

via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631 Exmo. Sr. Juan Manuel Santos President of Colombia	via US mail Estimada Ministra Ruth Stella Correa Palacio Minister of Justice, Colombia
via fax: 011 57 1 599 8961 Estimado Ministro Fernando Carrillo Flórez Minister of the Interior, Colombia	

November 25, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Miguel Ángel Pabón Pabón**, age 36, an environmentalist in the Magdalena Medio region and a leading activist in the Patriotic March movement. He disappeared on October 31. He was last seen at a community meeting that day in Los Acacios, "a resettlement community of 300 families from displaced communities, both those displaced by flooding of the Sogamoso River and indigenous communities from the Pacific Coast.

Miguel, the father of two girls, is a dedicated environmental and community leader. Since 2007 he has led the struggle for housing for those displaced by the Hidrosogamoso hydroelectric dam being constructed on the Sogamosa River by Empresa Isagen. The dam project is located in one of the seismic active areas of Colombia, less than 70 km from earthquake nest Bucaramanga (capital city of Santander Dept) and it requires the excavation of 980,000 square meters. Protests highlight the company's violations of social, environmental, and workers' rights committed against the local communities and its own workers. In 2011 Miguel participated in two hearings and a civic strike which eventually forced the company to negotiate with the communities and agree to a 17-point agenda. To date there has been no compliance with the agreement.

The Patriotic March is a social movement that brings together trade unions, agricultural, indigenous, peasant, student and women's groups, political parties, human rights and victims' organizations and trade unions. Since its establishment in April of this year it has grown to include nearly 2,000 social organizations who have come together to find solutions to the problems of achieving peace, resolving land issues, creating effective restitution and justice for victims of the armed conflict and social repression, and developing an economic policy that will assist in creating true political sovereignty. The government has accused the Patriotic March of links to the FARC guerilla group; several of its organizers and members have been killed, disappeared or detained.

In addition, according to the Integral Peace Observatory, eleven people in the Magdalena Medio region have been forcibly disappeared in 2012, six of whom have been found dead. Since 2009 there have been many other assassinations of social leaders in the region; none have been brought to justice.

Because of this history, we believe Miguel Ángel Pabón Pabón's life may be in extreme danger. We **strongly urge you** to do everything possible to locate him and to ensure his health and safety.

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
 Justice for Colombia_11/20_Colombia

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