

via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 Sr. Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez President of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 560 4630 Dr. Carlos Holguin Sardi Minister of Interior and Justice
via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000) Dr. Mario German Iguaran Attorney General of Colombia	

December 22, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are very concerned for the safety of **Marqueza Arrieta**, her son, **Domingo Tovar Arrieta**, and their family. Marqueza Arrieta, whose son is a prominent trade unionist, has received death threats from paramilitaries since 2003.

On December 4, Marqueza Arrieta was stopped in the street by two men on a motorbike, who told her, "we are going to kill you, you have been warned." She reported this to the local Attorney General's office in her home municipality of Corozal, Sucre Department, in northern Colombia. This is the latest and most serious of threats she has received over the last few years. We believe the real target is her son, Domingo Tovar Arrieta, the Director of the Human Rights Department of the Colombian Trade Union Confederation (CUT).

We wrote to Colombian officials twice in 2003 urging protection for Domingo Tovar Arrieta. In our letter to you on November 15, 2003, we expressed our concerns about threats he received after he and the CUT supported a campaign calling on voters to abstain in a referendum the Colombian government was promoting to gain popular support for wide-ranging social and economic reforms.

On September 5, Domingo Tovar Arrieta sent a letter to the Colombian government and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights complaining that since November 2003 he had been under frequent surveillance, and he and his family had received telephoned death threats. Domingo Tovar's has been under surveillance regularly by People in cars or on motorbikes without license plates watch the house and film and photograph his actions.

Because we know that trade unionists and human rights defenders who have been kept under surveillance in this way have often been killed by the army or paramilitaries, we strongly urge you to order full and impartial investigations into the threats received by **Marqueza Arrieta** and **Domingo Tovar Arrieta**, make the results of the public, and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan-Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Colombia, Trade Union Federation ~ via U.S. mail
Ambassador Carolina Barco Isakson ~ via fax: 1 202 232 8643
William B Wood US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011-571-315-2197
Heather Merritt, Desk Officer for Colombia via fax: 202.647.2628
Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992

UA 333/06 Colombia

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