

via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 266 03 64 Mayor General Oscar Enrique González Peña Commander of the National Army of Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 Dr. Mario German Iguaran Arana Attorney General of Colombia	

November 15, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We are once again seriously concerned for the welfare and safety of members of the **Peace Community of San Jose de Apartadó**, especially **Jesus Emilio Tuberquía**, in the northwestern department of Antioquia. On October 30 at 11 am, paramilitaries stopped three and told them to take a message to members of the Peace Community living in La Esperanza hamlet. The message said that the paramilitaries were planning to kill six people whose names were on a list and that everybody should leave the area to avoid a massacre.

Peace Community members continue to reject the presence of all forces that carry or use arms. When they asked government security forces to leave the area, they responded that the "Peace Community was a nest of guerrillas and that was why it should be destroyed." In the past, the paramilitaries, often in coordination with units of the Colombian Army and police, have followed up on threats of this kind by attacking or killing members of the Peace Community.

On November 1, two local paramilitaries approached **Jesus Emilio Tuberquía**, leader and legal representative of the Peace Community, as he was leaving an internet café in the municipality of Apartadó. They put a gun to his head and threatened to kill him, but he managed to escape, dropping his bag as he ran. The paramilitaries could not catch him, but they retrieved his bag, which contained information about the Peace Community.

We have faxed Colombian government officials at least 15 letters since 2002, regarding the intimidation, harassment, threats and assassinations of residents of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. But, six years later, Colombian authorities seem to have taken little action to implement our requests or the requests of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of the Organization of American States that they take appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of inhabitants of the Peace Community.

Again, **we strongly urge** that you:

- order full and impartial investigations into the attack against Jesus Emilio Tuberquia and the paramilitary threat to attack the Peace Community hamlet of La Esperanza, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- take all measures necessary to guarantee the safety of these people, as deemed appropriate by the community themselves, in line with the Resolution issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of the Organization of American States on March 15, 2005;
- immediately take decisive action, in line with stated 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: Sr. Sergio Caramagna, Organization of American States Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia ~ via US mail
 Carolina Barco Isakson, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 William Brownfield, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.315.2197
 Susan Sanford, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.4173
 Javier Hernández Valencia, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Colombia office ~ via fax: 011.571.658.3300
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Regula, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

UA 308/08_Colombia

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