

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

March 6, 2024

Dear Sirs:

We are concerned that the situation for social leaders in Colombia remains dangerous, with frequent attacks ranging from threats to kidnappings and even death. During the first several weeks of 2024, more than a dozen social leaders have been killed. The situation underscores the urgent need for comprehensive measures to address violence against social leaders and ensure their safety.


On February 3 at 11:40am, social leader **Faber de Jesús Rincón Pérez** was returning to his home in the Brisas del Oriente neighborhood of Yondó, Antioquia Department, when he was ambushed by two armed individuals riding on a black motorcycle. Despite efforts to seek medical help, Faber Rincón Pérez succumbed to four gunshot wounds, including two in the chest. He died minutes after arriving at a local hospital.

Faber de Jesús Rincón Pérez, age 30, was recognized for his advocacy for workers' rights in the oil industry through the organization Guardia Obrera. His death highlights the broader security challenges in remote regions, such as this area of the Magdalena Medio Region where criminal organizations and armed groups like the paramilitary organization Clan del Golfo (also known as the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces) and the rebel group National Liberation Army (ELN) are vying for control.

We urge that you:

- conduct a thorough investigation into the assassination of Faber de Jesús Rincón Pérez, with a focus on identifying and bringing the perpetrators to justice
- collaborate with community leaders in the Magdalena Medio region to design and implement effective protection for social leaders

Sincerely,


Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordinator


Christine L. Stonebraker-Martinez

copies: Luis Fernando Velasco Chaves, Minister of Interior ~ via email
Luis Gilberto Murillo Urrutia, Ambassador of Colombia to the US ~ via email, US mail
José Luis Caballero Ochoa, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human 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); Adam Levy (human rights) ~ via email
US State Department: Desk Officer for Colombia ~ via email
US Senators from Ohio: Brown & Vance ~ via email
US Representatives from Ohio: Beatty, Brown, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Miller, Sykes ~ via email

04 FEB 2024_Infoabe_Colombia

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
4206 Mapledale Ave
Cleveland, OH 44109

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

Wilber Argueta
1013 Buhner Ave
Cleveland, OH 44109

Sheri Banks
1064 Canyonview Rd
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067

Dr. Joan Bedinghaus & Dr. Seth Foldy
50 Sherman St
Denver, CO 80203

Ed Boyte and Joel Morales
1242 Castleton Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121

Jean Brinich & Marty Langlois
12614 Arliss Dr.
Lakewood, OH 44107

Jonathan Cahill
2832 Scarborough Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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

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

Dr. Richard Clark
2145 W 18th St
Cleveland OH 44113

Gary Claxton & Mitsi Wagner
1439 W. 38th St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Community of Christ the Servant
19 Coventry Ct
Olmsted Township, OH 44138

Judith Corrigan
3008 Clinton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

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

Patricia Denny
7465 Mountain Quail Place
Painesville, OH 44077

Susan Dicken
P.O. Box 489
Wilders, VT 05088

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

Virginia Douglas
133 Brandtson Ave
Elyria, OH 44035

Thom Downing
213 Laverne Ave
Alexandria, VA 22305

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

Erica Ewing
661 N Buckeye
Wooster, OH 44691

Lynn Falletta
2189 E Park Dr
Uniontown, OH 44685

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

Fr. Daniel R. Fickes
32929 Lake Rd
Avon Lake, OH 44102

Laurie Findlay
940-B Sycamore Dr
Decatur, GA 30030

J.P. Graulty
1197 Cranford Ave
Lakewood OH 44107

Debbie Gurney & Ron Manzano
3952 Rosemond Rd
Cleveland Hts, OH 44121

Kathryn Harlow
4701 Clinton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44102

Susan Heiser
406 N Olive St
Trenton IL 62293

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

Anita Hooley-Yoder
2613 Dysart Rd
University Heights, OH 44118

Joyce Humel & Michael McCann
2121 Arthur
Lakewood, OH 444107

Sr. Mary Hurley
318 Villa Dr
Villa Maria, PA 16155

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

Trudy Hutchinson
2091 Lincoln Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107

Susan Kenney
1112 Mt Vernon Blvd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44112

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

Susan Lendvay
7025 Fitch Rd
Olmsted Township, OH 44138

Dale Lindsey
3505 Archwood
Cleveland, OH 44109

Martha A. Maloney
3420 Wooster Rd, 205B
Rocky River, OH 44116

Toty Martin
720 South Point Trail
Berea, OH 44017

Dot Masterson
19 Coventry Ct
Olmsted Township, OH 44138

Cara McKinney
17 Ibbetson St
Somerville, MA 02314

Nina McLellan
14014 Shaker Blvd, #204
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Doug & Jani Wanner McWilliams
16900 S. Woodland Rd
Shaker Heights OH 44120

Mary Meler
1494 Victoria Ave
Lakewood OH 44107

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

Lisa Nguyen
3515 Altadena Ave
San Diego, CA 92105

Mary O'Malley
4733 W Addison St
Chicago, IL 60641

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

Frank Osborne
1278 Croyden Rd
Lyndhurst, OH 44124

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

Bob and Laverne Parker
11514 Chautauqua Trail
Brecksville, OH 44141

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

Jeanne Petrus-Rivera
30750 Iris Ct
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Nilda Quintana
8809 Warwick Dr #260
Boca Raton, FL 33433

Janet Rhodes Ross
6 Deer Run Dr
Wakeman, OH 44889

Marlene & Robert Rink
3701 Mayfield Rd., unit 108
Cleveland Hts, OH 44121

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

Louise P. Sandercock
12185 Waywood Dr
Twinsburg, OH 44087

Sarah K. Sommers
5900 Lawn Ave
Cleveland OH 44102

Lisa Splawinski
3194 W 111th St
Cleveland, OH 44111

James F. Szaller
28470 Hilliard
Westlake, OH 44145

Gloria Tavera
2823 18th St #319
San Francisco, CA 94110

Andrew Trares
4010 Clinton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

Ursuline Sisters
Social Justice Office
6085 Parkland Blvd, STE 175
Mayfield Heights, OH 44124

Bob and Carla VanDale
144 Kendal Dr
Oberlin, OH 44074

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

Martha Wiersma
4276 W. 217th St.
Fairview Park, OH 44126

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

Matt and Megan Wilson-Reitz
6405 Brookside Dr
Cleveland OH 44144