

via fax: 011 57 1 599 0631 Sr. Presidente Juan Manuel Santos President of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 266 1003 Sr. Rodrigo Rivera Salazar Minister of Defense, Colombia
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July 3, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, are concerned for the safety of **Julio Cesar Rosero, Jenny Torres, and Martha Giraldo**. All three are residents of Valle del Cauca Department and are involved in some way in the trial of eight members of a Special Forces group of the armed forces. Julio Cesar Rosero, a lawyer, represents Jenny Torres, whose husband Edison Yimel Villanueva was one of the four men allegedly murdered in January 2007 by the eight men on trial. Both Jenny Torres and Martha Giraldo are active members of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE).

On June 7, Julio Cesar Rosero received an email stating: "this message is for the lawyer **Julio Cesar Rosero**, for **Martha Giraldo** and all her organization of bandits, for **Jenny Torres** ... if the soldiers are convicted, the lawyer and la negra [Jenny Torres] will die, last warning, this is serious, very serious." The email refers to the eight members of a Special Forces group of the Colombian armed forces who are on trial for the murder of Edison Yimel Villanueva and three other men in La Reforma, a rural area of Cali, Valle de Cauca, on January 14, 2007. The murdered men were later falsely presented as guerrillas killed in combat ("false positives"). The eight men currently on trial for the killings are associated with Urban Counter-Terrorism Special Forces Group (Agrupación de Fuerzas Especiales Urbanas, AFEUR) and the Group of Unified Action for Personal Liberty (Grupo de Acción Unificada por la Libertad Personal, GAULA).

In addition to the threat received on June 7, Martha Giraldo, one of the leaders of MOVICE in Valle del Cauca Department, has received numerous other death threats, most likely as a result of her campaign against extrajudicial executions. In March 2011 a sergeant in military intelligence was convicted of the extrajudicial execution of her father. We have written at least ten letters in the past three years to Colombian officials, urging protection for MOVICE members and investigations into the human rights crimes perpetrated against them.

Because of our deep concern for the safety of **Julio Cesar Rosero, Jenny Torres, and Martha Giraldo**, we **strongly urge** you to:

- ✓ ensure that measures be taken to protect those threatened, according to their wishes;
- ✓ order full and impartial investigations into those who are making the threats, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- ✓ take decisive action to end extrajudicial executions and guarantee the protection of those campaigning for justice, in line with United Nations human rights recommendations;

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: MOVICE - K9 n° 4-53 - Barrio San Antonio - Santiago de Cali, Col. ~ via US mail
 Gabriel Silva Luján, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 P. Michael McKinley, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.315.0811
 Terry Steers-Gonzalez, Senior Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.4173
 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
 US Senators Brown and Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

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