

# IRTF

## InterReligious Task Force on Central America

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via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631

**Excmo. Sr. Juan Manuel Santos**  
President of the Republic of Colombia

via fax: 011 57 1 283 9876

**Sr. Fernando Carrillo**  
Minister of the Interior of Colombia

February 11, 2013

Dear President Santos and Minister Carrillo:

We are gravely concerned for the safety of human rights defender **Martha Elena Diaz Ospina**, founder and president of the Association of Families United by a Single Sorrow (AFUSODO) and a member of the Atlántico branch of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) in Barranquilla, Atlántico Department. When she came home on January 24 she found a funeral invitation on her doorstep which said: "You are dead, you are a collaborator of the guerrillas. Guerilla we are no longer playing, some of you will fall."

AFUSODO supports relatives of victims of enforced disappearance or extrajudicially executed by the armed forces. As their spokesperson, Martha Elena Díaz Ospina has demanded that these people's bodies be returned to their families.

During the National Human Rights Conference of December 11–13, 2012, Martha Elena Díaz Ospina demanded to know why the generals responsible for the extrajudicial executions of the "false positives" are still free. ("False positives" were civilians captured by the army, assassinated, dressed in rebel uniforms and presented as captured/killed rebels.)

MOVICE is a broad coalition of civil society organizations campaigning for truth, justice and reparation for the victims of Colombia's internal armed conflict. We have been writing to you since 2008 about the continued threats, abductions and assassinations of its members for their work in exposing killings and enforced disappearances by the security forces and paramilitary groups. We wrote to officials in Colombia on November 24, 2012 because of threats to Martha Elena Diaz Ospina and other members of AFUSODO in Barranquilla.

Because we believe Martha Elena Diaz Ospina is in extreme danger, we **strongly urge** you to

- provide protection for Martha Elena Díaz Ospina, in strict accordance with her wishes;
- order full and impartial investigations into the threat against her, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- take decisive action to end extrajudicial executions, bring those responsible to justice and guarantee the protection of those campaigning for justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

cc: MOVICE ~ via U.S. mail  
Gabriel Silva Luján, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643  
P. Michael McKinley, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.275.4600  
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 ~ via email  
US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

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