

via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 Senor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez Presidente de la Republica de Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 444 2158 Dr. Francisco Santos Calderon Vicepresidente de la Republica de Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 Ext 2017 Dr. Mario German Iguaran Fiscalia General de la Nación, Colombia	via U.S. mail Volmar Antonio Perez Ortiz Defensor del Pueblo

December 21, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are deeply concerned for the safety of members of the Afro-Colombian human rights organization **Proceso de Comunidades Negras en Colombia (PCN)**, especially **Washington Vladimir Angulo Cuero** and **Willington Cuero Solis**.

Washington Vladimir Angulo Cuero was abducted on October 30 and held for five hours by a group of men who told him they were paramilitaries. Two men approached him at a shopping center in Bogotá and pushed him at gunpoint into a dark blue van with heavily tinted windows. They drove him around, threatening to kill him. Eventually, one of the men received a phone call after which he told his companions, "we cannot do anything to this guy, we can't touch him ... these are our orders." They left him on the outskirts of the city.

Before being abducted, Washington had noticed the men following him and telephoned a colleague from the PCN for help. When the colleague could not find him at the shopping center, he called some government and state authorities, including the office of the Vice-President and the Minister of Interior and Justice's protection program, telling them that Washington Angulo was missing.

Washington Angulo has been receiving threats since 2004 when he was living in the municipality of Buenaventura, Department of Valle del Cauca. In 2004 he escaped death at the hands of a paramilitary group when the man sent to kill him turned out to be an old friend; in 2005 he escaped an attempted abduction. He fled his home in Buenaventura following the May 1, 2006 killing of his younger brother by paramilitaries. He has since been living in Bogotá. We believe that Washington Angulo is still in serious danger.

Other PCN members are also being threatened:

June 16: two men threatened and took identity documents from **Elizabeth Garcia Carrillo**

October 25: paramilitaries followed PCN youth leader **Astolfo Aramburo**; paramilitaries have already killed 14 members of his family

November 2: after fleeing his home in Buenaventura, **Willington Cuero Solis** received a threat by telephone at his home in Bogotá

We believe these threats and attacks are part of an on-going systematic and sustained paramilitary campaign against the PCN. We strongly urge you to

- take effective action to protect PCN members, as deemed appropriate by those under threat themselves, so that they can continue their legitimate human rights work in safety;
- conduct full and impartial investigations into the abduction of Washington Vladimir Angulo Cuero and the threats received by Elizabeth Garcia Carrillo, Astolfo Aramburo, Willington Cuero Solis and other members of the PCN;

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Ambassador Carolina Barco Isakson ~ via fax: 1 202 232 8643
 William B Wood US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011-571-315-2197
 Heather Merritt, Desk Officer for Colombia via fax: 202.647.2628
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992

The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: