

via fax: 011 57 1 337 5890/342 0592 Señor Presidente Alvaro Uribe Velez President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 ext 2017 Dr. Mario Germán Iguaran Arana Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia
via fax: 011 57 7 885 3233 Sr. Fredy Forero Requiniva Governor of Arauca Department	

June 26, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the lives of the employees of community radio station Sarare FM Stereo (Emisora Comunitaria Sarare FM Stereo) because of death threats they have received in the last few weeks. The radio station in Saravena, Arauca Department, has been covered with pro-paramilitary graffiti. The lives of the employees are in grave danger.

On May 8, radio station employees **Isnelo González** (a member of human rights group Fundación de Derechos Humanos "Joel Sierra"), **Elida Parra Alfonso**, **Emiro Goyeneche Goyeneche**, **Ismael Antonio Rodriguez**, **Alexis Ivan Rojas** and **Deibys Pantoja Cerrerno** all received an identical text message from the United Self-Defense paramilitary group (AUC): "For the well-being of you and your loved ones, do not meddle in subjects that do not concern the radio station." On May 28, fears for the employees of the radio station increased when the letters "AUC" were painted on the front entrance of their building.

On September 27, 2007, employees of the radio station participated in a public meeting attended by members of a Congressional Human Rights Commission, at which members of the public denounced human rights abuses and violations committed by different parties to the armed conflict in Arauca Department. We are aware that in the past, journalists and human rights defenders who have denounced or campaigned for justice in cases of human rights violations and abuses committed by the security forces, their paramilitary allies or guerrilla groups have often been subject to serious human rights violations themselves.

We strongly urge that you

- ensure that all measures deemed appropriate by the individuals named above are taken to guarantee their safety;
- conduct a full and impartial investigation into the death threats against Isnelo Gonzalez, Elida Parra Alfonso, Emiro Goyeneche Goyeneche, Ismael Antonio Rodriguez, Alexis Ivan Rojas, Deibys Pantoja Cerrerno and other employees of Sarare FM community radio station, make the results of the investigation public and bring those responsible to justice;
- take decisive action, in line with repeated UN recommendations, to confront and dismantle paramilitary groups operating in the region and to break their links with the security forces.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

Copies: Fundación de Derechos Humanos "Joel Sierra" ~ via U.S. mail
 Carolina Barco Isakson, 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
 Javier Hernández Valencia, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Colombia office ~ via fax: 011-571. 658-3300
 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, Latta, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA167/08 Colombia

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