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| Via fax: 011 57 1 337 5890 Sr. Juan Manuel Santos President of the Republic of Colombia | via fax: 011 57 1381 4747 Sra. Angela Maria Holguín Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Colombia |
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October 13, 2010

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of ninety-three young people in Puerto Asís, Department of Putumayo, whose names are on a “death list” believed to have been drawn up by paramilitaries. On August 15, two young men, **Diego Ferney Jaramillo Corredor** and **Silver Robinson Muñoz**, whose names were first and second on the list, were shot dead by gunmen on a motorcycle outside Puerto Asís. At the same time, a list of names of 65 young men living in Puerto Asís began circulating by email and on the social networking site Facebook. The “death list,” warned those named to abandon Puerto Asís within three days, if not “we will see ourselves obliged to carry out acts like those which took place during the night of 15 August.” On August 20 gunmen traveling on a motorcycle in the Villa Paz district of Puerto Asís killed 19-year-old **Norbey Álvarez Vargas**, whose name was the third on the “death list.” At around the same time, another youth named on the list was shot and injured. Also on August 20 an additional list was circulated with the names of 31 local young women. After the list was circulated some of the youths reported receiving threatening telephone calls.

Some of those named are suspected of being involved in petty crime and prostitution. The threats and killings appear to be an attempt to make an example of them. Others named on the list are known to be community activists. Despite the heavy army and police presence in Puerto Asís, there does not seem to be any decisive action by the authorities to guarantee the safety of the youths or to capture the killers. Many of the young people and their families have fled Puerto Asís following the threats.

We **strongly urge** that you

- do everything necessary to guarantee the safety of the young people named on two “death lists” circulating in Puerto Asís;
- order a full and impartial investigation into the killings of Diego Ferney Jaramillo Corredor, Silver Robinson Muñoz and Norbey Álvarez Vargas and the attempted killing of one other youth;
- take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and recommendations made by the UN and other intergovernmental organizations.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Human Rights Organization Minga ~ 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
 Terry Steers-Gonzales, Senior Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.2628
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3650
 Rodrigo Escobar Gil, Colombia member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3650
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

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