

via fax: 011 57 1 599 0631 Sr. Presidente Juan Manuel Santos President of Colombia	via fax 011 57 1 599 8961 German Vargas Lleras Minister of the Interior of Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 266 1003 Rodrigo Rivera Salazar Minister of Defense of Colombia	

September 2, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety and welfare of trade unionists and members of human rights organizations in Valle del Cauca Department who have received a death threat from the paramilitary Black Eagles New Generation

On August 23 **Walter Agredo Munoz**, member of the Valle del Cauca Branch of the Political Prisoners Solidarity Committee (*CSPP*) and **Martha Giraldo**, member of the Valle del Cauca Branch of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (*MOVICE*) received the same death threat message: "you will die, communists in disguise as FARC."

The messages listed several non-governmental organizations: Social Research and Action Association (*NOMADESC*), Association for the Integral Social Development (*ECATE*), Black Communities Process (*PCN*), *MOVICE* and *CSPP*; and the trade unions Trade Union Congress (*CUT*) and Colombian University Workers and Employees Trade Union (*SINTRAUNICOL*). The text threatened that the Black Eagles New Generation would "exterminate them in three days" and referred to them as "indigenous dogs."

These are the latest threats by paramilitaries against human rights defenders in Cauca and Valle del Cauca, (cf our letters of June 1, 2010 and Jan. 1, 2011). We are again urging that you:

- ✓ order a full and impartial investigation into the death threats against members of *NOMADESC*, *ECATE*, *PCN*, *MOVICE* and *CSPP*, the trade unions *CUT* and *SINTRAUNICOL*, as well as indigenous peoples working in the departments of Cauca and Valle del Cauca, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- ✓ provide protection for those threatened, according to their wishes;
- ✓ take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and recommendations made by the UN and other intergovernmental organizations;
- ✓ carry out your obligations to ensure that human rights defenders can do their work without fear, as laid out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders;

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: 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 ~via email
 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

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