

via fax 011 57 1 596 0631 Excmo. Sr. Juan Manuel Santos President of Colombia	via fax 011 57 1 266 1003 Estimado Sr. Juan Carlos Pinzón Defense Minister of Colombia
via fax 011 57 1 283 9876 Estimado Sr. Fernando Carrillo Minister of the Interior of Colombia	

October 24, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about death threats to **Alfamir Castillo**, the mother of a young man killed as a “false positive” by Colombian soldiers in Palmira, Valle del Cauca Department in 2008. There were also threats to her lawyers, **Jorge Molano** (a legal advisor for human rights organizations such as Sembrar, NOMADESC, and Fedeagromisbol) and **German Romero Sánchez** (legal consultant for the human rights organization Corporación Yira Castro). Both lawyers are representing Alfamir Castillo in the case of the 2008 extrajudicial execution of her son, Darbey Mosquera Castillo, and another man, Alex Hernando Ramirez Hurtado.

On October 10, as Alfamir Castillo was traveling by bus from the town of Pradera in the Cauca Valley to Santiago de Cali, a passenger boarded the bus in Palmira, aimed a firearm at her chest and told her to “tell that snitch of a lawyer he is going to die, and so are you,” then jumped off the bus and disappeared into the Olímpico store. Alfamir Castillo recognized the man as the one who followed her on January 13 this year as she left the Cauca Valley office of the National Public Prosecutor’s Immediate Response Unit after reporting a previous threat against her. She reported this recent incident to the Association for Research and Social Action (NOMADESC) in Cali.

Colombian armed forces have been implicated in a “false positives” scandal, in which soldiers unlawfully killed thousands of civilians and dressed them up as “guerrillas killed in combat.” The threats describe above came 48 hours before a court hearing in Manizales, Caldas Department, to determine if Major Josue Yobanni Linares and Captain Julio César Álvaro Pedreros should be charged in the executions and whether the court would detain the two officers. The human rights lawyers have also requested that Colonels Emiro José Barrio Jiménez and Jorge Enrique Navarrete, two other officials from the line of command of the same brigade, be linked to the investigation and removed from the professional development courses to become generals which both are currently attending.

Because of the repeated threats, intimidation and harassment of Alfamir Castillo, Jorge Molano and German Romero, we believe their lives are in danger and **therefore strongly urge that you**

- ensure protection measures for those named above, other relatives and witnesses, as agreed to with them;
- investigate, completely and impartially, the threats detailed above and prosecute those responsible;
- take decisive action to end extrajudicial executions, and guarantee the protection of those campaigning for justice in line with repeated United Nations human rights recommendations.

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
 U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich and U.S. Representatives Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Fudge ~ via email

UA 296/12_ Colombia

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