

via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 <b>Senor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez</b> Presidente de la Republica de Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 560 4630 <b>Sr. Sabas Pretelt de la Vega</b> Ministro del Interior y de Justicia, Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 extension 2017 <b>Dr. Luis Camilo Osorio</b> Fiscalia General de la Nacion, Colombia	via fax: 011-571-640 04 91 <b>Dr. Wolmar Pérez Ortiz</b> Defensoría del Pueblo, Colombia

May 17, 2005

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety and welfare of **Alvaro Guisao Usuga** and his family. We believe that their lives are in grave danger. Alvaro Guisao Usuga, a nephew of "disappeared" human rights defender **Angel Quintero**, has been attacked, and he and his family have received a death threat. Since 1995 seven family members of Quintero have "disappeared" and two have been killed, reportedly by army-backed paramilitaries.

Alvaro Guisao Usuga was traveling to work on his motorbike in Medellin, Antioquia Department, on April 7. At a crossroads, two hooded men on a motorbike forced him to stop. They struck him on the back with a revolver, jumped onto his motorbike and ordered him to keep riding, but Alvaro Guisao Usuga escaped. The men drove away on his motorbike. Alvaro Guisao Usuga reported this attack to the police.

On April 8, on a street in Medellin, a boy gave Alvaro Guisao Usuga a sealed envelope that bore the logo of an undertaker's firm. Inside the envelope an anonymous message threatened that all members of his family would "disappear" and would be killed, in the same way as his uncles. The threat also stated that his relatives were being watched. It included the telephone number of a local undertaker.

**Angel Quintero**, a member of the Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos (ASFADDES, or Association of Families of the Detained Disappeared) was abducted by unidentified gunmen in Medellin on October 6, 2000, together with ASFADDES activist **Claudia Monsalve**. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

Many ASFADDES members, and other human rights defenders and witnesses of human rights violations, have been "disappeared," killed or threatened with death by the security forces and their paramilitary allies in order to preserve the impunity they enjoy for their crimes. Their relatives are also sometimes threatened, abducted or killed.

As a result of these reports and our concern for the safety of **Alvaro Guisao Usuga** and members of his family, we strongly urge you to:

- Take immediate and effective measures, deemed appropriate by those under threat, to protect **Alvaro Guisao Usuga** and other members of his family;
- Immediately conduct a full and impartial investigation into the threats against **Alvaro Guisao Usuga**, make the results public, and ensure that those who are responsible be brought to justice.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Ambassador Luis Alberto Moreno , Embassy of Colombia ~ via fax: 1 202 232 8643  
 William B Wood, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: fax: 011-571-315-2197  
 Heather Merritt, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.2628  
 US Senators DeWine & Voinovich ~ via email  
 US Representatives Brown, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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