

via email: contacto@presidencia.gov.co Excmo. Sr. Presidente Iván Duque Márquez President of the Republic of Colombia	via email: despacho.fiscal@fiscalia.gov.co Sr. Fiscal Francisco Barbosa Delgado Attorney General of Colombia
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October 24, 2020

Dear President Duque and Attorney General Barbosa:

We are outraged to learn that two members of the agricultural workers trade union FENSUAGRO (Federación Nacional Sindical Unitaria Agropecuaria) were assassinated within ten days of each other in Cauca Department: 18-year-old **Jayder Quintana** (October 3) and **Nelson Ramos Barrera** (October 13).

Jayder Quintana was murdered on October 3 in the Cajibío zone of Cauca Department. In addition to his membership in FENSUAGRO, Jayder also belonged to the human rights organization PUPSOC (Proceso de Unidad Popular del Suroccidente Colombiano) and the peasant farmers association ANZORC (Asociación Nacional de Zonas de Reserva Campesina). In a communique on the killing, the REDDHFIC network (Red de Derechos Humanos del Suroccidente Colombiano) reported that Jayder Quintana had been repairing his motorbike in the center of Cajibío when he was approached by police who asked to see his documentation. Shortly afterwards, as he travelled on his motorbike nearby, two assailants intercepted him and shot him several times.


On October 13, armed men forced Nelson Ramos Barrera from his home in Piamonte before killing him in front of his family members and community members who were trying to prevent the attack. Nelson belonged to the Municipal Peasant Workers Association of Piamonte (ASIMTRACAMPIC), an affiliate of FENSUAGRO. Community members saw a military helicopter over the area while the attackers were present. Local organizations said that security forces had been aware of threats to the community from armed groups since at least March of this year, yet had done nothing to ensure security. Because of its work coordinating crop substitution programs and defending protected biodiversity zones, ASIMTRACAMPIC members have been deemed military targets by armed groups operating in the area.

Colombia remains the world's most dangerous country for trade unionists. More than 30 FENSUAGRO members have been killed since the historic peace agreement was signed almost in November 2016, as. According to human rights organizations INDEPAZ (Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz) and the Patriotic March movement, more than 1,000 social activists and human rights defenders have been killed overall during this time.

We **strongly urge** that you

- carry out transparent and thorough investigations into the assassinations listed above, publish the results, and bring the perpetrators to justice
- provide protection measures to members of ASIMTRACAMPIC and FENSUAGRO in Cauca, in strict accordance with the wishes of their local leaders
- demilitarize the rural areas of Cauca because of the military's complicity in the armed violence, forced displacement, and targeting of rural social leaders

Sincerely,


 Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-Coordinator


 Christine Stonebraker-Martinez

copies: Francisco Santos Calderón, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via email, US mail
 Antonia Urrejola Noguera, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email, US mail
 Juliette De Rivero, Representative in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ~ via email
 US Embassy: Kristen Farrell (human rights) and Mariel Chatman (vulnerable populations) ~ via email
 US State Department: Christine Russell, Desk Officer for Colombia ~ via email
 Justice for Colombia ~ via email
 Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz / InterChurch Commission for Justice and Peace ~ via email
 US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
 US Representatives Beatty, Fudge, Gibbs, Gonzalez, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Ryan ~ via email

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