

via fax: 011 57 1 337 5890 <b>Sr. Juan Manuel Santos</b> President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 599 8961 <b>Sr. Germán Vargas Lleras</b> Minister of Interior and Justice of Colombia
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March 8, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are writing out of deep concern for the safety of **Luz Marina Hache, who was threatened with death, and other members of Movimiento de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado (MOVICE)**. On February 7 Luz Marina Hache received an anonymous telephone call from a man who threatened her life. This threat follows numerous other incidents which suggest that she and her family are under surveillance. We believe that the threats against her are a consequence of her prominent role in seeking justice for human rights violations committed by the security forces, including the cases of several young men from the municipality of Soacha, Cundinamarca Department who were forcibly disappeared and killed in 2008. We were shocked and saddened to learn that, in some instances, the soldiers who carried out these killings were rewarded by their superiors.

MOVICE is a broad coalition of civil society organizations campaigning for truth, justice and reparations for the victims of Colombia's long-running internal armed conflict. The threats and intimidation against Luz Marina Hache coincide with ongoing threats against other members of MOVICE in Bogotá and other parts of Colombia. They are part of an ongoing pattern of attack on MOVICE, which is illustrated by the following incidents and previous letters from our organization that urge you to protect MOVICE members:

April 2, 2008: unknown men threatened to kill Cendy Torres, the daughter of Ingrid Vergara, a MOVICE leader in Sucre;

October 26, 2009: Cendy Torres received a death threat addressed to Ingrid Vergara (cf our letter of 12/1/09);

February 5 2010: two men on a motorcycle followed Ingrid Vergara, pulled up beside her, pointed gun at her and drove away (cf our letter of 12/12/10);

May 18, 2010: Rogelio Martinez, MOVICE leader in Sucre Department, was killed. He had been campaigning for justice and reparations for displaced communities (cf our letter of 5/26/10);

October 12, 2010: Ingrid Vergara avoided a possible attempt to kill her in Sincelejo thanks to one of her bodyguards. She was threatened again on November 20 and 25 2010, and on December 1 2010 when two armed men entered her house and forcefully removed the hard drive of a computer belonging to MOVICE (cf our letter of 12/12/10).

Based on the facts presented above, **we again urge** that you

- guarantee the safety of Luz Marina Hache, her family, and other members of MOVICE in accordance with their wishes;
- order a full and impartial investigation into the February 7 death threat against Luz Marina Hache, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice.

We remind you that you have not only the power but also the obligation, as laid out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, to protect human rights defenders in Colombia.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

Copies: MOVICE~ via US mail  
 Gabriel Silva Luján, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643  
 P. Michael McKinley, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.315.2197  
 Terry Steers-Gonzalez, Senior Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.4173  
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992  
 Rodrigo Escobar Gil, Colombia member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992  
 US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email  
 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

UA 56/11\_Colombia\_2<sup>nd</sup> letter March 2011

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