

URGENT ACTION

PARAMILITARIES THREATEN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

Paramilitaries threatened a human rights lawyer, trade unionists and environmental activists in Santander Department, north-eastern Colombia. The paramilitaries accuse these people of organizing peasant farmer demonstrations currently underway, alleging they are supported by guerrilla groups.

On 29 April a written death threat was sent to the offices of the Colombian Trade Union Congress (Central Unitaria de Trabajadores, CUT) in Bucaramanga, the capital of Santander Department. The threat was signed by the paramilitary group self-identified as Self-Defence Forces of Colombia – Los Rastrojos – Los Urabeños Command (Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia – Los Rastrojos – Comando Los Urabeños).

In the death threat **Leonardo Jaimes**, a human rights lawyer with the Committee of Solidarity with Political Prisoners (Comite de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos, CSPP), trade unionists **Martha Díaz** and **David Flórez**, and environmental campaigners **Diego Riaño** and **Jimmy Moreno** were declared “military targets” (*objetivos militares*). The paramilitaries accuse them of organizing peasant farmer demonstrations, which they allege are supported by guerrilla groups. A national peasant farmer strike has been taking place since 28 April.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of CSPP worker Leonardo Jaimes, trade unionists Martha Díaz and David Flórez, and environmental campaigners Diego Riaño and Jimmy Moreno;
- Urging the authorities to implement protection measures in strict accordance with their needs and demands, and order full and impartial investigations into these threats and the presence of paramilitaries, for the results to be made public and for those found responsible to be brought to justice;
- Urging them to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups and break their links with the security forces, in line with stated government commitments and recommendations made by the UN and other intergovernmental organizations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 JUNE 2014 TO:

President

Presidente 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**

Defence Minister

Señor Juan Carlos Pinzón
 Ministerio de Defensa
 Carrera 54, no.26-29
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 266 1003

**Salutation: Dear Minister Pinzón/
 Sr. Ministro Pinzón**

And copies to:

NGO

Fundación Comité de Solidaridad con los
 Presos Políticos
 Calle 26 4A-45, Piso 12
 Torre KLM
 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

Human rights defenders and others who have challenged the impunity of members of the security forces and paramilitaries in Colombia have repeatedly been labelled as subversives by these forces. Security forces and paramilitaries have repeatedly followed these accusations by committing serious human rights violations. Human rights lawyers defending individuals charged with subversion have themselves been frequently labelled subversive by the security forces and paramilitary groups. Such accusations have often been accompanied or followed by death threats and other serious human rights violations.

The CSPP was founded in 1973 and works on human rights issues in several regions of the Colombia. Members of the CSPP have been repeatedly threatened.

Trade unionists in the context of labour disputes and environmental activists have also been the target of death threats and serious human rights violations committed by the security forces or paramilitaries. Guerrilla groups have also been responsible for death threats and other serious human rights abuses against activists they consider to be challenging their interests or siding with their enemies.

Name: Leonardo Jaimes (m), Martha Díaz (f), David Flórez (m), Diego Riaño (m), Jimmy Moreno (m)

Gender m/f: both

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