

via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631
Señor Juan Manuel Santos
 President of Colombia

via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 ext. 2020/2023
Señor Eduardo Montealegre
 Attorney General of Colombia

September 26, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are very concerned about recent death threats to thirteen individuals who work with human rights organizations in Cauca and Valle del Cauca Departments. On September 24 at 1:19 am **Walter Agredo Muñoz**, a member of the Political Prisoner's Solidarity Committee (FCSP), received a death threat on his mobile phone that named the following individuals in addition to himself:

- **Aida Quilcué**, a leading member of the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca (CRIC), who also received the threat;
- **Martha Giraldo**, Technical Secretary of the Valle section of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE);
- **Milena Olave**, a member of the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CPDH);
- **John Freddy Poso** and **Luz Marina Palacios**, both members Asociacion ECATE, a social development and human rights organization;
- **Diego Escobar**, a member of the Executive Committee of the Valle section of the Colombian Confederation of Workers (CUT); and
- **Olga Naranjo**, a member of The Association for Research and Social Action (NOMADESC).

In the same death threat, five other individuals were identified only by their first names. Several are members of MOVICE. This threat is the latest in a series of threats and acts of harassment suffered by human rights defenders in the Cauca and Valle del Cauca departments this year.

We believe this death threat is directly linked to the persons' legitimate human rights activities and we are seriously concerned for their safety, as well as the security of other members of their organizations. Therefore we **strongly urge that you**

- carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the death threat received by the human rights defenders mentioned above, including proper investigation of phone company records in order to identify the perpetrator, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
- take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of each of the human rights defenders mentioned above as well as the security of other members of their organizations, in accordance with their wishes; and
- guarantee that all human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment.

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
 Mary Brett Rogers-Springs, Senior Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.4173
 José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

9/28/12_Frontline_Colombia

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