

URGENT ACTION

PARAMILITARIES ANNOUNCE KILLINGS

Paramilitaries in the north of Colombia are intending to kill members of an organization that represents victims of the country's internal armed conflict.

Several human rights defenders were copied into a 3 June anonymous email, telling Sucre Department's police commander they were intending to kill **Juan David Díaz**, his wife and "another person close to the family" (*a otra persona cercana de la familia*). Juan David Díaz is a member of the Sucre branch of the **National Movement of Victims of State Crimes** (Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado, MOVICE). His father, Eudaldo Díaz, mayor of the Sucre town of El Roble, was killed by paramilitaries on 10 April 2003. According to the email those planning to kill Juan David Díaz were in prison in the Atlántico Department city of Baranquilla, where paramilitaries convicted of the killing of Eudaldo Díaz are held. Juan David Díaz has filed several complaints against them, alleging that they have organized crimes from inside prison.

On 28 May six men, at least two of them armed, came looking for **Julia Torres Cancio** in Sucre's San Onofre Municipality; fortunately they did not find her. She is the legal representative of the peasant farmers living on the La Alemania farm; her husband, Rogelio Martínez, was killed by paramilitaries on 18 May 2010. MOVICE Sucre has been supporting peasant farmers, who want to return to the La Alemania farm, from where they were forcibly displaced by paramilitaries. Soldiers, who had been carrying out regular patrols around the farm perimeter since the killing of Rogelio Martínez, had left the area on 23 May without giving any warning to the community or the NGOs working with them.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to ensure that members of MOVICE Sucre, including Julia Torres Cancio and other peasant farmers from La Alemania and Juan David Díaz and his family are safe, in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Urging them to order full and impartial investigations into the death threats received by members of MOVICE, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Reminding them to fulfill their obligations regarding the protection of human rights defenders, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 JULY 2013 TO:

President

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

Fax: 011 57 1 596 0631

**Salutation: Dear President Santos/
 Excmo Sr. Presidente Santos**

Minister of Agriculture and Rural

Development

Francisco Estupiñán Heredia
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural,
 Avenida Jiménez No 7-65, Piso 3
 Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: 011 57 1 286 2649

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

And copies to:

NGO

Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de
 Crímenes de Estado
 Calle 38 No 28 A 30
 Barrio Bogotá, Sincelejo
 Colombia

Also send copies to:

Ambassador Gabriel Silva Luján
 Embassy of Colombia
 2118 Leroy Place, NW
 Washington DC 20008

Phone: 1 202 387 8338

Fax: 1 202 232 8643

Email: embassyofcolombia@colombiaemb.org

Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Network 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 cases of killings and enforced disappearance carried out by the security forces and paramilitary groups in Sucre Department. The members of the MOVICE Sucre branch have also been campaigning for land restitution and have been targeted for this work. On 23 March 2011, MOVICE member Eder Verbel Rocha was killed by paramilitaries. Another MOVICE member, Rogelio Martínez, who had been campaigning on the restitution of the La Alemania farm, was killed on 18 May 2010.

The La Alemania farm was occupied by paramilitaries in 2000, when a group of approximately 70 army-backed paramilitaries of the Heroes of the María Mountains Bloc (*Bloque Héroes de los Montes de María*) of the paramilitary United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (*Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia*, AUC), entered the farm and killed community members Vidal Martínez, Oscar Martínez and Orlando Fernández. The paramilitaries set up a base on the farm, which the AUC used as an operations center. In the course of the paramilitary attack many peasant farmers were killed. No one has been brought to justice for these killings.

Rogelio Martínez and his family returned to La Alemania on 16 February 2006. Many other families began their return in 2007, when the paramilitaries abandoned the farm. Since then, Rogelio Martínez, as their representative, had campaigned for justice in cases of human rights violations and the return of their stolen lands.

Juan David Díaz Chamorro is the son of the mayor of Roble, Eudaldo Díaz, who was killed on 10 April 2003 after he took part in a meeting on 1 February 2003 overseen by then-President Álvaro Uribe, where regional political leaders were present. Eudaldo Díaz had complained of links between paramilitaries, local politicians and the armed forces. Juan David Díaz Chamorro was threatened by paramilitaries on the day that his father was killed. He survived several further apparent attempts on his life.

Names: Juan David Díaz Chamorro and his family, Julia Torres Cancio and her family, peasant farmers of La Alemania, members of MOVICE Sucre (m/f)

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