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| via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631 Excmo. Sr. Juan Manuel Santos President of the Republic of Colombia | via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 Sr. Eduardo Montealegre Attorney General of Colombia |
| via fax: 011 57 1 596 0631 General Oscar Adolfo Naranjo Trujillo Advisory Minister for Post Conflict, Human Rights and Security | |

October 12, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of members of the Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) because of the following recent specific threats from paramilitary groups:

September 8: Hundreds of recipients, including the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, human rights organizations and trade unions received a threatening email declaring 88 named human rights defenders as military objectives, stating that they would not be permitted to continue with their “version of peace” and that they would pay with their lives as well as the lives of their families.

September 27: Two men on a motorbike harassed and threatened **Alejandra Ramírez Morales**, an active member of the Caldas Department branch of MOVICE. She made an official complaint about similar threats on September 16. MOVICE Caldas members **Darío Eccehomo Díaz** and **María Cardona Mejía** have also made complaints about harassment and threats from the paramilitary group “Rastrojos Eje Cafetero.”

October 1: “Rastrojos” distributed a pamphlet in Sucre Department which threatened **Ingrid Vergara Chávez**, spokesperson for the Sucre branch of MOVICE, and several other persons. They were given 72 hours to leave Sucre. A second pamphlet included threats against several judges. A formal complaint to the police has received no official response.

October 5: **Martha Lucia Giraldo** of MOVICE in Cali, Valle del Cauca Department, received a text message saying that she had 24 hours to leave Cali. It also issued a death threat against her, **Walter Agredo** of the Political Prisoners Solidarity Committee (FCSP), **Milena Olave** of the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CPDH), and **José Milciades Sánchez Ortiz** of the Colombian Confederation of Workers (CUT). The message was signed by a group that identified itself as the Rastrojos Urban Command. FCSP, CPDH and CUT are all affiliated members of MOVICE.

Members of MOVICE have been victims of death threats and other human rights abuses for many years. Threats to Ingrid Vergara alone have prompted us to write to officials in Colombia more than ten letters in the past five years. But this recent round of threats is slightly different; these threats are directed at persons participating in the current peace initiatives to end the 60-year armed conflict. We take these threats seriously. Thirty human rights defenders have already been killed in the first six months of this year.

We therefore **strongly urge** that you

- carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the death threats and other threats against members of MOVICE, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- promptly take all necessary measures to guarantee the security of members of MOVICE, in accordance with their wishes.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-Coordinator

copies: Luis Carlos Villegas, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 Kevin Whitaker, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.275.4600
 Olivia Franken, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.2628
 José de Jesús 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

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