

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the inhabitants of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, and insisting that all measures deemed appropriate by the members of the community themselves are taken to guarantee their safety;
- expressing concern that the Colombian authorities should continue to respect the right of the civilian population not to be drawn into the conflict and so respect the right of San José de Apartadó not to be militarized;
- expressing concern at the continued death threats made by army-backed paramilitaries and the presence of army-backed paramilitaries on the road between San José de Apartadó and Apartadó, despite the heavy military presence in the region;
- urging the authorities to take immediate decisive action to confront and dismantle these groups, in line with repeated United Nations recommendations.
- calling for full and impartial investigations into links between the security forces and paramilitary forces in Antioquia department, for the results to be made public and for those members of the security forces responsible for operating in unison with paramilitary forces or supporting them to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26
Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 342 0592/ 337 58 90

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

Minister of the Interior and Justice

Sr. Sabas Pretelt de la Vega,
Ministro del Interior y de Justicia
Ministerio del Interior
Av. Jiménez No 8-89
Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 560 4630

Salutation: Dear Sir / Sr. Ministro

Attorney General

Dr. Luis Camilo Osorio,
Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,
Diagonal 22B 52-01 (Ciudad Salite),
Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 570 2022 / 2017 (if someone answers say "me da tono de fax por favor")

Salutation: Dear Dr. Osorio / Estimado Dr. Osorio

COPIES TO:

National Advocate for the people

Sr. Volmar Antonio Pérez Ortiz, Defensor del Pueblo, Defensoría del Pueblo,
Calle 55, No. 10-32/46 oficina 301,
Bogotá, 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 26 December 2003