

via fax: 011 57 1 337 5890 / 011 57 1 342 0592 <b>Señor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez</b> President of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 4 314 06 29 <b>Dr. Carlos Mario Escobar Alvarez</b> Director of Regional Office of Attorney General in Antioquia
via fax: 011 57 1 560 46 30 <b>Dr. Carlos Holguin Sardi</b> Minister of the Interior and Justice of Colombia	

June 15, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of members of the staff at the Colombian non-governmental human rights organization **Liberty Legal Corporation (Corporación Jurídica Libertad, CJL)** in the city of Medellin, Antioquia Department, whose lives we feel are in danger following a death threat. On May 24, a porter of the building where the CJL offices are housed found a letter threatening them with being declared a military target. CJL has reported the threat to the authorities but, to our knowledge, they have not taken any measure to protect those under threat.

The CJL recently published a report on extrajudicial executions in the Antioquia Department carried out by government security forces and is campaigning for an end to impunity in these cases. We are aware that in the past those campaigning for justice in cases of human rights violations have often been the target of serious human rights violations committed by the security forces and their paramilitary allies. Our concern for the safety of members of CJL is also heightened by the fact that over the last year members of the organization have been accused by security forces of being guerrilla members.

We therefore **strongly urge** you to

- take effective action, as deemed appropriate by the members of CJL, to protect them so they may continue their legitimate and important work in the defense of human rights without fear of reprisal;
- order full and impartial investigations into all threats against CJL and other human rights defenders, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- conduct full and impartial investigations into the links between the government security forces and paramilitary groups, make the results public and bring to justice those responsible for supporting and participating in such groups, in line with the human rights recommendations of the United Nations;
- produce policy and plans, in conjunction with human rights defenders, that will guarantee their safety according to the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and make these plans public.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

copies: Corporación Juridica Libertad ~ via US mail  
 Dra. Carolina Barco Isakson, 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 Brown & Voinovich ~ via email  
 US Representatives Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 129/07 Colombia

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