

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION THREATENED

Since the beginning of November, members of dhColombia have been surveilled by unknown men outside their homes and office. dhColombia is an advocacy organization that provides legal support to victims of human rights violations and searches accountability from prominent military members, public force and multinationals. On August a member of dhColombia faced communication espionage, theft of sensitive information and life threats. On 4 October, dhColombia requested protection measures from the National Protection Unit (UNP) without receiving a response yet. We are urging the UNP to grant dhColombia members the protection measures they requested.

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 for the situation of the dhColombia staff members. 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 faced continued surveillance from unknown persons near their office and homes, communications espionage and sensitive information theft. On 4 October they requested protection measures from your institution without having a formal response yet.

The work of organizations such as dhColombia is essential for the promotion and protection of human rights in Colombia. Therefore, we urge you to grant dhColombia the protection measures they requested: One Vehicle, two persons for personal protection and a protection 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 organization provides legal representation and participation of 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, organizations and social movements in cases of land restitution, defence of the territory and criminal sanction of companies linked to human rights violations. They handle high-profile cases in the search of accountability from military officers and other governmental actors. Some of their cases include the one of the Rios Vivo community, 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 continues threats. dhColombia only has one individual protection measure in place, which is ineffective, as the dhColombia team is still suffering from threats due to the nature of their work.

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