

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead expressing alarm at the high level of harassment, including death threats, killings and intimidation, experienced by journalists in Colombia as a direct result of their professional work.

October 26, 2007

President of the Republic
Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez
Presidente de la República,
Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-2,
Bogotá,
Colombia
Fax: 011 57 1 337 5890 or 011 57 1 342 0592

Dear President Uribe:

As a member of PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of the International PEN, the writers' organization, I wish to express alarm at the high level of harassment, including death threats, killings and intimidation, experienced by journalists in Colombia as a direct result of their professional work.

I refer specifically to recent death threats against the journalist and author **Gonzalo Guillén** who has been forced to leave Colombia after being accused of slander on national radio on 2 October 2007, and to death threats against journalist **Daniel Coronell** following similar on-air accusations on 9 October, 2007.

I urge you, Mr. President, and other public servants in Colombia to desist from making statements about Guillén, Coronell and other journalists that could put their safety and lives in danger. Such a policy would be in line with recommendations made by the UN Commission for Human Rights to which the Colombian government has agreed to adhere under the London and Cartagena Declarations.

I join PEN Canada in entreating the government of Colombia to respect journalists' right to freedom of expression, liberty and security under the UN International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights, to which Colombia has long been party, and to take all possible measures to bring to justice those responsible for violations of their rights.

Sincerely

[your name and address]

Please send a copy to:

Vice-president of the Republic (Responsible for human rights policies in Colombia)
Dr. Francisco Santos Calderón
Vicepresidencia, Carrera 8A No 7-27, Bogotá, Colombia
Fax: +57 1 565 7682

Salutation: Dear Vice-president Santos.

Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

The Hon. Maxime Bernier
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building, Room A-10 125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2
Fax: (613) 996 3443
Email: maxime.bernier@international.gc.ca

David Mulroney
Associate Deputy Minister
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: david.mulroney@international.gc.ca

Gwyn Kutz
Director, Human Rights Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: gwyn.kutz@international.gc.ca

Robert Sinclair
Deputy Director, Human Rights Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: robert.sinclair@international.gc.ca

Silvia Genereux
Policy Analyst, South America Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: silvia.genereux@international.gc.ca