

via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631
Excmo. Señor Juan Manuel Santos
 President of Colombia

via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 ext. 2020/2023
Señor Eduardo Montealegre
 Attorney General of Colombia

November 24, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about recent death threats to **Martha Díaz, Yadira Pérez, and Dulce María Rodríguez** in Barranquilla in Atlántico Department. On November 14 at 6am, Martha Díaz, director and legal representative of Mothers United by a Single Sorrow (AFUSODO), was approached by an unknown man on a motorbike without license plates who told her to “leave this place, don’t go looking for more problems; it’s not worth it. Don’t burn yourself even more.” When she asked why she had to leave, the man told her “they will come to visit you in the night”; he left immediately.

This is latest of a series of recent death threats targeting members of AFUSODO, an organization of relatives of victims of extrajudicial executions and a member organization of the National Movement of the Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE). On October 30, human rights defender and AFUSODO member Yadira Pérez found an envelope addressed to “the monkey” under the door of her home in Barranquilla. A note inside warning her that “your time is coming, you’ve got to die” included a picture of a coffin, a crucifix and repeated the word “monkey.” The following day, another note under her door claimed that if she did not leave her neighborhood the authors would carry out their previous threat: “we will kill you and your whole generation. All your movements are being watched, we know you close your door at midnight.” Inside the note was another picture of a coffin with a text warning her to leave her house within a month or the authors would kill her sons and two daughters. It warned that if she called the police, they would kill her grandchildren.

On October 22, two unknown individuals visited human rights defender and AFUSODO member Dulce María Rodríguez at her house in Barranquilla and insisted that she immediately leave or she would be assassinated. As a result, she has had to relocate.

Because of our concern for the security, physical and psychological integrity of AFUSODO members, we **strongly urge** that you

- carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the death threats against human rights defenders Martha Díaz, Yadira Pérez and Dulce María Rodríguez, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of the human rights defenders mentioned above;
- guarantee that all human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Sincerely

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

Copies: Gabriel Silva Luján, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 P. Michael McKinley, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.275.4600
 Mary Brett Rogers-Springs, Senior Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.2628
 José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email
 Frontline Defenders 11/20_Colombia

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