

via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631 <b>Excmo. Sr. Juan Manuel Santos</b> President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 283 9876 <b>Sr. Fernando Carrillo</b> Minister of the Interior of Colombia
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June 14, 2013

Dear Sirs:

We are seriously concerned for the safety of human rights defender **Martha Díaz Ospina**, director and legal representative of the Association of Mothers 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. 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.

On May 16 at 6:30am, Martha Díaz Ospina's security guards found an envelope containing a package with a small clock on the terrace of her home. The package did not contain explosive materials, but it carried a note stating: "Your time has arrived, this is just a sign of what will follow for you. Take it seriously leave town without making any fuss or you will be declared a military target... Guerrillera".

This is the most recent of a series of death threats to Martha Díaz Ospina (cf our letters of Nov 11, 2012 and February 11, 2013). 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."

Since 2008 we have written more than 20 letters to Colombian officials about the continued threats, abductions and assassinations of MOVICE members.

We have grave concerns for the safety of **Martha Díaz Ospina** and other members of AFUSODO. We therefore **strongly urge** that you

- carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the death threats against Martha Díaz Ospino, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- take all necessary measures to guarantee the safety of Martha Díaz Ospino and all members of AFUSODO, in strict accordance with their wishes; and
- 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, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

copies: MOVICE ~ 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: 011.571.275.4600  
 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

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

