

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 1 565 76 82 Dr. Francisco Santos Calderon Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 222 1874 Dr. Camilo Ospina Bernal Minister of National Defense of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 342 9793 Dr. Edgardo José Maya Villazón Attorney General of Colombia

October 26, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about the damage and trauma caused by an explosive device placed in the entry of **School of Arts and Human Development "Mario Gonzalez"** in the municipality of Piedecuesta in the metropolitan area of Bucaramanga, Santander Department on October 12 at 4:30 a.m. For the past three years, the school has worked with low-income campesinos, students, women, youth, and children of the surrounding rural and urban areas, providing them with a space for friendship and solidarity as well as such skill-building activities as gardening, weaving, singing, poetry, dance, and drama. It is affiliated with the Movement of Christians for Peace, the Coalition of Social Movements, the Women's Social Movement and the Secular Franciscans.

The explosion caused structural damage to the café theater Kussihuayra located within the school and greatly traumatized those living close to the school. Neighbors saw two unknown men running toward the area of the central cemetery after installing the device.

We strongly urge you to

- immediate conduct an investigation into the explosion at School of Arts and Human Development "Mario Gonzalez," make the results known and bring those responsible to justice.
- take all necessary measures in accordance with international and Colombia law to protect the persons and organizations associated with the school.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Dr. Carlos Franco, Presidential Human Rights Program ~ via fax: 011 57 1 337 4667
National Treasury ~ via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000
Dr. Volmar Antonio Pérez Ortiz, Human Rights Program of the Defensoría del Pueblo ~ via fax: 011 57 1 640 0491
Carolina Barco Iskson, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
Ambassador William Brownfield, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.315.2197
Heather Merritt, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.4173
Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
US Representatives Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

LAS 10/18 Colombia

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