

via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631
President Juan Manuel Santos
 President of the Republic of Colombia

via fax: 011 57 1 261 6287
Señor Andres Villamizar
 Director of the Protection Unit of the Interior Ministry of Colombia

September 12, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of **Sol Carranza, Mauris Herazo López** and several other members of the Women's Association of Rural Producers (ASOMUPROCA) who have received death threats since trying to reclaim their land in Magdalena Department. On August 8, while Sol Carranza was representing ASOMUPROCA in a meeting at the Unit for the Attention and Reparation of Victims (UARIV) in Ciénaga Municipality in Magdalena Department, she received a phone call which told her, "If you show up on those lands, we will kill you, because you will not receive those lands." She and other members of ASOMUPROCA have previously been intimidated and received death threats. Mauris Herazo López, another member of ASOMUPROCA, has also been receiving up to 16 intimidating phone calls a day from the same number as the call made to Sol Carranza.

The women of ASOMUPROCA are claiming restitution of the Playones de Pivijay area of land in Pivijay Municipality, Magdalena Department, under the Victims and Land Restitution Law (Law 1448). This land was given to 75 women of ASOMUPROCA in 1996 as part of a pilot project to boost female income under Law 160 of 1994, which allowed landless peasant farmers to buy land through subsidies and credits. Guerrilla forces were present when the women arrived on the land; paramilitaries began operating in the area shortly thereafter. In 1999, following the killing of their leaders and other members, the women were forcibly displaced. In June 2013, despite repeated threats and intimidation, the women of ASOMUPROCA presented a land restitution claim through Law 1448 .

On June 27, 2014, 66 women of ASOMUPROCA were added to the Register of Forcibly Dispossessed and Abandoned Lands (RTDAF), a crucial step in the process of claiming land restitution. Since being included in the RTDAF, there has been an increase in the level of intimidation and threats against members of ASOMUPROCA.

We therefore **strongly urge** that you

- provide effective protection for Sol Carranza, Mauris Herazo López, other women of ASOMUPROCA, and their families, in accordance with their wishes;
- order a full and impartial investigation into the death threats and intimidation against the women of ASOMUPROCA, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- dismantle paramilitary groups and break their links with the security forces, in line with repeated United Nations human rights recommendations.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-Coordinator

copies: Colectivo Mujeres al Derecho ~ via US mail
 Luis Carlos Villegas, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 Kevin Whitaker, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.275.4600
 Eric Falls, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via US mail
 Tracy Robinson, Rapporteur on the Rights of Women, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ via email: rcelorio@oas.org
 José de Jesús Orozco Hernández, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 U.S. Senators Brown and Portman ~ via email
 U.S. Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 209/14 Colombia

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