

Excmo. Sr. Presidente Gustavo Petro Urrego President of the Republic of Colombia contacto@presidencia.gov.co	Sr. Fiscal Francisco Barbosa Delgado Attorney General of Colombia despacho.fiscal@fiscalia.gov.co
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September 25, 2022

Dear Sirs:

We write today calling for justice for the assassination of oil worker union leader **Sibares Lamprea Vargas**, age 42, in Barrancabermeja, Santander Department. He was Secretary of Administrative Affairs of the Unión Sindical Obrera de la Industria del Petróleo (USO). Serving as a security guard at the Ecopetrol refinery in Barrancabermeja, he was also a member of the Association of Security Guards of Barrancabermeja and Magdalena Medio.


Sibares Lamprea Vargas was driving home from his father's funeral the evening of September 10. When he was passing near Camilo Torres Park, he was intercepted by two gunmen on a motorcycle who approached the car window and shot him repeatedly, at least five times. Witnesses called an ambulance, but he was pronounced dead moments after arriving at the hospital.

It is unknown whether Sibares Lamprea Vargas had been receiving any death threats before the incident.

We urge that you

- conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the killing of Sibares Lamprea Vargas—with the goal of finding both the material and intellectual authors of the crime—publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice
- urge Ecopetrol to initiate its own investigation
- offer security measures to other USO leaders and union members in Barrancabermeja, in strict accordance with their wishes

Sincerely,


Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordinators


Christine Stonebraker-Martínez

copies: Luis Gilberto Murillo, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via email, US mail
Alfonso Prada Gil, Minister of the Interior ~ via email
Joel Hernández García, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) ~ via email, US mail
Soledad García Muñoz, Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, Environmental Rights (IACHR) ~ via email, US mail
UN: Juliette De Rivero, Representative in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ~ via email
US Embassy: Francisco Palmieri (Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim); Kristen Farrell (human rights); Mariel Chatman (vulnerable populations) ~ via email
US State Department: Christine Russell, Desk Officer for Colombia ~ via email
US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Beatty, Brown, 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: