



TRANSFORMING PAIN INTO HOPE

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS

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PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS NOW



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THE POPULAR WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION, COLOMBIA

Human rights defenders in the Americas play a vital role in exposing and combating human rights violations. Many have paid a high price for their courageous efforts to break cycles of injustice, discrimination and impunity. In the past few years, hundreds have been persecuted and attacked. Despite the lack of effective protection for themselves and their families and widespread impunity, they continue their struggle – transforming pain into hope.

For more than 40 years, the Popular Women's Organization (Organización Femenina Popular, OFP) has been working to promote women's rights in the context of Colombia's long-running armed conflict. The OFP has supported many women survivors of human right abuses in their struggle for truth, justice and reparation. OFP members have been targeted for death threats, harassment and physical attacks because of their work, mainly by members of paramilitary groups. Some have been killed.

Join us in urging the authorities to publicly recognize OFP members' vital work; to ensure their effective protection; and to investigate and bring to justice those responsible for attacks against them.

TAKE ACTION NOW

SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS

Image: Women sing the anthem of the Popular Women's Organization (Organización Femenina Popular, OFP), Colombia, 2009.

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Dear President,

In 2012, the Popular Women's Organization (Organización Femenina Popular, OFP) celebrated 40 years of tireless and courageous work promoting and protecting women's rights in the context of Colombia's armed conflict.

OFP members have been harassed, intimidated and threatened with death because of their human rights work, mainly by members of paramilitary groups. Some have been attacked and killed.

I call on you to:

- publicly recognize the fundamental contribution the OFP has made to human rights in Colombia
- take all measures to support OFP members in continuing their work, while protecting them against abuses
- ensure that allegations of human rights abuses against OFP members are properly investigated and those responsible brought to justice.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____

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

Image: A sculpture from the 40th anniversary exhibition in memory of women victims of human rights abuses, Barrancabermeja, Colombia, July 2012. © Organización Femenina Popular
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