

Francisco Verá Manzanares



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

July 18th 2009

Francisco is a young and upbeat defender of the environment. After his visit to the Colombian senate in 2019, he has become a public figure. Raised together by his parents and aunt, he is with no surprise one of the most known activists in Colombia. He is always eager to push the limits and wants to create awareness in all ages and social classes.

ABOUT HIS CHALLENGES

"What were you doing when you were 10 years old?" Asked on Twitter by Journalist Maria Gonzalez while sharing one of Francisco's videos

"They said that I was an instrumentalized, indoctrinated person. The call is not to belittle or undermine the knowledge of young people. Some have skills to create TikToks, to be YouTubers or to play video games. But I have the ability to be a child who likes to defend this cause" said Francisco during an interview

"Why have Greta (Thunberg) and myself had so much visibility in social media and press even though we say something obvious. For example it doesn't take too much effort or a doctorate to understand there is no Planet B." Answered Francisco to criticism.

Francia Marquéz



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST
AND
SOCIAL LEADER
1982

Francia Márquez is a Colombian social, cultural and environmental leader. She has worked in defence of the rivers at the town of Suarez (Cauca) and the ancestral territories of the Afrocolombian communities, striving to stop mining activities (both legal and illegal) in their territory. Winner of The Goldman Environmental Prize in 2018 – also known as the Environmental Nobel Prize.

ABOUT HER CHALLENGES

In 2014, together with other 18 women, she started to march towards the Colombian capital, that would be later named as "The March of Turbans". In 10 days they walked 350 kilometers.

In 2015 she was invited to mediate in the peace process between rebels and Colombian government which was taking place in La Havana. She was well known by then and had won the Colombia National Prize.

"Europe's privileges rely on the plunder of other countries," said Marquéz "We ask you to put your development into the service of the life of our communities. They are killing us, it is a genocide". She stated when she was awarded in 2018.