

COLOMBIA

Family member of the Popular Women's Organization is disappeared

RRN letters: 6/13/02, 6/26/03, 9/26/03, 10/26/03, 2/13/04, 1/23/05 and 2/16/07



RRN members have written seven letters to Colombian officials on behalf of staff and members of the Popular Women's Organization, or OFP (Organizacion Femenina Popular) in Barrancabermeja, Santander. Yolanda Becerra, President of the OFP, and other leaders have been targeted by the AUC, the largest paramilitary group in Colombia. The OFP denounces human rights abuses committed by the AUC, as they attempt to control the region.

We have written several letters urging Colombian officials to protect OFP members:

- **June 13, 2002:** the oil workers union (USO) was informed of a plot by paramilitaries (AUC) to kill Yolanda Becerra
- **June 26, 2003:** several OFP members, including Yolanda Becerra, were threatened
- **October 26, 2003:** Yolanda Becerra received a death threat in September, and paramilitaries murdered OFP member Esperanza Amaris Miranda on October 16
- **February 13, 2004:** armed men fired upon an OFP delegation as they sailed from Barrancabermeja to San Pablo, and OFP member Ines Peña was abducted and tortured by paramilitaries
- **January 23, 2005:** bomb threat made to OFP office; Yolanda Becerra, President of the Documentation Center at OFP, was again threatened
- **June 26, 2006:** threat to OFP by a group calling itself Colombia Free of Communists
- **July 2, 2006:** threats to OFP leader Gloria Amparo Suarez

We now fear for **Katherine Gonzalez Torres** who disappeared on February 13, 2007. Katherine Gonzalez Torres is the 20-year old sister of **Sandra Gutierrez Torres**, member of the leadership team of the OFP.