

via fax: 011 57 1 565 7682 Dr. Francisco Santos Calderon Vice-President of the Republic	via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 Dr. Mario German Iguaran Arana Attorney General
via fax: 011 57 1 562 7822 Sr. Fernando Araujo Perdoma Minister of Foreign Affairs	

November 13, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Hollman Morris**, the well-known director and presenter of the investigative television program CONTRAVIA. On September 26 a death threat signed by the paramilitary group the National Patriotic Front was sent to his personal email account stating that he had won a raffle for a coffin for being a guerrilla member, anti-patriotic and an informer. Another email from the group the next day included a picture of him crossed out with the letter X and the message: "Four, three, two... almost there." It is clear that his life is in danger. These threats are, no doubt, due to the types of investigations presently being conducted by CONTRAVIA, for example, sensitive aspects of the human rights situation in Colombia, mass graves from paramilitary murders, and disappearances carried out by the paramilitaries.

We are well aware that the threat against Hollman Morris is not an isolated incident. Journalists and human rights defenders in Colombia have often been subject to serious human rights violation themselves.

Based on the facts presented above, **we strongly urge that you**

- take action to guarantee the safety of Hollman Morris and provide him with adequate protection, in accordance with his wishes, so that he can continue his legitimate work as a journalist in safety;
- order an immediate, impartial and full investigation into the threats made against Mr. Morris, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- order full and impartial investigations, in line with the UN's human rights recommendations, into the links between the security forces and paramilitary groups, make the results public, and bring to justice those responsible for supporting and participating in such groups.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

Copies: Carolina Barco Iskson, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 William Brownfield, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.315.2197
 Heather Merritt, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.4173
 Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 267/07Colombia

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