

via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 <b>Señor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez</b> President of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 560 4630 <b>Sr. Sabas Pretelt de la Vega</b> Minister of the Interior and Justice, Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 414 9108 <b>Dr. Mario German Iguaran</b> Attorney General, Colombia	

May 12, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of journalist **Hollman Morris**, human rights defender and Jesuit priest **Javier Giraldo Moreno**, and former Senate candidate **Gloria Cuartas**, who is a leader of a leftwing political group and outspoken critic of human rights violations by paramilitaries. A video produced by a new nationwide paramilitary group, Frente Social por la Paz (Social Front for Peace) has identified these three as "military targets," accusing them of being members or agents of guerrilla forces. The video amounts to a death threat. We fear that their lives are in grave danger.

Members of the military began distributing the video to university students in Bogotá before the Senate elections in March.

We wrote to you last year (June 14, 2005) when Morris and his colleagues Carlos Lozano and Daniel Coronell received funeral wreaths after reporting on the San José de Apartadó massacre; the army is suspected in the massacre. Although the government has publicly condemned the threats against the three journalists and has since provided them with extra security, there is no information as to whether the investigations into these threats have produced any results. Daniel Coronell and his family have since left Colombia to seek refuge in the United States.

As a result of our concern for the safety of Morris, Cuartas, Father Moreno, and that of other journalists, human rights defenders and other social activists in Colombia, we strongly urge you to:

- take immediate action to guarantee their safety, and provide them with adequate protection in accordance with their wishes, so that they can continue their legitimate work in safety;
- conduct a full and impartial investigation into the threats made in the video against Hollman Morris, Javier Giraldo Moreno, and Gloria Cuartas and the involvement of members of the military in distributing it; make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- conduct full and impartial investigations, in line with the human rights recommendations of the United Nations, into the links between the security forces and paramilitary groups.

Sincerely,

**Brian J. Stefan Szittai**  
 Coordinator

cc: Andres Pastrana, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax  
 Dr. Francisco Santos, Vice-President of Colombia ~ via fax  
 Dr. Michael Frulin, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Colombia office ~ via fax  
 Dra. María Carolina Barco Isakson, Minister of Foreign Affairs ~ via fax  
 William B Wood US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax  
 Heather Merritt, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax  
 US Senators DeWine & Voinovich ~ via email  
 US Representatives Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA132\_05 Update Colombia

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