

URGENT ACTION

COMMUNITY LEADER KILLED, OTHERS AT RISK

A community leader was killed when he planned to return to Ituango municipality, Northern Colombia, from where hundreds were forcibly displaced while they were opposing the construction of a dam.

On 17 September the community leader and artisanal miner **Nelson Giraldo** was killed on the river bank of Cauca River in an area known as Sardinias in the municipality of Ituango, Antioquia Department. He was a leader of the **Ríos Vivos Antioquia Movement**, which represents some of those who have been displaced from several municipalities from the North and the West of Antioquia Department since March 2013. Nelson Giraldo was shot in the chest and legs and his throat had been cut. He had visited the municipality to see if it was possible for his family to return. On 9 September a court in Medellín had ordered local authorities to attend to the collective protection measures requested by the Ríos Vivos movement.

Following a series of incidents, including threats by paramilitaries, guerrilla attacks, fighting between armed forces and guerrilla, as well as mass detentions of those opposing the building of a dam on the Cauca River, known as Hidroitango, some 250 artisanal miners and others making their living from the river fled the area. In recent years those opposing the development of Hidroitango have repeatedly been labelled as guerrilla fighters by the security forces and faced possibly arbitrary detentions. Those labelled as guerrilla collaborators have frequently been the target of human rights violations including extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearance, enforced displacement and threats. Artisanal miners and others living in the 12 municipalities which will be affected by the dam fear they will lose their livelihood.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of the artisanal miners of the Ríos Vivos Antioquia Movement and their families;
- Calling on the authorities to implement protection measures for those at risk, in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Urging the authorities to order full and impartial investigations into the killing of Nelson Giraldo and the enforced displacement of those he represented, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 NOVEMBER 2013 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**

Minister for Mines and Energy

Amylkar Acosta
 Ministerio de Minas y Energía
 Calle 43 No 57 – 31, CAN
 Apartado 80319
 Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 324 5208
**Salutation: Dear Minister Acosta/
 Estimado Sr. Ministro Acosta**

And copies to:

Corporación Jurídica Libertad
 Carrera 47 No 53-45, Piso 10
 Medellín
 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.

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Ríos Vivos Movement is a national movement made up of communities affected by large scale energy projects, mostly dams and other projects which they consider to affect their access to water resources. The organization also campaigns to protect the livelihoods of those living in the areas affected by these energy projects. They are aiming to defend the civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights of those affected by these large-scale economic projects. In the case of Antioquia different social organizations, groups and individuals from the municipalities of Ituango, San Andrés de Cuerquía, Toledo, Briceño, Yarumal, Sabanalarga, Liborina and Olaya affected by the hydroelectric project of Ituango, also known as Hidroitungo, are part of the Ríos Vivos Antioquia Movement.

The Hidroitungo dam is being built in an area affected by the armed conflict. In the 1990s, paramilitaries carried out a series of massacres in collusion with the security forces in Ituango Municipality, one of the municipalities which will be affected by the dam. There has been no justice for many of these human rights violations and those campaigning for justice are being threatened because of their fight against impunity.

During Colombia's long-running armed conflict, members of human rights organizations, trade unions and other social organizations have often been labelled guerrilla collaborators or supporters by the security forces and paramilitaries. As a result they are often killed, threatened, or subjected to enforced disappearance. Guerrilla groups have also threatened or killed human rights defenders they consider to be siding with the enemy.

Name: Nelson Giraldo (m), members of the Ríos Vivo Antioquia Movement
Gender m/f: both

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