



June 8, 2016

By Email: embassyofcolombia@colombiaemb.org

President Juan Manuel Santos
c/o Colombian Embassy
1724 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear President Santos:

We are writing to express our concern for some of our union partners in Colombia who are experiencing serious security issues.

First, we would like to raise alarm about our long-time partner SINATRINAL which has received numerous threats in recent months. In particular, we are concerned about SINATRINAL's leaders in Cartagena, and in particular Wilson Castro Padilla and Edwin Molina Galvan, as they have received a number of threats from paramilitary forces in that city. Meanwhile, they have suffered an inexplicable diminution of their security services from the state just as the threat to their lives is increasing. We note that the security services taken from them were recommended by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights in the first place. With this, we ask that all of the security services once granted to these SINATRINAL leaders be reinstated to them.

In addition, we wish to express our concern for the following SINATRINAL leaders and members who have also received death threats throughout various parts of Colombia:

Victima	Victimario	Hecho	Ciudad	Fecha
Marco Tulio Franco Navarrete	Ejército Nacional – Brigada de Comunicaciones	Acoso – fotografías	Facatativá	26 de abril de 2016
Edwin Molina y Wilson Castro	Desconocidos	Amenazas de muerte vía telefónica	Cartagena	24 de abril de 2016

Todos los afiliados de Sinaltrainal	Desconocidos	Amenazas de muerte vía telefónica	Cartagena	15 de abril de 2016
Sinaltrainal - Javier Correa, , Diego Rodríguez, Rafael Esquivel, Onofre Esquivel, Edgar Páez, Mauricio Valencia Tamayo Wilson Riaño, Álvaro Varela	Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia AGC	Amenazas de muerte, los declararon objetivo militar	Bugalagrande	20 de abril de 2016
Javier Armando Espitia Castro	Desconocidos	Amenazas de muerte vía telefónica	Bogotá	19 de abril de 2016
Wilmar Alexander Muñoz Camelo	Edison Alejandro Guataquira Monsalve – Reacción Antimarxista de Colombia	Amenazas	Facatativá	2 de abril de 2016
Wilson Castro	Desconocidos	Amenazas de muerte vía telefónica	Cartagena	2 de abril de 2016
Yaneth Torres	Desconocidos	Amenazas de muerte vía telefónica	Cartagena	2 de abril de 2016
Wilson Castro	Desconocidos	Amenazas de muerte vía telefónica	Cartagena	2 de abril de 2016
Isabel Bastidas	Autodefensas Campesinas de Colombia – El Nuevo Nacimiento	Amenazas de muerte		29 de marzo de 2016
William Mendoza y Juan Carlos Galvis, otros de Sinaltrainal	Desconocido interceptó a William	Amenaza de muerte de ex paramilitares	Barrancabermeja	30 de diciembre de 2015
Edwin Molina	Telefónica de José Aguilar	Amenaza de muerte	Cartagena	1 de diciembre de 2015
Juan Carlos Galvis	Desconocidos desde una moto	Atentado a bala contra el vehículo	Barrancabermeja	15 de diciembre de 2015
Sinaltrainal – Carlos Trujillo	Desconocidos	Amenaza de muerte escrita dentro de la Mina	La Loma de Calenturas	29 de septiembre de 2015
Javier Correa	Presencia de	Acoso	Bucaramanga	16, 17 y 20 de

	desconocidos en moto cerca de su residencia			septiembre de 2015
Héctor Arley Barbosa	Desconocida – ingreso de Comercial Nutresa SAS	Intento de asesinato	Medellín	22 de julio de 2015
Marco Jauregui	Desconocidos	Amenazas de muerte vía telefónica	Cúcuta	20 y 25 de junio de 2015
Edwin Molina, Abel Aguilar y otros	Nora Morales y Pablo Imitola, directivos de la empresa GYPTEC	Intento de homicidio (arrollarlos con un vehículo)	Cartagena	27 de abril

We respectfully request that the Colombian government take all necessary measures to investigate the threats against the aforesaid SINALTRAINAL leaders and members, prosecute those responsible and protect the lives and well-being of these leaders and members in the face of these threats.

Finally, we wish to express our concern for SINTRACARCOL leaders Arturo Cajamarca and Ricardo Rueda who continue to be persecuted and harassed by Cartón de Colombia, of the Smurfit Kappa group, in retaliation for their domestic union activity as well as their participation in international union forums. We ask that you to intercede with Cartón de Colombia to insure that this mistreatment stops.

Thank you for your attention in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

Gimena Sanchez
Senior Associate for the Andes
WOLA

Daniel M. Kovalik
Associate General Counsel
United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO (USW)

cc: Ambassador Kevin Whitaker (by email)
Paula Gaviria, the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the President of Colombia
(by email)