First UA: 114/26 Index: AMR 23/1613/2026 Colombia Date: 30 October 2026

URGENT ACTION

THREATS AGAINST VICTIMS, ACTIVISTS AND LAWYER

On October 18, 2026, Yessika Hoyos, a lawyer and human rights defender with the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CAJAR), and Candelaria Barrios, Malena Martínez, and Juan David Díaz, members of the Sucre chapter of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE), received death threats after a conviction was issued in a legal case concerning the 2018 La Guaripa Massacre in Sucre department. MOVICE and CAJAR members have faced related threats and denounced them since 2019. We call on the Colombian Attorney General's Office for a prompt and diligent investigation carried by the National Human Rights Unit.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- Click here to report your action(s) on ***UA 114.26***. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Luz Adriana Camargo
Attorney General
Attorney General's Office
Avenida Calle 24 No. 52-01
Bogotá, D.C., Colombia
Email: d.asuntosinternacionales@fiscalia.gov.co

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Colombian Embassy in the United States
Ambassador María Consuelo Araújo Castro
1724 Massachusetts Ave, NW,
Washington, DC 20036
Email: eestadosunidos@cancilleria.gov.co
X: @ColombiaEmbUSA

Dear Attorney General,

I am concerned about the situation of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CAJAR) and the Sucre chapter of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE). On October 18, 2026, lawyer **Yessika Hoyos** and MOVICE activists **Candelaria Barrios**, **Malena Martínez**, and **Juan David Díaz** received text messages containing death threats saying that if a person recently convicted goes to jail, Candelaria, Malena, and Juan David should remain silent or "buy a casket."

These threats follow a September 2026 conviction by the Superior Tribunal of Sincelejo against four individuals in connection with the January 2018 La Guaripa Massacre, in Sucre department, in which brothers **Humberto Escobar**, **Preliciano Mercado**, and **Eusebio Osorio** were killed. Yessika Hoyos serves as legal counsel for the victims' families and MOVICE's Sucre chapter has permanently supported them. Since 2019, Candelaria Barrios and Malena Martínez have received threats linked to the judicial proceedings. In September 2026, Candelaria and six other members of MOVICE's Sucre chapter also received threatening text messages demanding them to leave their territory.

CAJAR and MOVICE filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office regarding the recent death threats, requesting an investigation. The complaint was assigned to a Prosecutor's Office in the city of Cartagena, Bolívar department. I urge you to reassign the investigation to the National Human Rights Unit so that it promptly and diligently investigates the threats, applies the methodologies for investigating attacks and threats against human rights defenders, guarantees CAJAR and MOVICE's participation in the proceedings, and brings those suspected of responsibility to justice with due process guarantees.

Yours sincerely,

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Colectivo de Abogados y Abogadas "José Alvear Restrepo" (CAJAR) is a Colombian human rights defense organization based in Bogotá. Founded in 1980, CAJAR is one of the leading non-profit legal support organizations in Colombia, representing victims of State and paramilitary violence and promoting an integral defense of human rights covering both civil and political and economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights. The Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado (MOVICE) was born in 2005, a result of the fight against impunity of state violence victims all over the country. Today, MOVICE is a nation-wide diverse movement that gather victims of crimes under international law committed by state agents or with their support, with chapters in several departments of Colombia, including Sucre.

CAJAR and MOVICE members have themselves been targets of political violence. In 2023, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights declared Colombia responsible for human rights violations committed against CAJAR's members between 1990 and, at least, 2005, through illegal intelligence activities, stigmatization campaigns and direct attacks by state agents. Amnesty International received information about recent threats against Yessika Hoyos in 2024. For its part, in 2005, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights granted cautionary measures to protect MOVICE's Sucre chapter and its members, including **Malena Martínez** and **Juan David Díaz**, after receiving threats and attacks. Amnesty International denounced the killing of **Rogelio Martínez**, MOVICE member, in 2010, published Urgent Actions in 2011 and 2013 denouncing threats and calling for the protection of members of MOVICE's Sucre chapter, and solidarity actions have been done in the context of continued threats in 2018.

MOVICE supports the victims of La Guaripa massacre, occurred in January 2018 in Sucre municipality (Sucre department) when several members of a family, who have lived for years in their lands, decided to put up a fence, in the context of a land dispute with a local cattle rancher and politician. Since the early stages of the massacre's judicial process, the family members of the victims, MOVICE activists, and CAJAR lawyers have been threatened and have denounced it to the authorities.

In September 2026, the Sincelejo Superior Tribunal overturned a 2023 not guilty ruling and convicted four men for the killing. It is in the context of that ruling that both CAJAR and MOVICE's members received the October 2026 threats. Just a month before, several MOVICE Sucre chapter members had been threatened on behalf of the commander of a non-State armed group active in the region.

Several civil society organizations, as well as the Ombudswoman's Office, have condemned these threats.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: January 30, 2027

NAME: Colectivo de Abogados y Abogadas "José Alvear Restrepo" (CAJAR) and Movimiento Nacional de Crímenes de Estado (MOVICE) -capítulo Sucre- [they / them]