

via fax: 011 57 1 337 5890 Senor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez President of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 Dr. Mario German Iguaran Attorney General, Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 560 4630 Sr. Sabas Pretelt de la Vega Minister of the Interior and Justice, Colombia	

June 12, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We are very disturbed that on May 10 fifteen students, teachers and other staff at the University of Antioquia received death threats from a paramilitary group. On May 19, eight more were added to the list: Oscar Roda Villegas, Julio Gonzalez Zapata, William Freddy Perez Tora and Luis Armando Calle Calderon, who are four law professors; Maria Yanet Cardona Ríos, who is a library student and human rights organization member, and Carlos Mario Montoya Posada, Alberto Jaime and Wilmer Mejia, whose positions at the university are unknown. The law professors are acting as attorneys for a group of fifteen students arrested in May 2005 and charged with "subversion."

All of those threatened on May 10 and 19 were informed that their homes and habits were known and that they would be "killed like a dog" if they did not cease their activities. The group signed itself AUDEA (Self-Defense Group of the University of Antioquia).

Another paramilitary group, GAU (University Anti-Communist Group), issued a death threat against **Diego Fernando Acosta Salinas**, a student at Santander Industrial University and a member of ACEU (Colombian Association of University Students), whose members have been subject to repeated paramilitary death threats in recent years. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights of the Organization of American States has called on Colombian authorities to guarantee his security since November 2004

These paramilitary groups are apparently able to operate without restraint, despite repeated UN recommendations to dismantle them and break their links to government security forces.

We are deeply concerned for the safety of all those threatened by the paramilitary groups. The Colombian authorities must

- guarantee their security;
- order full and impartial investigations into both death threats, make the results public and bring the perpetrators to justice;
- abide by UN recommendations to dismantle paramilitary groups and break their links with security forces.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

CC: Human Rights NGO "Corporacion Juridica Libertad" ~ via US-mail
 Andres Pastrana, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ 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

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