

Vva fax: 011 57 1 596 0631 <b>Senor Juan Manuel Santos</b> President of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 570 2091 <b>Senor Eduardo Montealegre</b> Attorney General of Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 381 4742 <b>Senora Maria Angela Holguin</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia	

May 4, 2012

Dear Sirs and Madam:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of peasant farmer leader, **Hernán Henry Díaz**, a spokesperson of the Departmental Roundtable of Social Organizations in Putumayo Department and a member of the National United Trade Union of Agricultural Workers (FENSUAGRO). A few months ago he traveled to Bogotá to alert authorities to the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Putumayo. He raised specific cases of human rights violations when he spoke with government representatives and members of the international community, including embassy staff. On April 18 he was coordinating the participation of 200 delegates from Valle del Guamuez Municipality, Putumayo, in a protest march scheduled for April 21-23 in Bogotá. He has not been seen since he wrote a text message from Puerto Vega to his partner on April 18 that he was coming over.

Senior security forces officers have stated that the march being coordinated by Hernan Henry Díaz had been infiltrated by guerilla forces. Because such labeling has been used frequently to threaten, abduct or kill members of human rights organizations and trade unions, we fear that Hernan Henry Díaz is a victim of enforced disappearance and **strongly urge** you to:

- do everything necessary to locate him and guarantee his safety;
- order a full and impartial investigation into his possible enforced disappearance, publish the results and, if the enforced disappearance is confirmed by judicial authorities, bring those responsible to justice.

We remind you that, as a consequence of your high office in Colombia, you have the ability, the responsibility and the obligation to protect human rights defenders as specified in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human rights Defenders, to which Colombia is a state party.

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: 011.571.315.2197  
 Terry Steers-Gonzalez, Senior Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.4173  
 José de Jesus Orozco Henríquez, Rapporteur for Colombia, 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 118/12\_Colombia

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