

via fax : 011 57 1 337 5890 <b>Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez</b> President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 <b>Dr. Mario Germán Iguarán Arana</b> Attorney General of Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 565 7682 <b>Dr. Francisco Santos Calderón</b> Vice-President of Colombia	via fax : <b>011 57 4 3811852</b> <b>Sr. Alonso Salazar Jaramillo</b> Mayor of Medellín

July 2, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the lives of the members of the **Medellín Youth Network** (Red Juvenil de Medellín). This Network empowers young people, through the principles of nonviolence and the practice of conscientious objection, to resist recruitment attempts by either the regular army, paramilitaries, or guerrilla groups. On May 30 they received an email death threat from the paramilitary group the Black Eagles (Aguilas Negras) which read, "Death to anarchists disguised as pacifists, no more druggy concerts or communists, there are no more warnings".

This threatening email followed a concert against militarization on May 17 in the Obrero de Boston Park in the city of Medellín, organized by the Red Juvenil de Medellín and attended by 5,000 young people. The network organizes this concert every year to mark International Conscientious Objectors' Day.

We are aware that in the past, human rights organizations, trade unions and other social organizations have often been labeled guerrilla collaborators or supporters by government officials, as well as by the security forces and paramilitaries. These accusations have often led to attacks against human rights activists, such as the Red Juvenil de Medellín.

Therefore, we **strongly urge** that you

- ensure that all measures, deemed appropriate by those threatened on May 30, are taken to guarantee their safety;
- order a full and impartial investigation into the May 30 death threats, 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 and to investigate and break their links with the security forces.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

Copies: La Red Juvenil de Medellin ~ via U.S. mail  
 Fernando Araujo Perdomo, Minister of Foreign Affairs ~ via fax: 011 57 1 562 7822  
 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

UA186/08 Colombia

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