

via FAX: 011 57 1 596 0631 Excmo. Sr. Juan Manuel Santos President of Colombia	via email or fax 011 57 1 286 2649 Sr. Juan Camilo Restrepo Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia
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April 5, 2013

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about death threats to **Mariluz Vásquez**, a member of the Victims' Roundtable of El Carmen del Bolívar in Bolívar Department; **Ingrid Vergara** and **Iván Cepeda** from the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE); several other members of the Victims' Roundtable of El Carmen del Bolívar; and the local ombudsman. The threats, via text message on March 11 to Mariluz Vásquez' phone, accused them of being guerrilla fighters. Mariluz Vásquez received another death threat via text message on March 14 which read: "Guerrillas you have not paid attention to us, but you will not survive fourteen March ... blood in El Carmen." This death threat also named several other members of the Victims' Roundtable of El Carmen del Bolívar.

On March 6 members of the Victims' Roundtable of Carmen de Bolivar participated in an event in the San Isidro Labrador area in El Carmen del Bolívar municipality, Bolívar Department, which was forced to end early because Mariluz Vásquez received death threats, via text message, against the participants and two local ombudsmen who were present.

The Victims' Roundtable of El Carmen del Bolívar was founded on February 17, 2012 as a space for victims to demand their rights under the Victims and Land Restitution Law (Law 1448) of 2012. Several members have been threatened since the creation of the Roundtable.

Therefore, we **strongly urge** that you

- guarantee the safety of Mariluz Vásquez and other members of the Victims' Roundtable of El Carmen del Bolívar, and Ingrid Vergara and Iván Cepeda of MOVICE, in strict accordance with their wishes; and
- order full and impartial investigations into the death threats received by members of Victims' Roundtable of El Carmen de Bolívar and MOVICE, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: MOVICE ~ 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

UA 77/13_Colombia

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