

Fax: 011 57 1 337 5890/342 0592 Senor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez President of the Republic of Colombia	Fax: 011 57 1 565 7682 Dr. Francisco Santos Calderon Vice President of the Republic of Colombia
Fax: 011-571-570-2000 (extension 2017) Guillermo Mendoza Diago Attorney General of Colombia	Fax: 011 57 1 560 4630 Sr. Carlos Holguín Sardi Minister of the Interior and Justice of Colombia

March 2, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to express our outrage at the assassinations of **Omar Alonso Ospina Restrepo** and **José de Jesus Restrepo**, on February 10, 2010. The two brothers were miners and members of FEDEAGROMISBOL (Southern Bolivar Agricultural-Mining Federation). The Federation is a coalition of peasant farming and mining communities in southern Bolivar Department that struggle nonviolently for their rights to their land and dignity.

According to reports from the local population, the brothers were approached by an armed group about twenty minutes from the township of Nechi and taken to an unknown destination. Dorado's residents went to the town of Nechi in order to investigate the whereabouts and fate of the Restrepo brothers. On February 12, the dead body of Omar Alonso Restrepo Ospina was found in the Cauca River close to the town of Achi; on the morning of February 13, they found the dead body of Jose de Jesus Restrepo in the Cauca River by the municipality of Guaranda. Both bodies were found with visible signs of torture.

These killings are part of a long chain of aggression against the people of southern Bolivar. In the present context, these acts present what we consider a comprehensive strategy to plunder the territory by a macabre alliance between the national government and multinational corporations. We hold the Colombian government partly responsible for these events because they have refused to continue dialogue with communities in southern Bolivar in the La Mesa de Interlocución (Southern Bolivar Roundtable for Dialogue). On the contrary, the federal government has continued militarizing the region and openly allowing paramilitary groups to function.

We firmly reject these murders and all actions aimed at depriving the people of southern Bolivar of its territory.

### We strongly urge you to

- protect the family members of **Omar Alonso Ospina Restrepo** and **José de Jesus Restrepo**, in accordance with their wishes;
- open a thorough investigation of these murders, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice; and
- put an end to military and paramilitary attacks on the people of southern Bolívar.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

cc: 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  
Christian Salazar Volkmann, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Colombia office ~ via fax: 011-571. 658-3300  
Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992  
Rodrigo Escobar Gil, Colombia member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992  
Christian Peacemaker Team ~ via fax: 773-376-0549  
US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email  
US Representatives Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

CPT 2/10

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