

via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631 Señor Presidente Juan Manuel Santos President of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 599 8961 Señor German Vargas Lleras Minister of Interior and Justice, Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 381 4721 Sra. Angela Maria Holguin Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia	

April 2, 2011

Dear Sirs and Madam:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are deeply concerned for the safety and well-being of human rights defender **Nancy Diallo Araque** in Bogotá and other members of the Women's Civil Society Assembly for Peace and the Women's Collective for Peace and Against War.

Since 2010 these groups have maintained a permanent presence as observers in court hearings to monitor judicial proceedings involving former members of the Colombian Congress and other politicians implicated in illegal links with paramilitary groups. The human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are using the information from these court hearings in their work on other human rights-related cases.

Since October 2010, Nancy Fiallo Araque has been receiving repeated telephone death threats. On January 18 a caller told her: "Doctor Fiallo, don't come back to court, don't show your face where it does not belong or we will have to kill you, you are warned." On February 8, a caller said: "Doctor Fiallo this red jacket suits you well, you are looking pretty, too bad the worms are going to have to eat it."

On a number of occasions she and another woman of the Women's Collective for Peace and Against War have been followed to court. There was no response when the women confronted the men who were following them to ask what they wanted and why they were following them.

Because of our concerns for the safety of Nancy Fiallo Araque and the other members of the Women's Civil Society Assembly for Peace and the Women's Collective for Peace and Against War, we **strongly urge** you to:

- implement immediate and effective protection measures for Nancy Fiallo, according to her wishes;
- immediately undertake full and impartial investigations into the death threats against her, make the results public, and bring all those responsible to justice;
- implement your obligations to protect human rights defenders, as specified in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Gabriel Silva Luján, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 P. Michael McKinley, US Ambassador to Colombia ~via fax: 011.571.315.0811
 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 and Portman ~ via email
 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

UA74/11-Colombia

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