

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION THREATENED

Members of dhColombia have been under surveillance, from unknown men, outside their homes and office. dhColombia is an advocacy organisation that provides legal support to victims of human rights violations and seeks accountability from prominent military members, public forces and multinationals. On August a member of dhColombia faced communication espionage, theft of sensitive information and death threats. On 4 October, dhColombia requested protection measures from the National Protection Unit (UNP) – they have not yet received a response. In light of this, we urge the UNP to grant dhColombia members the requested necessary protective measures.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Mr. Pablo Elías González Monguí
Director of the National Unit of Protection
Carrera 63 # 14 – 97
Bogotá D.C., Colombia.

Email: paegon1@gmail.com; correspondencia@unp.gov.co

Dear Mr. González,

I am concerned about the situation dhColombia staff members are currently in. They are an interdisciplinary group that supports individual and collective victims of human rights violations by providing them legal representation and advocacy.

Since August dhColombia staff members have faced continuous surveillance from unknown persons near their office and homes, communications espionage and theft of sensitive information. On 4 October they requested protection measures from your institution but have not yet received a formal response.

The work of organisations such as dhColombia is essential for the promotion and protection of human rights in Colombia. Therefore, we urge you to grant dhColombia the protective measures they requested – One vehicle, two persons for personal protection, and a protective barrier for the office headquarters.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

dhColombia is an advocacy group that provides timely support, responding to urgent situations of individuals and communities, who are victims of human rights violations. The organisation provides legal representation and participation for victims in national and international judicial courts. Most of their work focuses on ensuring that the Colombian state carries out thorough investigations in cases of serious human rights violations, and that senior officers of the National Army, the National Police, and other state agents linked to these violations, are held criminally responsible.

In addition, dhColombia provides legal accompaniment to communities, families, organisations and social movements, in cases of land restitution, defence of territory, and criminal sanction of companies linked to human rights violations. They have handled high-profile cases seeking accountability from military officers and other governmental actors. Some of their cases include the Rios Vivo community case, the San Jose de Apartado community, and the case of Alfamir Castillo, among others.

Because of their work, dhColombia members and their families are facing ongoing threats. dhColombia only has one individual protection measure in place, which is ineffective, as the dhColombia team is still being threatened,

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 31 December 2019

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: dhColombia (Them, They)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: n/a

ADDITIONAL TARGETS: 3 Hans Cres, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 0LN