

via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 Senor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez President of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 222 18 74 Dr. Juan Manuel Santos Calderón Minister of National Defense, Colombia
Via email: josecofranco@yahoo.com General José Joaquin Cortes 5 th Brigade of the Colombian Army	via fax: : (+57 1)342.97.23 Dr. Edgardo José Maya Villazón Procurador General de la Nación, Colombia

October 12, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply troubled over the September 19 murder of **Alejandro Uribe**, a well-respected leader of the community of Mina Gallo in the south of Bolivar Department. Uribe, a peasant and a small-scale miner, was president of the Mina Gallo Community Action Board. According to our reports, he was murdered by Colombian Army personnel, although the Army has misrepresented his killing to the news media as that of a guerrilla in combat.

About 600 inhabitants of the region traveled to the headquarters of the Nueva Granada Battallion of the Army's Fifth Brigade in Santa Rosa demanding the return of the body of Alejandro Uribe. On September 21, the Army responded by threatening the community members: "He (Uribe) will not be the only dead person you are going to have. There will be more dead leaders." The Army had previously indicated it had a list of leaders of the region and members of the miners' federation.

General Jose Joaquin Cortes of the Army's Fifth Brigade suggested that Alejandro Uribe was an ELN guerrilla carrying an AK-47 rifle and accompanied by five guerrillas and that he died in an army-guerrilla combat. The community residents totally reject this view.

Multinational mining corporations, such as Kedadha, which is based in Canada and South Africa, benefit when union and community leaders are silenced.

We strongly urge the Colombian government to:

- Conduct a full and impartial investigation into the atrocities committed by the Colombian military, make the results public and bring to justice those responsible;
- Do all in your power to protect small-scale miners and peasants, recognizing their legitimate right to the lands they are occupying and the mines they have been working;
- Refrain from entering into bogus contracts with multinational corporations such as Kedadha to give them valuable mining concessions in lands where small scale miners and peasants have already established their right to possession;
- Demand that the army deliver the list of proposed victims to the Federal Prosecutor's office for an investigation.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

copies: Carolina Barco Iskson, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax
 Kevin Murakami, Human Rights Officer at the US Embassy in Colombia ~ via email
 William B Wood US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax
 Heather Merritt, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax
 Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ fax: (202)458-3992
 US Senators DeWine & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

2006/10/12-CSN-Colombia

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