

via Fax: 011 57 1 596 0631 Excmo Sr. Juan Manuel Santos President of the Republic of Colombia	via Fax: 011 57 1 324 5208 Amylkar Acosta Minister for Mines and Energy of Colombia
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October 24, 2013

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply distressed at the murder of **Nelson Giraldo**, a leader of the Ríos Vivos Antioquia Movement in Ituango municipality in Antioquia Department. On September 17 he was shot in the chest and legs, and his throat was slit.

The **Ríos Vivos (“Live Rivers”) Movement** is a national movement comprised of communities impacted by large scale energy projects and dams that prevent the community people’s access to water resources. Artisanal miners and others living in 12 municipalities affected by the building of Hidroituango Dam (owned by Empresas Publicas de Medellin (EPM) on the Cauca River) fear they will lose their livelihood. Nearly 400 people from the different municipalities, who have been displaced by the project in the past six months, have been living in the Coliseum of the University of Antioquia.

The Hidroituango Dam is being built in an area affected by the armed conflict. In the 1990s, paramilitaries carried out a series of massacres in collusion with the Colombian security forces in Ituango municipality.

On September 9 a court in Medellin ordered local authorities to enact collective protection measures requested by the **Ríos Movement**. Nelson Giraldo visited the municipality to investigate the safety of his family’s return to the area.

We **strongly urge** that you

- carry out an immediate, thorough, and impartial investigation of the killing of Nelson Giraldo and the enforced displacement of those he represented, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice;
- implement protection measures for those at risk, in strict accordance with their wishes;

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-Coordinator

Copies: Corporación Jurídica Libertad ~ via US mail
 First Secretary for Human Rights and Minorities, Embassy of Colombia to the US ~ via fax: 202.232.8643
 P. Michael McKinley, US Ambassador to Colombia ~ via fax: 011.571.275.4600
 Mary Brett Rogers-Springs, Senior Desk Officer for Colombia, US State Department ~ via fax: 202.647.2628
 José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Rapporteur for Colombia, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 266/13_Colombia

The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: