

URGENT ACTION

SECURITY FEARS FOR PEASANT FARMERS' LEADER

Peasant farmer leader Hernán Henry Díaz, who was arranging a protest march, has not been seen since 18 April, and may have been subjected to enforced disappearance, in Putumayo Department, southern Colombia.

Hernán Henry Díaz, a spokesperson of the Departmental Roundtable of Social Organisations in Putumayo Department and member of the National United Trade Union of Agricultural Workers (*Federación Nacional Sindical Unitaria*, FENSUAGRO) was last seen on 18 April. As a peasant farmer leader he was coordinating the participation of 200 delegates from Valle del Guamuez Municipality, Putumayo Department in a protest march in the capital, Bogotá on 21, 22 and 23 April. On 18 April he wrote a text message to his partner (*compañera*) saying that he was in Puerto Vega and that he was coming over. There has been no news from him since.

A few months ago Hernán Henry Díaz travelled to Bogotá to alert the authorities to the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Putumayo. He spoke with government representatives and members of the international community including embassy staff and raised specific cases of human rights violations. In the past those organising protest marches have been intimidated, threatened and in some cases been subjected to enforced disappearance or killed. Concern is heightened by the fact that senior security forces officers have stated that the march had been infiltrated by guerrilla forces.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of Hernán Henry Díaz
- Calling on the authorities to do everything necessary to establish the whereabouts of Hernán Henry Díaz, guarantee his safety and order a full and impartial investigation into his possible enforced disappearance, publish the results and if the enforced disappearance is confirmed by the judicial authorities, bring those responsible to justice;
- Reminding them to fulfil their obligations regarding the situation of human rights defenders, as laid out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 JUNE 2012 TO:

President

Señor Juan Manuel Santos
 Presidente de la República,
 Palacio de Nariño,
 Carrera 8 No.7-26,
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 596 0631

**Salutation: Dear President Santos/
 Excmo. Sr. Presidente Santos**

Attorney General

Señor Eduardo Montealegre
 Fiscalía General de la Nación
 Diagonal 22B No. 52-01 (Ciudad Salitre)
 Bloque C Piso 4
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 570 2000 ext 2023

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/
 Estimado Sr. Fiscal General de la
 Nación**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Señora María Angela Holguín
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
 Palacio San Carlos
 Calle 10 No. 5-51
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 381 4742

**Salutation: Dear Minister/
 Sra. Ministra**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

During the armed conflict in Colombia, which has lasted over four decades, the security forces and paramilitary groups have frequently labelled human rights organizations and trade unions as guerrilla collaborators or supporters, and have gone on to threaten, abduct or kill them. Guerrilla groups have also threatened or killed human rights defenders and trade unionists they consider to be siding with their enemies. Over recent years organizers of protest marches demanding respect for human rights have faced serious violations of human rights after senior state and government officials have labelled marches as being lined to the guerrillas.

Name: Hernán Henry Díaz

Gender m/f: male

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