

via email: contacto@presidencia.gov.co Excmo. Sr. Presidente Juan Manuel Santos President of the Republic of Colombia	via email: despacho.fiscal@fiscalia.gov.co Sr. Fiscal General Néstor Humberto Martínez Neira Attorney General of Colombia
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June 25, 2018

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply distressed about the current displacement of **more than 200 indigenous Nasa Embera Chamí people** from La Delfina reservation in Buenaventura (West), Valle de Cauca Department, following an armed attack on a member of their community.

In the early morning of June 8, unknown men fired two bullets at the home of **Gonzalo Hilamo Mesa**, an indigenous teacher and community leader. Fortunately, he was unharmed, but the attack generated fear and terror among the community who moved away from the area en masse. They are currently confined in a nearby school, the Technical-Husbandry Educational Institution (NACHASIN). The National Indigenous Organization (ONIC) reports that 80 women (5 pregnant), 90 men, and 80 children are overcrowding the school. They are in need of food, clothing, medicine, basic shelter items (tents, blankets), and access to health services.

The attack on Gonzalo Hilamo Mesa followed recent attacks by illegal armed groups into the Nasa Embera Chamí territory. On May 27 ONIC reported that indigenous community members **Pablo Emilio Dagua** and **Adriana Montero** were found dead after their disappearance on May 26. The causes of their death and the possible perpetrators are still unknown. ONIC indicated that their bodies had signs of torture.

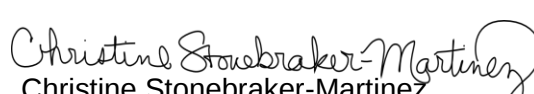
To escape violence in their territories, indigenous people began moving from the north of Cauca to Buenaventura in 1952; the official reserve (Resguardo Indigenous Nasa Embera Chami La Delfina / Indigenous Cabildo of the Community Nasa Kiwe) was legally constituted in 2007. Displaced indigenous Nasa Kiwe and Embera Chamí peoples from all over the Pacific have settled there.

Because of our concern about the special consequences for displaced indigenous peoples and the lack of institutional response to their needs, we **strongly urge** that you

- conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation of the attack on Gonzalo Hilamo Mesa and the killings of Pablo Emilia Dagua and Adriana Montero, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- provide comprehensive assistance with cultural relevance to guarantee the right to life, health, food, and shelter of Nasa Embera Chamí reservation in La Delfina, Buenaventura;
- provide effective collective protection measures to this displaced indigenous community, in consultation with them, in compliance with Constitutional Court Resolution 004/2009.

Sincerely,


Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordiators


Christine Stonebraker-Martinez

copies: Camilo Reyes, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643 and email
Rebecca Daley, Human Rights Officer, US Embassy in Colombia ~ via email
Ryan Reid and Christine Russell, Desk Officers for Colombia, US State Dept ~ via email
Francisco José Eguiguren Praeli, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
Antonia Urrejola, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Beatty, 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:

Matt & Kathy Abramowski
6677 Villa Marie Rd
Lowellville, OH 44436

Marc Alvarado
3229 Poe Ave
Cleveland, OH 44109

Rep. Nickie Antonio & Jean Kosmac
1305 Belle Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107

Wilber Argueta
11124 Stamy Rd
Whittier, CA 90604

Shirley Badger
200 Hamlet Hills Dr, #222
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Sheri Banks
1064 Canyonview Rd
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067

Dr. Joan Bedinghaus & Dr. Seth Foldy
3061 N. Marietta Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Judy Botwin
3145 Scarborough Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Andrew & Sharon Bramante
222 S Carr St, APT 203
Lakewood, CO 80226

Grace & Dr. William Brinker
351 Mason St, #324
Onalaska, WI 54650

Jonathan Cahill
PO Box 937
Hiram, OH 44234

Church of the Gesu
2470 Miramar Blvd
University Hts, OH 44118

Church of the Resurrection
Human Rights Committee
32001 Cannon Rd
Solon, OH 44139

Richard Clark
2145 W 18th St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Anne Coan
17100 Van Aken Blvd #210
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Community of Christ the Servant
4403 Michael Ave
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Judith Corrigan
3008 Clinton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

Heather Craigie
2177 Bellfield Ave
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

Rachel & Peter DeGolia
1648 Compton Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Patricia Denny
7465 Mountain Quail Place
Painesville, OH 44077

Jill M. DiPiero & Christopher Kerr
3324 Clayton Blvd
Shaker Hts, OH 44120

Virginia Douglas
133 Brandtson Ave
Elyria, OH 44035

Christine Driscoll
15800 Edgecliff Ave
Cleveland, OH 44111

Maryellen Eickman-Fiala &
Michael Fiala
2027 W. 38th St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Erica Ewing
661 N Buckeye
Wooster, OH 44691

Sam & Lynn Falletta
1245 Beechnut Dr
Akron, OH 44312

Rick Feinberg & Nancy Grim
6358 Lakeview Dr
Ravenna, OH 44266

Laurie Findlay
940-B Sycamore Dr
Decatur, GA 30030

Jean Gillet
2450 Derbyshire Rd, #449
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

J.P. Gaulty
2545 Kenilworth Rd, #7
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

Kathryn Harlow
4701 Clinton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44102

Nance Hikes & Dr. Michael Melampy
142 Westbridge Dr
Berea, OH 44017

Rev. Ellen Huffman
407 Tibet Rd
Columbus, OH 43202

Sr. Mary Hurley
3207 Franklin Blvd., #211
Cleveland, OH 44113

Rev. Charles Hurst & Maria Smith
9907 Lake Ave, # 205
Cleveland, OH 44102

Trudy Hutchinson
2091 Lincoln Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107

John Knox Presbyterian Church
Mission Committee
25200 Lorain Rd
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Diane Karpinski
2897 Ludlow Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44120

Jane Kentner
1331 W 70th St APT 311
Cleveland, OH 44102

Gene Kotrba
566 Lindberg
Berea, OH 44017

Sharon A. Leasure
27942 Marquette
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Dale Lindsey
3505 Archwood
Cleveland, OH 44109

Toty Martin
720 South Point Trail
Berea, OH 44017

Tom McBride
797 Brick Mill Run
Westlake, OH 44145

Cara McKinney
7711 Diagonal Rd
Kent, OH 44240

Nina McLellan and Walter Nicholes
14014 Shaker Blvd, #204
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Julie Merker
33630 Coachman Lane
Solon, OH 44139

Paula Miller
3402 Monroe Ave - rear
Cleveland, OH 44113

Sue Miller
3142 Yorkshire Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Dr. James & Marge Misak
3018 Clinton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

Kathryn Moody-Arndt
1291 W. 104th St
Cleveland, OH 44102

Daniel & Lavinia Morris
1493 Dover Center Rd
Westlake, OH 44145

Rachel M. Napolitano
1953 W 61st St
Cleveland, OH 44102

Joan O'Brien
1341 Marlowe Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107

Mary O'Malley
361 Cascade Ct
Avon Lake, OH 44012

Anne Osborne
2021 King James Parkway, #328
Westlake, OH 44145

Linda Park
1848 Beersford, #1
East Cleveland, OH 44112

Bob Parker
11514 Chautauqua Trail
Brecksville, OH 44141

Nan Ellen Passant
16 Laurel Dr
Rocky River, OH 44116

Dr. Mark W. Pestak
2044 W 38th St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Nilda Quintana
871 Ibis Walk Place N, unit 3302
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Janet Rhodes Ross
Beyond Borders
3420 Cavalier Trail Unit D
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44224

Marlene & Robert Rink
1150 Sylvania
Cleveland Hts, OH 44121

Valerie and Stewart Robinson
3334 Berkeley Rd
Cleveland Hts, OH 44118

Lois Romanoff
12802 Larchmere Blvd
Cleveland, OH 44120

Louise P. Sandercock
200 Laurel Lake Dr. Apt. W 222
Hudson, OH 44236

Sarah K. Sommers
5900 Lawn Ave
Cleveland OH 44102

Brian Stefan-Szittai
4302 Apple Ave
Cleveland OH 44113

Christine Stonebraker Martínez
2777 Spruce St
Girard OH 44420

David Stonebraker
2477 Spruce St
Girard, OH 44420

James F. Szaller
28470 Hilliard
Westlake, OH 44145

Rick Toth
1017 University Rd
Cleveland, OH 44113

Andrew Tares
2608 Fulton Rd
Cleveland, OH 44113

Curt & Priscilla Treska
1518 Kenilworth
Cleveland, OH 44113

Ursuline Sisters
Social Justice Office
2600 Lander Rd
Pepper Pike, OH 44124

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church
Social Action Committee
20401 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116

Brooke S. Willis
2590 W.15th St
Cleveland, OH 44113