

URGENT ACTION

THREATENED FOR DEMANDING JUSTICE

A funeral wreath was delivered to the home of human rights defender Martha Elena Díaz Ospina in Barranquilla, northern Colombia. This threat came days after she rejected a court-ordered apology by the armed forces for the extrajudicial execution of her son.

On 8 February a funeral wreath was delivered to the home of human rights defender **Martha Elena Díaz Ospina** in Barranquilla, Atlántico Department. It had an inscription that read "Rest in Peace Marta [sic] Diaz" (*descanse en paz Marta [sic] Diaz*). Martha Elena Díaz Ospina is the founder and president of the Association of Families United by a Single Sorrow (Asociación de Familiares Unidas por un Solo Dolor, AFUSODO). AFUSODO is an organization of family members of victims of extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances. In late January, following a court order, the commander of the II Brigade of the army offered apologies for the 2006 extrajudicial execution of Martha Elena Díaz Ospina's son, Douglas Alberto Tabera Diaz, in a public event. Martha Elena Díaz Ospina rejected the apology, saying that she was still waiting for truth, justice and reparation since she claims that not all those responsible have been held to account.

Martha Elena Díaz Ospina is also member of the Atlántico branch of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado, MOVICE) and was among many members of MOVICE named in the mass death threats of 11 and 21 January 2015 and 18 December 2014.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of Martha Elena Díaz Ospina and urging the authorities to provide protection for her, in strict accordance with her wishes and needs;
- Calling on them to order a full and impartial investigation into the death threat against Martha Elena Díaz Ospina, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Reminding them to fulfil their obligation to protect human rights defenders, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 APRIL 2015 TO:

President

Juan Manuel Santos
 Presidente de la República
 Casa de Nariño
 Calle 7. No 6-54.
 Fax: +57 1 596 0631
 Email: contacto@presidencia.gov.co

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

Attorney General

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 (when recorded
 voice answers, dial ext 2023)

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/
 Estimado Sr. Fiscal General**

And copies to:

NGO
 MOVICE
 Piso 3
 Calle 34 No 41-97
 Barranquilla
 Colombia

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. This is the first update of UA 28/14. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR23/007/2014/en

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

THREATENED FOR DEMANDING JUSTICE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Douglas Alberto Tabera Diaz and three other young men were killed on 2 April 2006 in the municipality of San Juan del Cesar, La Guajira Department, by members of two army counter guerrilla units, Cobalto Dos and Bombarda Tres. They were then presented as guerrillas killed in combat. The four men had left Barranquilla a few days earlier after they were offered work in the cotton farms near Valledupar, Cesar Department. Nine members of the armed forces have been convicted in relation to this case. In April 2013 an administrative tribunal in Rioacha, Guajira Department, ordered the army to apologise for the killings.

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. Its members have documented and exposed many killings and enforced disappearances carried out by the security forces and paramilitary groups. For more information on the recent mass death threats see: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR23/003/2015/en>.

During much of Colombia's armed conflict, the use of extrajudicial executions was widespread as well as systematic, and formed a central component of the security forces' counter-insurgency strategy. However, the number of reported cases have fallen significantly in recent years. Nevertheless, the Office of the Attorney General has failed to make any real progress in investigating those suspected of having criminal responsibility for such crimes, especially high-ranking officers. The Office of the Attorney General has registered complaints involving more than 4,000 victims of extrajudicial executions. Many of those campaigning for justice in cases of extrajudicial execution have been subjected to death threats, or have been killed by members of the security forces or paramilitaries, either acting alone or in collusion with each other.

Name: Martha Elena Díaz Ospina

Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 28/14 Index: AMR 23/007/2015 Issue Date: 19 February 2015