

URGENT ACTION

ORGANIZATIONS AND UNIONS THREATENED

On 23 August, several Colombian human rights NGOs and trade unions received a death threat from the paramilitary Black Eagles New Generation in Valle del Cauca Department, western Colombia.

On 23 August **Walter Agredo Muñoz**, member of the Valle del Cauca Branch of the Political Prisoners Solidarity Committee (*Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos, CSPP*) and **Martha Giraldo**, member of the Valle del Cauca Branch of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (*Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado, MOVICE*) received the same text message with threats against several NGOs and trade unions: "you will die, communists in disguise as FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia]." The message then listed the non-governmental organizations Social Research and Action Association (*Asociación de Investigación y la Acción Social, NOMADESC*), Association for the Integral Social Development (*Asociación para el desarrollo social integral, ECATE*), Black Communities Process (*Proceso de Comunidades Negras, PCN*), MOVICE and CSPP and the trade unions Trade Union Congress (*Central Unitaria de Trabajadores, CUT*) and Colombian University Workers and Employees Trade Union (*Sindicato de Trabajadores y Empleados Universitarios de Colombia, SINTRAUNICOL*). The text threatened that the Black Eagles New Generation would exterminate them in three days and also referred derogatively to "Indigenous dogs". (*Morirán los comunistas disimulados de farc Nomadesc, CUT, Ecate, Sintraunicol, PCN, Indios perros, movice, Presos políticos. Águilas negras nueva generación tres días en alianza para exterminarlos*)

This is the latest of a series of paramilitary death threats against trade unions and human rights organizations in the region.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Call on the authorities to order a full and impartial investigation into the death threats against members of NOMADESC, ECATE, PCN, MOVICE and CSPP, the trade unions CUT and SINTRAUNICOL, as well as Indigenous Peoples working in the departments of Cauca and Valle del Cauca; publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Demand that they provide protection for those threatened, as agreed with those in danger; Remind the authorities to fulfil their obligations regarding the situation of human rights defenders, as laid out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.
- Urge the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and recommendations made by the UN and other intergovernmental organizations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 OCTOBER 2011 TO:

President

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**

Minister of Interior

Germán Vargas Lleras
 Ministerio Del Interior
 Carrera 9a. No. 14-10,
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 599 8961

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

Minister of Defence

Rodrigo Rivera Salazar
 Ministerio de Defensa
 Carrera 54, no.26-29
 Centro Administrativo Nacional
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 266 1003

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

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 126/10. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR23/039/2010/en>

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Dozens of human rights defenders and trade unionists have been threatened or killed in the departments of Valle del Cauca and Cauca. In the past year paramilitary groups, including the Black Eagles New Generation, have frequently threatened human rights defenders and trade unionists as well as Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in Cauca and Valle del Cauca department.

In December 2010 Martha Lucía Giraldo, of MOVICE, as well as Cristina Castro of CSPP and Berenice Celeyta, director of NOMADESC and Ayda Quilcué a former leader of the Cauca Indigenous Regional Council (Concejo Regional Indígena del Cauca, CRIC) had received a text messages signed by the paramilitary group Black Eagles New Generation accusing them and other human rights NGOs, trade unions and Indigenous leaders of being guerrillas and threatening to kill them.

During Colombia's long-running internal armed conflict, 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.

Colombia's paramilitary groups supposedly demobilized in a government-sponsored process that began in 2003, but it is clear from the threats against human rights organizations and trade unions, in Valle de Cauca, Cauca and elsewhere, that they are still operating.

Guerrilla forces have also been responsible for numerous killings and threats against human rights defenders, trade unionists, Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in south-western Colombia in recent years.

Name: Walter Agredo Muñoz; Martha Giraldo

Gender m/f: Walter Agredo Muñoz (m); Martha Giraldo (f)

Further information on UA: 126/10 Index: AMR 23/026/2011 Issue Date: 26 August 2011