

IRTF

InterReligious Task Force on Central America

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Municipal Human Rights Representative	Municipal District Attorney
San Pablo, Bolivar Department	San Pablo, Bolivar Department
Colombia	Colombia

June 26, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the murder of **Edgar Martínez Ruiz**, a mining community leader in San Pablo, Department of Bolivar, who was assassinated on April 24. He participated in various human rights forums calling the San Pablo municipal government to fiscal accountability. A local human rights organization, ACNUR–PDPMM (Defensoría del Pueblo Regional Magdalena Medio y Programa de Desarrollo y Paz del Magdalena Medio), has called for an investigation into the assassination. On June 16, death threats were placed under the doors of their office.

Since January there has been increased violence from the paramilitary forces who have controlled the San Pablo area since the late 1990s. In addition to the assassination of Edgar Martínez Ruiz, there have been twelve other murders this year.

Therefore **we strongly urge** that you

- Conduct a prompt and thorough investigation into the assassination of Edgar Martínez Ruiz and the others killed this year, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice;
- Investigate the recent death threats made against human rights organizations.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Christian Peacemaker Teams ~ via fax: 011.577.602.3617
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

CPT06/25/09Colombia

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