

via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631
Excmo. Señor Juan Manuel Santos
 President of the Republic of Colombia

via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000
Señor Eduardo Montealegre
 Attorney General of Colombia

February 23, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to express our continuing deep concern for ongoing threats to **Martha Elena Díaz Ospina**, Technical Secretary of the Atlántico branch of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) in Barranquilla, Atlántico Department. She is also the founder and president of the Association of Relatives United by a Single Sorrow (AFUSODO). On February 8, she received a death threat in a text message: "You have 48 hours... leave the city, accept the consequences guerrilla fighter." She also received death threats by text message from the same phone number on February 6 and 7, in which she was declared a "military target."

On February 5 Martha Díaz participated in the Prevention and Protection Committee of the Barranquilla Victims District Roundtable at which 80 cases of threatened victims, human rights defenders and trade unionists were discussed. During the last two months other members of the Roundtable have been increasingly threatened through flyers circulated in the area, text messages and phone calls. Some have been signed by the paramilitary group Los Rastrojos.

These threats are the latest in a pattern of serious threats against Martha Díaz Ospina and the organizations for which she works. Because of the gravity of the ongoing threats, she is currently receiving protection measures from the National Protection Unit.

Since 2008 we have written almost 30 letters to Colombian officials about the continued threats, abductions and assassinations of MOVICE members. This is the fourth letter we have written concerning threats to Martha Díaz Ospina (cf our letters of Nov 24 2012, Feb 11 2013, June 14 2013). Because we believe her life is in danger we **strongly urge** that you

- provide protection for Martha Elena Díaz Ospina, in strict accordance with her wishes;
- order immediate, full and impartial investigations into the death threat against Martha Elena Diaz Ospina, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice; and
- dismantle paramilitary groups and break their links with the security forces, in line with repeated United Nations human rights recommendations

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-Coordinator

copies: MOVICE ~ US mail
 Luis Carlos Villegas, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 Andrew Bowen, Interim Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.275.4600
 Olivia Franken, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.2628
 José de Jesus Orozco Hernández, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 28/14 Colombia

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