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| via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 011 57 1 342 05 92<br><b>Sr. Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez</b><br>Presidente de la Republica de Colombia | via fax: 011 57 1565 7682<br><b>Sr. Dr. Francisco Santos Calderon</b><br>Vicepresidente de la Republica de Colombia |
| via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000<br><b>Dr. Mario German Iguaran</b><br>Fiscal General/ Attorney General, Colombia                           |   |

November 15, 2005

Dear Sirs,

We are deeply concerned about the detention of Micoahumado community leaders **Isidro Alarcon, Ana Elba Galvis, and Laura Cristina Canonico-Pedraza** on October 5 by the Nueva Granada Battalion of the Colombian army, based in Barrancabermeja. It seems clear that their detention is related to their organizing work of the local Constitutional Assembly in Micoahumado.

The government has done nothing to provide guarantees of safety and protection for the Constituent Assembly proceedings and for community leaders. Meanwhile, the paramilitaries, in collaboration with Colombian army units, threaten the very democratic process set forth in the Constituent Assembly and thereby undermine the promotion of peace and justice within the community. The army's detention of Isidro, Ana Elba and Laura Cristina is an act of support of illegal paramilitary violence in the Middle Magdalena region of Colombia.

Based on these facts, we call upon the Colombian government to release Isidro Alarcon, Ana Elba Galvis and Laura Cristina Canonico. Their case has been registered under Case #2558 and assigned to Prosecutor #287. We also urge you to recognize and protect the right of the residents of Micoahumado to organize democratically to pursue peace in the region of conflict where they live.

We find it reprehensible that the Colombian government fails to detain and prosecute paramilitary killers and land-grabbers but detains popular community leaders whose only "crime" is devotion to democratic forms and processes and a determination to seek and obtain justice. We will make certain that officials of the United States government are made aware of this situation.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Luis Alberto Moreno, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ 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, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.2628  
 U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich ~ via email  
 U.S. Representatives Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

CSN\_Colombia

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