

via fax: 011 571 566 20 71 <b>Señor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez</b> Presidente de la Republica de Colombia	Via fax: 011-571 562 7822 <b>Dra. Maria Carolina Barco Isakson</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombia
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March 3, 2005

At about 11am on February 21, Luis Eduardo Guerra Guerra, one of the leaders of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in Antioquia Department, his partner Bellanyra Areiza Guzman, his 11-year-old son Deiner Andres Guerra, and a witness who does not wish to be identified were in Mulatos, a community belonging to the Peace Community, when they were abducted by a group of armed men who identified themselves as members of the Colombian army. The men said they were going to take the four away to be killed. On hearing this, the witness managed to escape. On February 22, the same witness visited the farm belonging to Alfonso Bolivar Tuberquia Graciano, another leader of the Peace Community. He reported to the authorities that he found blood in the farmhouse and human remains outside. On February 25, officials from the Attorney General's Office and Procurator General's Office investigated and found five dismembered bodies in two graves near the farmhouse: **Alfonso Bolívar Tuberquia Graciano**, his partner **Sandra Milena Muñoz**, his children **Santiago Tuberquia Muñoz** and **Natalia Andrea Tuberquia Muñoz**; and another local resident, **Alejandro Pérez**. On the same day, another grave was found between Mulatos and La Resbalosa with the bodies of **Luis Eduardo Guerra Guerra**, **Bellanyra Areiza Guzman** and **Deiner Andres Guerra**.

These latest killings took place during military operations by the XVII Brigade in the area. The killings coincide with the planned return of several families to the abandoned San José hamlet of La Esperanza on March 23, 2005. A previous attempt to repopulate La Esperanza coincided with the killing by paramilitaries of several inhabitants of the Peace Community in April 1999.

**It appears to be an exercise in futility to appeal to the Colombian authorities to halt the appalling on-going massacre of the people in the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó by government military forces and by paramilitary forces associated with and supported by the official Colombian military.**

Since March 1997 when the Peace Community was founded by the 17 communities of San José de Apartadó and when they called upon all armed group to stay out of their area, over 100 of its members have been killed or disappeared. In six previous letters (November 2002-October 2004) we have advised you that we (and the world) are aware of the brutal and lethal persecutions suffered by the people of the Peace Community and of your government's strange absence of determination to end them. This is our seventh letter.

**We urgently call upon your humanity to take the following actions:**

- take all measures deemed appropriate by Peace Community residents to **guarantee their safety** and that of Colombian non-governmental human rights organizations who have denounced the killings;
- respect the right of the civilian population, including the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, not to be drawn into the armed conflict;
- **conduct a full and impartial investigation into the killings** of the aforementioned eight people, make the results public, bring those responsible to justice, and ensure that (in coordination with the Peace Community) measures are taken to **guarantee the safety of witnesses** that testify to judicial authorities;
- if members of the army are found to be implicated in these killings, **conduct the criminal investigations outside the military justice system** because it has repeatedly failed to bring to justice members of the security forces implicated in serious human rights violations.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

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U.S. Senators Mike DeWine & George Voinovich, US Senate ~ via fax  
U.S. Representatives Brown, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email and fax  
Corporación Jurídica Libertad, via US mail

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