

via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631 Excmo. Sr. Juan Manuel Santos President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 ext 2023 Sr. Eduardo Montealegre Attorney General of Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631 General Oscar Adolfo Naranjo Trujillo Advisory Minister for Post Conflict, Human Rights and Security	

December 24, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about the continuing mass death threats to journalists and employees of media outlets from the paramilitary organization Black Eagles-Capital Block (*Bloque Capital-Águilas Negras*).

On November 30 and December 1, Black Eagles-Capital Block made threats to TV stations *Canal Capital* and *Telesur*, to Agency of Reporters without Borders (*Agencia de Reporteros Sin Fronteras*), and to **Nelson Armesto Echavez**, the creator of the news program *Patio Bonito Al Día*.

Colombia continues to be a dangerous place for journalists. The 2014 Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders (a Paris-based organization, not related to the aforementioned Agency of Reporters without Borders in Colombia), ranks Colombia 126th out of 180 countries. Reporters Without Borders reports at least 56 journalists killed in Colombia since 2000, making it one of the deadliest countries for media personnel. The organization calls Black Eagles one of Colombia's leading "Predators of Press Freedom."

Even though the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders was not named in the threat, the organization is concerned for the safety of its correspondent in Colombia, **Fabiola León Posada**.

Because of a recent surge in death threats by the Black Eagles (cf our letter of December 23), we **strongly urge** that you

- investigate the threats made against *Canal Capital*, *Telesur*, *Agencia de Reporteros Sin Fronteras*, and to **Nelson Armesto Echavez**, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice;
- provide protection measures to **Nelson Armesto Echavez** and **Fabiola León Posada**, in strict accordance with their wishes;
- ensure that any attacks on journalists do not go unpunished;
- take action to dismantle paramilitary forces and break any links between them and the security forces, in line with repeated UN recommendations.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordinator

copies: Patio Bonito al Día ~ via email: NelsonArmesto@hotmail.com
 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 fax: 202.647.2628
 José de Jesús Orozco Hernández, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 Edison Lanza, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3650
 US Senators Brown & Portman
 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

2014/12/02_ReportersWithoutBorders_Colombia

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