

URGENT ACTION

COLOMBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER THREATENED

Luz Marina Hache and other members of MOVICE, an organization that is campaigning for justice for the victims of the armed conflict in Colombia, have received death threats.

Luz Marina Hache is a leading member of the non-governmental human rights organization, National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (*Movimiento de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado*, MOVICE).

On 7 February 2011 at 10:10 pm, Luz Marina Hache received a telephone call from an anonymous male caller, who said: "son-of-a-bitch do you want to get yourself killed (*"hp ¿se quiere hacer matar?*). After issuing the threat, the caller put the receiver down.

The threat follows several other incidents which suggested that she and her family are being kept under surveillance. In October 2010, Luz Marina Hache was followed by unidentified individuals. In January 2011, an individual on a motorcycle approached her son to ask him if a teacher lived in Luz Marina Hache's house. Her son is a teacher.

The recent threat against Luz Marina Hache coincides with ongoing threats against members of the organization in Bogotá and other parts of Colombia.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of Luz Marina Hache, her family and other members of MOVICE and urging the authorities to guarantee their safety in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on the authorities to order a full and impartial investigation into the 7 February death threat against Luz Marina Hache, make the results public and 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 14 APRIL 2011 TO:

President

Juan Manuel Santos
Señor Presidente Juan Manuel Santos
Presidente de la República, Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 337 5890 (works in office hours; Colombia is GMT-5)

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

Minister of Interior and Justice

Señor Germán Vargas Lleras
Ministerio Del Interior y De Justicia
Carrera 9a. No. 14-10, Bogotá
Colombia

Fax: +57 1 599 8961

**Salutation: Dear Minister Vargas
/Estimado Sr. Ministro Vargas**

And copies to:

MOVICE
Carrera 5 N. 16- 14
Edificio Globo ofi. 807
Bogotá
Colombia

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MOVICE is a broad coalition of civil society organizations campaigning for truth, justice and reparation for the victims of Colombia's long-running internal armed conflict. Human rights defenders campaigning for justice in cases of human rights violations have repeatedly been threatened and been the target of killings and forced disappearances carried out by the security forces and paramilitaries operating in collusion with them as part of efforts to guarantee the impunity of the perpetrators of these crimes.

Luz Marina Hache is not only a founder of MOVICE but has played a prominent part in campaigns for justice in cases of human rights violations committed by the security forces including the cases of several young men from the municipality of Soacha in Cundinamarca Department, who were forcibly disappeared and killed in 2008. The killings, which the army presented as "guerrillas killed in combat," were apparently carried out in collusion with paramilitary groups or criminal gangs: in some cases, as a reward for having "killed a guerrilla" soldiers received money, extra days of holiday and letters of congratulation from their superiors.

On 2 April 2008, unknown men threatened to kill Cendy Torres, the daughter of Ingrid Vergara, one of the leaders of MOVICE in Sucre, supposedly in reprisal for her mother's work as a human rights defender. On 26 October 2009, Cendy Torres received a death threat addressed to Ingrid Vergara. (see Colombian human rights defender at risk, UA: 301/09 Index: AMR 23/027/2009 Issue Date: 09 November 2009)

On 18 May 2010 Rogelio Martínez, one of the leaders of MOVICE in Sucre department, was shot dead. He had been campaigning for the right to truth, justice and reparation for displaced communities. (see Risk intensifies for defenders after killing, FU on UA: 301/09 Index: AMR 23/019/2010 Issue Date: 26 May 2010)

On 12 October 2010 Ingrid Vergara identified a possible attempt to kill her on Majagual square in Sincelejo. One of her bodyguards, provided to her by the Ministry of Interior's protection programme, noticed three suspicious men near Ingrid Vergara talking about the absence of her second bodyguard. When two more men approached Ingrid Vergara on a motorcycle the bodyguard urged her to quickly leave the square. Ingrid Vergara was again threatened on 20 and 25 November 2010 and on 1 December 2010 two armed men entered her house and forcefully removed the hard drive of a computer belonging to MOVICE. (see Human rights defender's family threatened, FU on UA: 301/09 Index: AMR 23/036/2010 Issue Date: 03 December 2010)

UA: 56/11 Index: 23/004/2011 Issue Date: 03 March 2011

