

# URGENT ACTION

## DEATH THREATS SENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

**Human rights defender Martha Elena Díaz Ospina received three death threats by text message on 6, 7 and 8 February, labelling her a guerrilla fighter and military target, in Barranquilla, northern Colombia.**

On 8 February **Martha Elena Díaz Ospina**, member of the Atlántico branch of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado, MOVICE), received a death threat by text message. It read: "you have 48 hours [...] leave the city, accept the consequences guerrilla fighter" (*Te quedan 48 horas [...] sales de la ciudad atente a las consecuencias guerrillera*). She also received death threats by text message from the same phone number on the two previous days, 6 and 7 February, in which she was declared a "military target" (*objetivo militar*). Martha Elena Díaz Ospina is also the founder and president of the Association of Families United by a Single Sorrow (Asociación de Familias por un Solo Dolor, AFUSODO). AFUSODO is an organization of family members of victims of extrajudicial executions that also supports the mothers of those subjected to enforced disappearance by the armed forces.

On 5 February she participated in the Prevention and Protection Committee of the Barranquilla Victims District Roundtable (Mesa Distrital de Víctimas de Barranquilla), where 80 cases of threatened victims, human rights defenders and trade unionists were discussed. Other members of the Roundtable have also been threatened, increasingly so in the last two months. Threats against members of the Roundtable have been made through flyers circulated in the area, text messages and phone calls, some of them signed by the paramilitary group "Los Rastrojos".

### 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;
- Calling on them to order full and impartial investigations 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;
- Urging them to dismantle paramilitary groups and break their links with the security forces in line with repeated United Nations human rights recommendations.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 MARCH 2014 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

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  
 Calle 45 No 20-21  
 Bogotá, 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

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.

During the long-running armed conflict in Colombia, extrajudicial executions have been carried out by the security forces in a widespread and systematic manner. They have been part of the terror tactics used by the security forces as part of their counter-insurgency strategy. The Attorney General's Office is investigating more than 2,000 extrajudicial executions committed by the security forces. Those campaigning for justice in cases of extrajudicial execution have been repeatedly subjected to death threats, or have been killed by members of the security forces or paramilitaries working with them.

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. Guerrillas have also threatened and killed human rights defenders.

Name: Martha Elena Díaz Ospina

Gender m/f: f

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