

via fax: 011 57 1 337 5890

Excmo. Sr. Presidente Alvaro Uribe
President of the Republic of Colombia

via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 ext 2017

Dr. Mario Germán Iguaran Arana
Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia

via fax: 011 57 1 565 9797

Dr. Carlos Franco Echevarria

Director of the Presidential Programme for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

April 26, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of members of the following groups, who have been threatened with death by the army-backed paramilitary group "Black Eagles" (Aguilas Negras):

- Magdalena Medio Peace and Development Program (Programa de Desarrollo y Paz del Magdalena Medio)
- Human rights organization, Corporación SEMBRAR
- Agro-Mining Federation of Southern Bolivar Department, FEDEAGROMISBOL (La Federacion Agrominera del Sur de Bolívar)
- Catholic priests working in the municipalities of Tiquisio, Arenal and Regidor in Boliva Department

During FEDEAGROMISBOL's regional assembly in Tiquisio, March 26-30, police and military hassled participants as they tried to identify movement leaders. The military has already assassinated several members of the FEDEAGROMISBOL and community leaders in the Southern Bolivar region; then the military claims that the victims were guerrilla fighters killed in combat. For example, members of the Army's Battalion Nueva Granada killed FEDEAGROMISBOL leader Alejandro Uribe on September 19, 2006, and then presented him as a guerrilla.

On April 10, members of the groups mentioned above received an e-mail death threat signed by the Black Eagles (Aguilas Negras): "...your names are on the national government's list of undesirables who must be eliminated."

Because of our great concern for the safety of members of FEDEAGROMISBOL, SEMBRAR, the "Programa de Desarrollo y Paz del Magdalena Medio" and Catholic priests working in the municipalities of Tiquisio, Arenal and Regidor in Bolivar Department, we strongly urge you to:

- ensure that all measures deemed appropriate by the individuals and organizations named in the threat received on April 10 are taken to guarantee their safety;
- order full and impartial investigations into the death threat received on April 10, publish the results and bring all those responsible to justice;
- take decisive action, in line with repeated UN recommendations, to confront and dismantle paramilitary groups operating in the region and investigate and break their links with the security forces;

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Corporacion SEMBRAR, ~ via mail
Sra. Carolina Isakson, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 1 202 232 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
Sr. Wolmar Antonio Perez Ortiz, Human Rights Ombudsman ~ via fax: 011. 571.640. 04 91
US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Latta, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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