

via fax: 011 57 1 337 58 90/ 342 05 92 / 566 20 71 <b>Señor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez</b> Presidente de la Republica de Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 337.4667 <b>Dr. Carlos Franco</b> , Director del Programa Presidencial de Derechos Humanos, Colombia
via email: <a href="mailto:fsantos@presidencia.gov.co">fsantos@presidencia.gov.co</a> <b>Dr. Francisco Santos</b> Vicepresidencia de la República, Colombia	via email: <a href="mailto:lippes@state.gov">lippes@state.gov</a> <b>US State Department</b> Washington D.C. 20210
via email: <a href="mailto:scaramagna@mapp-oea.org">scaramagna@mapp-oea.org</a> <b>Mr. Sergio Caramagna</b> OAS Delegate to the paramilitary process	via email: <a href="mailto:ConwayCM@state.gov">ConwayCM@state.gov</a> <b>US State Department</b> Washington D.C. 20210

October 12, 2004

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, are deeply concerned about the continued killing by paramilitaries in the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Colombia, in spite of the peace process in that community. On October 2, paramilitaries took over a public service vehicle going from the city of Apartadó to the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó and ordered the passengers to get out, with the exception of the driver and a 27 year-old woman, **Yorbeli Amparo Restrepo**. The paramilitaries called the people from San José "guerrillas" and said that they were going to restart the blockade against the community. They also took the food and items that the townspeople had bought in Apartado that morning.

Around 6 p.m. the local office of the Ombudsman found the body of **Yorbeli Restrepo**. Although the road to San José is constantly patrolled by the Colombian Army, the paramilitaries roam freely and act with impunity. A man called **Wilmar Durango**, who is reliably reported to work and patrol with the army, had previously threatened **Yorbeli** with death. The assassination of **Yorbeli Restrepo**, who lived in San José, shows once more the cooperation between the military and the paramilitary.

We have previously written to Colombian and US officials regarding human rights violations committed by the Colombian military and paramilitaries against the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó (including letters dated Feb 26 2004, Nov 27 2003, Aug 12 2003, Feb 23 2003, and Nov 22 2002). We remind you that this **Peace Community** has protective measures from the Inter-American Court, which were confirmed by the **Colombian Constitutional Court**. We therefore **urge you to respect the neutrality of the Peace Community** of San José de Apartadó.

Because of the attacks on the Peace Community, especially by the Bejarano-Muñoz Battalion, we urge the US State Department to revoke the travel visas of:

- **General Pauxelino Latorre-Gamboa**, Commander of the Seventeenth Brigade, and his family
- **Colonel Nestor Ivan Duque**, Commander of the Bejarano-Muñoz Battalion, and his family

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

Copies: Sr. Sabas Pretelt de la Vega, Minister of the Interior and Justice ~ via fax: 011 57 1 560 4630/ 566 4573  
 Dr. Luis Camilo Osorio, Attorney General ~ via fax: 011 57 1 570 2022/ 2000  
 Ambassador Luis Alberto Moreno, Embassy of Colombia ~ fax: 1 202 232 8643  
 Ambassador William B Wood, US Embassy in Colombia ~ fax: 011-571-315-2197  
 Charles Barclay, Desk Officer for Colombia, US Department of State ~ fax: 202.647.2628

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