

PUBLIC

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27 June 2008

UA 186/08 **Fear for safety/Death threats**

COLOMBIA **Members of the Medellín Youth Network (*Red Juvenil de Medellín*)**

A paramilitary organization, the *Aguilas Negras* (Black Eagles), sent an email death threat to the youth organization *Red Juvenil de Medellín* (Medellín Youth Network) on 30 May.

The message read, "Death to anarchists disguised as pacifists, no more druggy concerts or communists, there are no more warnings" (*Muerte a anarquistas disfrazados de pacifistas, no mas conciertos de drogas ni comunistas, no hay mas avisos*).

Red Juvenil de Medellín works to empower young people to resist attempts by either side in the country's long-running internal armed conflict, the regular army and paramilitaries, or guerrilla groups, to recruit them. It promotes the principles of non-violence and the practice of conscientious objection.

The threatening e mail follows a concert against militarization organized by the *Red Juvenil de Medellín* on 17 May in the Obrero de Boston Park in the city of Medellín. The network organizes this concert every year to mark International Conscientious Objectors' Day. About 5, 000 young people went to the concert.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the course of Colombia's internal armed conflict, human rights organizations, trade unions and other social organizations have often been labelled guerrilla collaborators or supporters by government officials, as well as by the security forces and paramilitaries. These accusations have often led to attacks against human rights activists, such as the *Red Juvenil de Medellín*. Guerrilla groups have also threatened and killed human rights activists and trade unionists.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of members of the *Red Juvenil de Medellín*, who received an email death threat from the *Aguilas Negras* paramilitary organization on 30 May;
- urging the authorities to ensure that all measures deemed appropriate by those threatened on 30 May are taken to guarantee their safety;
- calling on them to order full and impartial investigations into the 30 May death threat, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- calling on them to take decisive action to confront and dismantle paramilitary groups and investigate and break their links with the security forces, in line with repeated UN recommendations;
- calling on the authorities to produce policy and plans, in conjunction with human rights defenders, to guarantee their safety according to the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and to make these plans public.

APPEALS TO:President

Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez
Presidente de la República, Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-2, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 337 5890

+57 1 342 0592

Salutation: Dear President Uribe/Excmo. Sr. Presidente Uribe

Vice-President

Dr. Francisco Santos Calderón
Vicepresidencia, Carrera 8A No 7-27, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 565 7682 (ask: me da tono de fax por favor)

Salutation: Dear Vice-president Santos/Estimado Sr. Vicepresidente Santos

Attorney General

Dr. Mario Germán Iguarán Arana
Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación
Diagonal 22B (Av. Luis Carlos Galán No. 52-01) Bloque C, Piso 4, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 570 2000 (a message in Spanish will ask you to enter extension 2017)

Salutation: Estimado Sr. Fiscal/Dear Mr Iguarán

Mayor of Medellín

Alonso Salazar Jaramillo
Alcaldía de Medellín
Calle 44 N 52 – 165
Centro Administrativo la Alpujarra – Palacio Municipal, Medellín, Colombia

Fax: +57 4 3811852

Salutation: Estimado Sr. Alcalde/Dear Mr Salazar

COPIES TO:Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sr. Fernando Araújo Perdomo
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Calle 10 No 5-51, Palacio de San Carlos, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 562 7822

La Red Juvenil de Medellín

Calle 47 # 47 – 53, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 August 2008.