

## Bulletin 18 MOVICE (English)

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Read the January 2010 informative Bulletin.  
Persecution of MOVICE and its members

### Family member of ASOGRAS' president arrested<sup>1</sup>

On January 1st, 2010 the son of the president of the Agrarian Association of Santander (ASOGRAS), which is a sub-subsidiary of FENSUAGRO, was arrested together with Moises Hasbon Hernandez, both 20 years of age. When the two young men passed through the Provence neighbourhood of Bucaramanga they were caught in the middle of a shooting. Feeling that their lives were in danger they ran away, but blocks later they were captured by members of the Police belonging to the CAI Mutis, and accused of being the responsables of the shooting, which had left several people injured. Subsequently Moises was tortured by members of the National Police, violating his rights as a detainee. It is believed that both men were victims of a possible attack against the son of Cesar Tamayo, president of ASOGRAS, who has been victim in several oportunities of attacks against his life.

### Rector of the Atlantic University criminalizes the right to social protest and threatens the lives and personal security of student leaders.<sup>2</sup>

At the end of 2009, the Atlantic University started legal proceedings through the Attorney General's Office - Sectional Barranquilla, against the following students: Henry Molina Garcia, Jose Perez Ariza, Jose Tomas Ortega Moya, Victoria Cañas Gonzalez, Fabian Enrique Escobar Duran, Fernando Miguel Martes Ortega, Cristobal Colón Marin and the informal worker in this institution Henry Barrios Diaz. The charges against these people included "Conspiracy", "Threats", "Terrorism," "Panic", "Aggravated Theft", "Property Damage" and "Violations in the Workplace", related to acts allegedly occurred during a student protest held on the 29th of October 2009, in which the financial deficits of the university were denounced. Within the judicial process the students are accused of these crimes, using alleged evidence based on the "reports" of private security personnel, "public petitions of information" submitted by university students and "photos" and "videos" in which students in several university facilities are registered (...) On the 30th of December 2009 the Atlantic University published the edition of the 16th Institucional Bulletin "Atlantic University in March". In this newsletter the full text of the charges was published, arbitrarily providing personal information to the general public.

### Threats against the president of the Teachers' Union Riseralda (SER)<sup>3</sup>

The Round Table of Social Organizations and Human Rights Defenders in the Eje Cafetero region, the Board of the Riseralda Teachers' Union, the Human Rights Commission and Human Rights Node of the Eje Cafetero, Antioquia and



del Río, currently detained for violations of human rights and its links with paramilitaries in Uraba. (...) According to Rendón Herrera, the ACCU also agreed with Rito Alejo del Río that military troops wouldn't block ACCU troops to move into the area that fell under Operation Genesis. The same day that the Army began to penetrate the area through its Operation Genesis, the ACCU began its so called "Operation Cacarica", through which they wanted to expand its presence in the riverbassins of Cacarica, Salaquí, Truandó and Perancho. 'El Alemán' rejected any responsibility in the displacement of at least 4,000 peasants from this rural area to the municipalities of Turbo and Mutata, a forced displacement that has been denounced by the Intereclesiastical Commission for Justice and Peace, and which has been directly related by this human rights organisation to the expansion of palm oil crops, intensive cattle farming and wood exploitation in the area.

Released soldiers involved in crimes against humanity<sup>14</sup>

On the 7th of January 2010 17 soldiers, involved in the extrajudicial execution of young men from Soacha were released, because legal terms had expired. On the 12th of January another 6 were released and on the 19th January another seven soldiers recovered their freedom. The defense of the military strategically had delayed the process during the process, arguing that the military personnel accused of aggravated forced disappearance, aggravated murder and aggravated criminal conspiracy, should be released by expiration of terms. This argument was supported at trial by the Attorney General's Office. According to the Regional Ombudsman of Soacha, Fernando Escobar, a total of 42 soldiers might be released of the 47 who had been arrested in the case of the extrajudicial executions of young men from Soacha.

Seven soldiers convicted for extrajudicial executions in La Guajira<sup>15</sup>

A judge from San Juan del Cesar (La Guajira) sentenced to 24 years imprisonment seven soldiers of the Military Battalion Nariño of Barranquilla, who had been accused by the prosecution of aggravated homicide, forced disappearance and misrepresentation in a public document. The facts investigated by a special prosecutor occurred on April 2nd, 2006 in the district of Guamachal, when Tavera Douglas Alberto Diaz Sarmiento Dannis and two other people who have not yet been identified, were found dead after an alleged combat. The victims had disappeared on the 28th of March of that year when they were close to the Barranquilla Universal Cemetery, where apparently two people offered them work in cotton farms of Valledupar.

Delegation of the Spanish State in a mission of Verification of the Human Rights situation in Colombia<sup>16</sup>

A mission of parliamentarians from the Spanish State composed of Jordi Pedret (PSC), Carles Campuzano (Convergencia i Unió) Francesc Canet (Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya), Josep Joan Nuet (Entesa Catalana), Mikel Basabe (Aralar), Inés Sabanés (Izquierda Unida) and Maria Suarez (Eivissa pel Canvi) visited Colombia from the 23rd to the 30th of January. The visit of this delegation is taking place in the context of negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Colombia, which is coinciding with the Spanish presidency of the European Union and the celebration in the month of May of the Summit of Heads of State of Latin America and the European Union in Madrid. In this context it is important that the Human Rights situation in Colombia is present in the Spanish and European political agenda.

Read full document with conclusions and proposals:

[http://www.movimientodevictimas.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=493&Itemid=48](http://www.movimientodevictimas.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=493&Itemid=48)

OIDHACO asks the UE to open an investigation into the human rights situation in Colombia<sup>17</sup>

Deeply concerned about the serious human rights situation in Colombia, Patricia Verbauwhede, OIDHACO's president has sent a letter to Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Vice President of the European Commission, in which she requests the Commission "to open a serious and genuine investigation under the GSP+ rule, on the effective implementation by the Colombian State of the 27 conventions and treaties included in its Annex 3. In addition, we suggest that such an investigation includes consultations with civil society organisations, human rights defenders and trade union representatives who are the first victims of the current situation in Colombia." The

reports of the special rapporteurs of the UN that have visited Colombia in 2009 evidence that the general human rights situation in Colombia remains critical. The State authorities are responsible to protect human rights, nevertheless the large number of violations still existing in Colombia indicate that the State has not fulfilled its role in a satisfying way. These violations include violations perpetrated by state agents by action and omission. Some efforts have been made but with very poor results. Furthermore, most of the recommendations issued by the United Nations human rights bodies and their Office in Colombia have not been implemented in a satisfactory way.

- 1 &ldquo;Continúa la persecución contra dirigente agrario Cesar Augusto Tamayo y su familia.&rdquo; ASOGRAS 04/01/2010
- 2 Federación de Estudiantes Universitarios, Asociación Colombiana de Estudiantes Universitarios y JUCO 15/01/2010
- 3 &ldquo;La junta directiva del Sindicato de Educadores de Riseralda hace denuncia sobre amenaza de que ha sido víctima la presidenta del SER Maria Eugenia Londoño&rdquo;; CPDH 29/01/2010
- 4 &ldquo;Montaje en Internet que pone en riesgo la vida de un integrante de la Federación universitaria Nacional-Comisiones-MODEP&rdquo; FUN-Comisiones-MODEP 20/01/2010 y &ldquo;Montaje en Internet que pone riesgo la vida de Militantes de la Juventud Comunista Colombiana&rdquo; JUCO 19/01/2010
- 5 Acción Urgente Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas Independientes del Meta (SINTRAGRIN) 07/01/2010
- 6 Javier Giraldo M., S. J., Alberto Franco G., Danilo Rueda R., Abilio Peña B, Iván Cepeda Castro, Gloria Cuartas, MOVICE, Corporación Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo, Projet Accompagnement Solidarité Colombie 27/01/2010
- 7 Constancia 150110 Asesinado Argenito Diaz, lider de Llano Rico Curvaradó 15/01/2010
- 8 28/01/2010
- 9 &ldquo;Muerte de Nicolás Neira motiva destitución de agentes del ESMAD&rdquo; El Espectador 4/01/2010
- 10 &ldquo;Posible libertad para 10 militares involucrados en masacre de San José de Apartadó&rdquo; Radio Caracol 21/01/2009
- 11 Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo 28/01/2010
- 12 &ldquo;Relator Especial de la ONU sobre los pueblos indígenas hace público su informe sobre si visita a Colombia en el contexto de seguimiento a las recomendaciones de su predecesor&rdquo; 13/01/2010
- 13 Verdad Abierta 15/01/2010
- 14 MOVICE 13/01/2010
- 15 Semana 14/01/2010
- 16 Bogotá, 29 de enero de 2010
- 17 ODHACO 29/1/2010