

via fax: 011 57 1 337 5890 Senor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 2 824 3597 Sr. Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez Mosquera Governor of Cauca Department, Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 Dr. Mario German Iguaran Arana Attorney General of Colombia	

July 2, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are **once again seriously concerned for the welfare and safety of the leaders of indigenous communities and their families in the north of Cauca Department**. Specifically, at this time we are disturbed by threats received by the **family of José Goyes Santacruz**, a member of CRIC (Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca), who has been a regional spokesperson for negotiations on Decree 982, which assists communities to assert their land rights.

On June 16, José Goyes Santacruz's partner, **Marta Lucía Cucuname**, received a threatening phone call from a man who warned her to "take very good care of your children because they are going to harm them." This phone call is the latest in a series of threats against José Goyes Santacruz:

- In 2007, he was threatened by armed men at his home in Morales municipality, Cauca.
- On June 5, 2008, he was shot and wounded by gunmen as he was going into his house. The family subsequently went into hiding in another city.
- On April 17, 2009, in the city where the family was hiding, two men on a motorcycle fired shots as Marta Lucía Cucuname was returning from picking her son up from school. On April 20, she received a threatening note.

This is the **sixth letter** we have written about these threats against CRIC and its members **since September 2008**: September 3 and October 26 2008, and this year, January 22 (murder of Edwin Legarda), May 24 (threats to partner of Edwin Legarda), and May 26 (murder of Robert de Jesús Guacheta).

As a result of our continued concern, we **strongly urge** that you:

- ensure that all measures deemed appropriate by Marta Lucía Cucuname, José Goyes Santacruz, his family and other indigenous leaders in the north of Cauca are taken to guarantee their safety;
- order full and impartial investigations into all threats against Marta Lucía Cucuname, José Goyes Santacruz and his family, publish the results 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 UN Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and make these plans public.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: NOMADESC, non-governmental human rights organization ~ 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
 Nan N. Fife, 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 and US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

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