

MASS DETENTIONS PLANNED OF PROMINENT LEADERS IN VALLE DEL CAUCA

October 2, 2006

We, the organisations signing below denounce to the national and international community the new harassment, persecution and attempt to silence and intimidate defenders of the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable sectors in the social and armed conflict in Colombia, and particularly in the country's south west.

THE FACTS

1. The National Attorney General (Fiscalía General de la Nación) has a summary document in which appear the names of 13 social leaders, trade unionists, political opposition leaders and human rights defenders from the Cauca Valley, falsely charged with the crimes of rebellion and terrorism.
2. The Third Brigade of the National Army and members of investigative units fabricated a confused and dangerous judicial document with which they attempt to carry out a massive detention against those branded as members of a Narco-Terrorist Organisation at the service of the FARC and the ELN.
3. The cited Judicial Frame-up charges the following of being members of national and international terrorist groups:

Senator of the Republic, ALEXANDER LOPEZ MAYA;

President of the Association for Research and Social Action, BERENICE CELEYTA ALAYON;

President of Sintraunicol [University Workers Union], CARLOS ARBEY GONZÁLEZ;

Coordinator of the Foundation Committee for Solidarity with Political Prisoners (Valle de Cauca Section), MARTHA NIDIA ASCUNTAR ACHICANOY;

Secretary of Education of Sintrametal [Metalworkers Union], WILLIAN ARLEY ESCOBAR HOLGUIN;

Vice-president of the CUT [trade union federation] - Valle del Cauca, OTONIEL RAMÍREZ LOPEZ;

Former president of SINDESENA [Further Education Workers Union] and candidate for Congress, WILSON NEBER ARIAS CASTILLO;

Coordinator of the Human Rights Department of the CUT - Valle del Cauca, ARIEL DÍAZ;

Member of the co-ordinating team of the Foundation Committee for Solidarity with Political Prisoners (Valle de Cauca Section), FERNANDO SÁNCHEZ ESCOBAR;

Former President of SINTRAEMCALI, LUIS ANTONIO HERNANDEZ MONRROY;

Former treasurer of SINTRAEMCALI, HAROL VIAFARA GONZALEZ;

Secretary of the Peace and Coexistence Office of the Governor of Valle del Cauca, FRANGEY RENDÓN GALVEZ;

Director of Telé Pacifico and adviser to the Governor of Valle del Cauca, HECTOR ALONSO MORENO PARRA;

Besides several workers of the Municipal Corporation of Cali EMCALI EICE ESP, the majority of whom are victims of the mass sackings made by the employer.

4. The document is filed with code FGN CTI SIA 358 and 359, referenced as "Item, work project, number 334 and 335" lead by doctor LUIS RAMÍREZ RIOS, Director of the Cali-Valle branch of the Technical Investigation Corps (CTI), National Attorney General and which is addressed to doctor MARIA EUGENIA LORA CASTAÑO, Attorney 132 Section, highlighted as the Third Brigade of the National Attorney General. The document includes an organigram entitled "ORGANIGRAM OF ALEXANDER LOPEZ MAYA'S SERVICE" and defines five structures in the following manner: TRADE UNIONJ, ARMED, JUDICIAL, POLITICAL AND MBNC. According to them the members are distributed as follows: TRADE UNION: Carlos González, Otoniel Ramírez, Wilson Arias and Ariel Díaz, ARMED: Indumiles, JUDICIAL: Martha Ascuntar, Berenice Celeyta and Fernando Sánchez; POLITICAL: Frangey Rendón and Alonso Moreno; MBNC: Ernesto Yepes and Alejandro Ramírez [Translator's note - MBNC is acronym for Movimiento Bolivariano por la Nueva Colombia, clandestine movement of the FARC].
5. Senator ALEXANDER LOPEZ MAYA, made a request for information from the National Attorney General (Fiscalia), Dr. MARIO IGUARAN ARANA to obtain information on this or after investigations that were to be carried out

by the Fiscalía against the mentioned leaders. Strangely, in the response by the Fiscalía to the Senator this investigation was not cited, nor any other investigation for the crimes of rebellion or terrorism against any of the persons charged in the report FGN CTI SIA 358 and 359 by the CTI, Fiscalía.

6. Apart from the serious and false allegations against each of the leaders, this report also contains their personal data: addresses; home, office and mobile phone numbers; family names; children; time of leaving home and transport routes etc.
7. With FGN CTI SIA 358 and 359 an attempt is being made to justify a collective haul or an operation of massive detentions as has been taking place across the country under the policy of "democratic security" by which 6,332 persons have been arbitrarily deprived of their liberty in the last three years.
8. The information contained in this judicial frame-up is besides a death sentence against those named persons reported to be members of national terrorist organisations , putting at risk the security, lives, liberty, dignity, honour and integrity of the most recognised political, social, trade union and human rights leaders in the Valle del Cauca.

BACKGROUND

TWO YEARS ON: THE OPERATION DRAGON PLAN CONTINUES

1. 25 August 2004, a murky extermination plan called by its authors "Operation Dragon " was revealed and made known to the National Attorney General (Fiscalía).
2. That same day the Fiscalía ordered two raids, one in Cali and the other in Medellín, succeeding in catching red-handed the operation of an illegal intelligence network involving serving and retired military personnel and two companies called CIL (Consultaría Integral Latinoamericana) and SERACIS (a private security company) and several Colombian state institutions, in possession of classified and private information on the entire leadership de of Valle del Cauca.
3. Amongst the information found on 25 August 2004, with Lieutenant Colonel JULIAN VILLATE LEAL was the intelligence report CIME RIME elaborated by the Third Brigade of the Army, which is headquartered in Cali. Besides a flow diagram there was a list of 170 people including the

13 leaders cited in the latest absurd Judicial Frame-up by the Fiscalía, which again appears to have been born in the intelligence department of the Third Brigade of the Army.

4. It was the Third Brigade of the Army, currently being publicly questioned because of the existence of links between some of its officers and the drug cartels and paramilitary groups, that supplied the CIME RIME intelligence report to Lt. Col. JULIAN VILLATE LEAL.
5. The latest report FGN CTI SIA 358 and 359 by the Fiscalía's CTI unit, appears at the very time that the legal process against the material and intellectual authors of the Operation Dragon extermination plan is about to be closed or put on file. According to the Fiscalía, and to the Prosecutors Office (Procuraduría General de la Nación), there would be no merit in opening a formal investigation against military personnel, and the state and government agents compromised in these grave goings on.

WE SEEK

1. That the Colombian Government and in particular the President of the Republic ALVARO URIBE VELEZ, the Vice-president FRANCISCO SANTOS explain the reasons why they keep persecuting the leaders of the Valle del Cauca, especially the political opposition leaders, trade union leaders and defenders of human rights.
2. That the security and the physical and psychological integrity, as well as the free exercise of their professions, be guaranteed for those whose names appear in the document FGN CTI SIA 358 and 359, referenced as "Item, work project, number 334 and 335."
3. That those intellectually and materially responsible for this judicial frame-up against the above mentioned leaders be investigated and judged in exemplary manner.
4. That the Fiscalía and its CTI unit be asked to publicly clarify the origin of the information contained in the FGN CTI SIA 358 and 359 document.
5. That the relation between the extermination plan known as Operation Dragon and the judicial frame-up referenced as Report No. FGN CTI SIA 358 and 359 be investigated.
6. That CTI Investigator JAIME ALONSO MESA CADAVID, LUIS RAMÍREZ RIOS, Director of the Fiscalía CTI Cali-Valle and doctor MARIA EUGENIA LORA CASTAÑO, Fiscal 132 highlighted before the Fiscalía Third

Brigade, - who appear as signatories in the name of CTI Cali Valle, to the Report No. FGN CTI SIA 358 and 359 - be investigated.

[Signed]

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SINTRAEMCALI
Sindicato De Los Trabajadores Universitarios De Colombia SINTRAUNICOL
SINTRAMETAL - YUMBO

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Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Minería en Colombia SINTRAMINERCOL

Asociación para el Desarrollo Social Integral ECATE
Fundación Comité De Solidaridad Con Presos Políticos FCSPP Valle del Cauca
Sintramunicipio Bugalagrande
Sintramunicipio Yumbo
Movimiento Estudiantil del Valle del Cauca y Nariño
Organizaciones Barriales Juveniles Artísticas y Populares de Santiago de Cali

Campaña Nacional e Internacional contra la Privatización, la Corrupción, la Criminalización de la Protesta Social y la Impunidad PROHIBIDO OLVIDAR

And others...

Please send protests to/ Favor enviar comunicaciones a:

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