

via FAX: 011.57 1 596 0631 <b>Excmo. Sr. Juan Manuel Santos</b> President of the Republic of Colombia	via FAX: 011 57 1 261 6287 <b>Sr. Andres Villamizar</b> Director of the Protection Unit of the Ministry of the Interior of Colombia
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June 11, 2013

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply distressed that the daughter of **Ingrid Vergara**, spokesperson of the Sucre branch of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) in Sincelejo in Sucre Department, has been targeted again, as part of the death threats against her mother. On April 30, **Ingrid Vergara's** daughter received a text message that read: "Hello. . . your mum was killed, hahaha". This is the latest of many threats to MOVICE-Sucre members, including Ingrid Vergara (cf our letter of Mar 2). We have been writing to Colombian officials since 2009 about threats Ingrid Vergara's daughter; she is being threatened as an attempt to force her mother to stop her human rights work.

MOVICE is a broad coalition of civil society organizations campaigning for truth, justice and reparation for the victims of the long-running internal armed conflict. Its members have documented and exposed many cases of killings and enforced disappearance carried out by the security forces and paramilitary groups in Sucre Department.

Currently, MOVICE is collaborating in the legal process to return lands to peasant farmers on the La Europa farm. On May 9 La Europa farm received a pamphlet accusing La Europa leader Argemiro Lara Barreto and Ingrid Vergara of having links to the guerrilla.

Since 2008 we have written more than 20 letters to Colombian officials about the continued threats, abductions and assassinations of MOVICE members. Our letter of March 2, 2013 describes a written death threat from the Black Eagles paramilitaries: "you members of MOVICE are rats which have to be exterminated ...[you] who take the land away from the good people to give it to guerrillas who pretend to be peasant farmers we are going to kill your ringleaders in Sucre ... **Ingrid Vergara** and Juan David Diaz, ..."

Because of our concern for **Ingrid Vergara** and her family, and the safety of all members of MOVICE-Sucre, we again **strongly urge** that you

- guarantee the safety of Ingrid Vergara, her family and other members of MOVICE-Sucre, in strict accordance with their wishes;
- order full and impartial investigations into the death threats to members of MOVICE, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- fulfill your obligations regarding the protection of human rights defenders, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

copies: MOVICE ~ via U.S. mail  
 Gabriel Silva Luján, Colombian Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643  
 P. Michael McKinley, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.275.4600  
 Mary Brett Rogers-Springs, Senior Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.2628  
 José de Jesús 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, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 122/13\_Colombia

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