led by Ivan Mordisco.

The UN human rights office strongly condemned the attack and urged armed groups to respect international humanitarian law, while calling on the state to strengthen its presence, ensure accountability, and provide humanitarian support to victims.

Addressing the situation, Pope Leo XIV expressed deep concern and urged all sides to reject violence and pursue peace.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro described the suspect as responsible for the attack, while Defense Minister Pedro Sanchez termed him a high-value target linked to ongoing violence in the region.



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