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| via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez President of the Republic of Colombia | via fax: 011 57 1 560 46 30 Dr. Carlos Holguín Sardi Minister of Interior and Justice, Colombia |
| via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 Dr. Mario Germán Iguaran Arana Attorney General of Colombia | |

August 15, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are seriously concerned for the safety of **Rigoberto Jiménez**, a member of the National Coordination of Displaced People (CND), who has received a series of death threats. We are also concerned for the safety of members of the non-governmental human rights organization **Corporación Jurídica Yira Castro** in Bogotá, also mentioned in the threats.

On July 30, an email death threat addressing Rigoberto Jiménez and signed by the recently-created paramilitary group Bosa Black Eagles (Águilas Negras de Bosa), stated in part: ". . . You and the good for nothing lawyers of the Yira Castro have ignored us. . . . We know you are planning to publicize the threats against you and then it is going to be worse. We will . . . clean Bogotá of all guerrilla groups. . . ."

This was the third threatening e-mail CND had received in recent weeks:

- July 22, an e-mail told Rigoberto Jimenez "to shut up or face the consequences."
- July 26, a threat addressed to the CND stated: ". . . we are going to finish with all of you, one by one, and we will start with Mr. Rigoberto Jiménez. . . ."

In addition, on July 12, two unknown men approached Jiménez on a street in Bogotá and told him that they came to work with the Águilas Negras to finish with all guerrillas who "talk bullshit" about the government.

These threats came after the International Tribunal of Opinion, an international conference about forced displacement that took place in Bogotá at the end of June, at which Rigoberto Jiménez and other members of the CND participated. One of the sponsors of this event was the Corporación Jurídica Yira Castro.

On July 14 we wrote to you expressing our concern about the June 22 break-ins at the office of Corporación Jurídica Yira Castro. We again urge that you

- take effective action, as deemed appropriate by the members of these organizations, to protect Rigoberto Jiménez and others so that they may continue their legitimate and important work defending human rights without fear of intimidation;
- immediately order full and impartial investigations into the threats and the break-in at the offices of the Corporación Jurídica Yira Castro, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice;
- produce policy and plans, in conjunction with human rights defenders, to guarantee their safety according to the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and make these plans public.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Corporacion Juridica Yira Castro ~ via US mail
 Carolina Barco Isakson, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax
 William Brownfield, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax
 Heather Merritt, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States ~ via fax
 U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich ~ via email
 U.S. Representatives Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

2UA165-07Update/Colombia

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