

via fax 011 57 1 337 58 90 Sr. Presidente Alvaro Uribe Vélez President of COLOMBIA	via fax: 011 557 1 570 2000 ext 2017 Dr. Luis Camilo Osorio Attorney General of COLOMBIA
via fax: 011 57 566 4573 Sr. Sabas Preteit de la Vega Minister of the Interior and Justice, COLOMBIA	

June 14, 2005

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are extremely concerned for the safety of three Colombian journalists based in the capital Bogotá who, on May 16, received death threats in the form of funeral wreaths. At 4 pm, one wreath was delivered to the office of **Carlos Lozano**, editor of the communist newspaper La Voz. The message on the flowers said they were for the "funeral of Carlos Lozano Guillen" and came from "the Montoya family." Montoya is a common name in Colombia and offers no clue as to the identity of the sender.

At 7 pm, **Hollman Morris**, director of the investigative television program CONTRAVIA, received a funeral wreath with the note: "most sincere condolences from the Henao family." Henao is another common name.

The same day, two other wreaths were sent to the former offices of the TV channel Canal Uno in Bogotá. One of the wreaths was addressed to the director of Canal Uno's news program, **Daniel Coronell**; the other was addressed to his wife and his daughter. There was no note with the flowers, but Daniel Coronell had received two threatening phone calls at the Canal Uno office, on April 24 and again on May 14. In both calls an unidentified man threatened to kill him, his wife and daughter.

Carlos Lozano, Hollman Morris and Daniel Coronell have highlighted sensitive issues regarding human rights in Colombia. They have openly criticized government policies, such as impunity for human rights violations and demobilization talks with army-backed paramilitaries. The three journalists also reported on the massacre of eight members of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó that took place on February 21, 2005. Witnesses say that the army is responsible for the massacre.

Although the government has publicly condemned the threats against the three journalists and has provided them with extra security, we remain concerned for their safety and **urge the following**:

- Urge the authorities to ensure that the measures taken to guarantee the safety of journalists **Hollman Morris, Carlos Lozano and Daniel Coronell** are in accordance with their wishes and adequately provide them with protection so that they can continue their work as journalists;
- call for an immediate, impartial and full investigation into the death threats against the three journalists, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Luis Alberto Moreno, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ 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, 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

UA 132/05 Colombia

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

