

via Fax: 011 57 1 337 5890 Sr. Álvaro Uribe Vélez President of the Republic of Colombia	Fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 Dr. Mario Germán Iguarán Arana Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia
via Fax: 011 57 1 565 7682 Dr. Francisco Santos Calderón Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia	

March 26, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Lina Paola Malagón Díaz**, a lawyer at The Colombian Commission of Jurists (*Comisión Colombiana de Juristas*), an NGO working on legal human rights. Their office in Bogotá received a fax on March 2, signed by the paramilitary group Black Eagles, which accused her of being a "...guerrilla working for the defense of trade unionists," and that the paramilitaries were looking for her and members of her family. It also included Lina Paola's personal details, including her mobile phone number, which they said they had tapped, and her home address, which they said was under surveillance. It also gave a final warning: "Leave or we will kill you. You have one day to leave Bogotá and do not come back." The threat also accused the Colombian Commission of Jurists of being "full of communist fighters" and mentioned the threat that had forced one of the organization's members to leave the country at the end of 2008.

Ms. Lina Paola Malagón Díaz has been working on a report on human rights violations committed against Colombian trade unionists by both sides in the country's internal armed conflict. This work is a fundamental freedom and needs to be accessible to every Columbian citizen.

Because of the threats described above, we **strongly urge** that you:

- do everything necessary to protect Lina Paola Malagón Díaz, her family and her colleagues at the Colombian Commission of Jurists, in accordance with their wishes;
- order a full and impartial investigation into the death threats received on March 2, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- take decisive action to confront and dismantle paramilitary groups and to investigate and break their links with the security forces, in line with repeated UN recommendations.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

CC: Colombian Human Rights NGO ~ via US 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
Nan N. Fife, 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 Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

UA62/09Colombia

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