

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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November 25, 2020

Dear President Duque and Attorney General Barbosa:

We are deeply concerned about information we received from the Colombian Commission of Jurists (CCJ) about continuing threats against **Adriel Ruiz Galván**, a community leader from Buenaventura in Valle del Cauca Department. The former Catholic priest is president of the Foundation Spaces for Coexistence and Social Development (FUNDESCODES), a member of the Buenaventura Civic Strike Committee, and advisor to the Inter-Ethnic Truth Commission of the Pacific.

The following incidents have been reported in June and November to the *Fiscalía*, and protection measures were requested from the National Protection Unit (UNP), as well as precautionary measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

June 30: At the beginning of a work meeting (via online internet platform) with the international cooperation organization Comundo, an unknown person came into the conversation without connecting to the video camera. He identified himself as the nephew of one of Comundo's coordinators. Because of security concerns, the meeting participants closed the conversation.

July 14: An unknown person in a vehicle took pictures of Adriel Ruiz Galván while he was at the headquarters of FUNDESCODES in the Comuna Tres zone of the the Lleras neighborhood in Buenaventura.


August 5: While on his way to the FUNDESCODES office in the morning, Adriel Ruiz Galván was followed by two unknown persons on a motorcycle. That same afternoon, he received a call on his personal mobile phone from an unknown number. The caller insisted that he had a problem with Adriel Ruiz Galván and needed to speak with him personally.

November 2: An unknown person left a message for Adriel Ruiz Galván via the WhatsApp messaging platform: "...it is you who will dictate what happens to you; if you do not speak you will be screwed...you are already compromising your family...it's time to send people for your family."

We **strongly urge** that you

- carry out a thorough and impartial investigation into all threats and acts of intimidation against Adriel Ruiz Galván, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice
- provide the requested protection measures for Adriel Ruiz Galván, in accordance with his wishes

Sincerely,


 Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-Coordinator


 Christine Stonebraker-Martínez

copies: Alicia Arango Olmos, Minister of the Interior ~ via email
 Carlos Holmes Trujillo, Minister of National Defense ~ via email
 Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez, Presidential Advisor for Human Rights & International Affairs ~ via email
 Carlos Alfonso Negret, National Defender of the People ~ via email
 Alfonso Campo Martínez, Director of the National Protection Unit ~ via email
 Clara Luz Roldán González, Governor of Valle del Cauca ~ via email
 Francisco Santos Calderón, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via email, US mail
 US Embassy: Kristen Farrell (human rights) and Mariel Chatman (vulnerable populations) ~ via email
 US State Department: Christine Russell, Desk Officer for Colombia ~ via email
 IACHR: 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
 Adriana Mendoza Agudelo, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva ~ via email
 Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders ~ via email
 FUNDESCODES ~ via email
 Comisión Colombiana de Juristas ~ 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: