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November 30, 2004

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious task Force, are deeply distressed over the continued death threats directed at **Dr. Alexander López Maya**, Representative in the National Legislature and Ex-President of SINTRAEMCALI (Cali Municipal Employees Union), his family, and other people and organizations on a "secret" list. On November 2, 2004, **Alexander López Maya** received a hand-delivered letter graphically threatening his life. We are concerned that the General Prosecutor of the Nation is leading an investigation called "Operation Dragon," which is targeting **Alexander López Maya** and others.

We are also concerned about the report that on October 21, 2004, **Ms. Tania Valencia** was traveling towards the SINTRAEMCALI office, when she was stopped in her car and taken by unknown armed men to an unknown location, where she was interrogated, beaten, and threatened for nearly 12 hours. The interrogators asked about the activities of **Alexander López Maya**, **Carlos Marmolejo** and **Carlos Ocampo**. She said she knew nothing and that she had already retired. Throughout the interrogation one of the individuals said that **Carlos Marmolejo** and **Carlos Ocampo** should be shot in the head because they were "hindering the process."

On Monday, August 23, 2004, **Alexander López Maya**, was alerted to a plan being devised to assassinate several political, union and human rights leaders; this plan was prepared by active and retired military personnel from Cali, Medellin, Barranquilla, Ibaguè and Bogota. According to the information, the first people on the list were **Alexander López Maya**, **Berenice Celeyta** and **Luis Hernández**, who were named to be killed beginning August 23, 2004.

On August 25, the Prosecutor's office and the Technical Group of Investigations (CTI), completed two searches in the city of Cali and Medellin. In an apartment in Cali, the investigators found documents, in a folder inscribed "secret," that had been sent from Cali to the Central Director of Intelligence in Bogota. The documents mentioned **Alexander López Maya's** name repeatedly and emphasized the political activities of the other people listed.

As a result of these reports and our grave concerns, we strongly urge you and your government to:

- Conduct an immediate and thorough investigation into the actions of the military and others carrying out these threats, and bring to justice those responsible for these actions.
- Provide immediate protection for **Dr. Alexander Lopez Maya**, his family, and all other political, union and human rights leaders who are under threat from these illegal groups.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

Copies:

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Rep Stephanie Tubbs Jones, US House of Representatives ~ via email: tannaz.haddadi@mail.house.gov

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