

via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631 Excmo. Sr. Juan Manuel Santos President of Colombia	via fax 011 57 1 266 1003 Sr. Ministro Juan Carlos Pinzón Minister of Defense of Colombia
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January 25, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the torture and assassination of **Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez** and **Jhon Braulio Saigama**, indigenous Embera Chamí leaders in Valle del Cauca on January 1. Their community has opposed large scale mining and the cultivation of drug crops.

On December 30 and 31, unidentified armed gunmen belonging to paramilitary forces operating in the area entered La Esperanza, municipality of El Dovio, Valle del Cauca Department, looking for indigenous Embera Chamí leader **Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez** and approached his two nephews, Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez and Jhon Braulio Saigama. The gunmen demanded to know whether Flaminio Onogama would be in the community in the subsequent days.

On 1 January Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez and Jhon Braulio Saigama were stabbed repeatedly to death. The bodies were found with signs of torture in different places from where they had been killed.

During the wake of the two indigenous leaders on January 2, witnesses reported that unidentified individuals who were thought to be members of the paramilitary group operating in the area demanded to know the whereabouts of Flaminio Onogama and whether he would be attending the funerals.

Flaminio Onogama and the indigenous community of La Esperanza have opposed the arrival of paramilitaries wishing to develop drug cultivation on their lands and the arrival of powerful coal, copper and gold mining interests in the area.

For these reasons we demand that you

- call for full and impartial investigations by the civilian justice system into the killing of Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez and Jhon Braulio Saigama, make the results public, bring those responsible to justice;
- protect Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez, in strict accordance with his wishes; and
- take action to dismantle paramilitary forces and break any links between paramilitaries and government security forces, in line with repeated UN recommendations.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: ONIC: National Indigenous Organization of Colombia ~ via US mail
 Daniel Pedraza, First Secretary for Human Rights and Minorities, Embassy of Colombia to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 Andrew Bowen, Interim Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy in Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.275.4600
 Oliva Franken, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.2628
 Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax 202.458.3650
 US Senators Brown & Portman
 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 12/14_Colombia

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