



April 9th, 2019

In Colombia, bipartisanship has been a notable source of violence. Today, April 9th, USF's Arrupe Observatory wants to commemorate 71 years of the Bogotazo, when the clash of conservative and liberal parties in Colombia left Bogotá in flames. Violence was sparked by the murder of the liberal presidential candidate, Jorge Eliecer Gaitán, and led to the resurgence of urban violence in the capital, laying the road to an unsustainable struggle of bipartisanship in years to come, which came to be known as the years of la Violencia.

The FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) later emerged as a result of the lack of representation for other voices that were neither liberal nor conservative, and the FARC lasted around 60 years in this struggle of having their voices heard. Today, Colombia has the privilege of saying that the peace accords ended a conflict that originated due to a bipartisan division. It is important to commemorate a day that unleashed excessive violence and be able to acknowledge that today this is a distant memory and not a reality.

The Observatory is certain that Colombia deserves a better future, in which the structural causes at the root of violence and wars are dismantled. We commemorate this day with the purpose of keeping the memory alive to prevent the repetition of these tragedies that emerged due to a division of thought. The Observatory believes in a country where the difference of opinion is not a cause of violence, but instead, a reason to achieve a more inclusive and humane society, that embraces the diversity of opinions and helps build a better future for all Colombians.

In peace,

USF Arrupe Observatory