

via fax: 011 571 596 0631 <i>Excmo. Sr. Presidente</i> <b>Juan Manuel Santos</b> President of the Republic of Colombia	via fax: 011 57 1 570 2000 <i>Estimado Sr. Fiscal General</i> <b>Eduardo Montealegre</b> Attorney General of Colombia
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January 25, 2016

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about the attempt on the life of **Maricel Ipia Yenny Luligo**, a peasant leader in Cauca Department who is a member of the Board of the Peasant Movement of Cajibío and a member of the Municipal Roundtable of the Victims of Cajibío, which is part of the Cauca chapter of MOVICE (Movement of Victims of State Crimes).

On December 27, 2015 at 7:30 pm, Maricel Ipia Luligo was riding her motorbike home from a community activity in the village of Cenegueta, Cajibío municipality, Cauca Department. As she riding downhill and passing through the village of Los Naranjos, she tried to slow down and discovered that her motorbike had no brakes. Unable to slow down, she barely avoided suffering a serious accident. She finally made it to her home in rural Cajibío at approximately 8:15pm. She inspected the motorbike and found that the brake system had been deliberately damaged. Shortly thereafter, her sister said that her motorbike had also been sabotaged.

Both motorbikes—of Maricel Ipia Yenny Luligo and of her sister—were parked 100 meters away, along with dozens of other bikes, near where the community activity took place. Only these two were damaged.

It is important to note that on April 16, 2011 Silvestre Ipia Serna, father of Maricel Ipia Yenny Luligo and a founding member of the Peasant Movement of Cajibío, was assassinated. To date there is no progress in the investigation of his death.

These incidents are further examples of the frequent attacks on members of different MOVICE chapters and their families that have been occurring for years and about which we have written more than 40 letters to Colombian authorities since 2008. Therefore, we **strongly urge** that you

- carry out an immediate, independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the incidents described above, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- provide immediate protection measures by the National Protection Unit (UNP) to guarantee the life, physical and psychological integrity of all members of MOVICE in all its chapters;
- ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1998.

Sincerely,

Brian Stefan Szittai and Christine Stonebraker-Martínez  
Co-Coordinator

copies: Luis Carlos Villegas, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643  
 Andy O'Neal, Human Rights Officer, US Embassy in Colombia ~ via email onealRA@state.gov  
 John Brandt, Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via email  
 José de Jesús Orozco Hernández, 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

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