

via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 Senor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez President of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 562 7822 Dra. Maria Consuelo Araujo Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombia
Via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 ext 2017 Dr Mario German Iguaran Attorney General, Colombia	

October 15, 2006

Dear Sirs:

Luciano Enrique Romero Molina, a leader of the union SINALTRAINAL and the representative on the Foundation Committee of Solidarity with the Political Prisoners (FCSP) for the union, was tortured and murdered on September 11, 2005. (We wrote to Colombian officials Sep 22, 2005 demanding an investigation.)

We, the IRTF, were aware that Colombia was the most dangerous place in the world to form a union—more than 4000 union activists assassinated since 1986. And it seems that Colombia is determined to maintain its position as “Top of the Bloody Heap.”

Colombia’s history of hostility to human rights activists can certainly rival that of labor rights activists. We are deeply concerned for the life of **José Humberto Torres Díaz**, a lawyer and human rights defender working for FCSP. Documents discovered by the Attorney General’s office found his name and address on a “death list” of people, some of whom have been killed because of alleged links with insurgent groups. The document was found in the home of a paramilitary leader belonging to AUC (United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia), the largest national army-backed paramilitary group.

Señor José Torres actively denounced the paramilitary leader in the death of human rights defender Alfredo Correo de Andreis on September 17, 2004. Although Torres was cleared of allegations on August 5, 2005 by a military intelligence document which came to the attention of FCSP, he was forced to leave the country for several months because of concern for his safety. Currently he is being kept under surveillance by individuals believed to be members of the National Police Intelligence Service.

Since we are troubled by the efforts of the Colombian government to stifle political dissent and union organizing, we strongly encourage you to:

- take effective action to protect José Humberto Torres Díaz and other members of FCSP, according to their wishes—thus allowing them to safely continue their work in defense of human rights;
- conduct full and impartial investigations into links between security forces and paramilitary groups, make the results public and bring to justice those supporting such groups;
- take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups in line with government commitments and UN recommendations;
- take public policy and plans, in conjunction with human rights defenders, to implement the principles of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

copies: Carolina Barco Iskson, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax
 Volmar Antonio Pérez Ortiz ~ via fax
 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
 Fundación Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos ~ via fax
 US Senators DeWine & Voinovich and US Reps Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 276/06

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