

THE NGOs CORPORATION FOR THE DEFENSE AND PROMOTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS “REINICIAR” (*CORPORACIÓN PARA LA DEFENSA Y LA PROMOCIÓN DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS “REINICIAR”*) AND THE COLOMBIAN COMMISSION OF JURISTS (*COMISIÓN COLOMBIANA DE JURISTAS*), NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PETITIONERS IN THE CASE OF THE PATRIOTIC UNION BEFORE THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMON THE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY ÁLVARO URIBE VÉLEZ CONCERNING HIS COMPROMISE AND WILLINGNESS TO BRING FORWARD THE SEARCH FOR AN AMICABLE SOLUTION IN THE CASE OF THE PATRIOTIC UNION

You, as candidate for Presidency in the period 2002 – 2006, have recognized in your governmental programme that past incidents against the Patriotic Union and the Colombian Communist Party are genocide and that this should never happen again.

Afterwards, your government – representing the Colombian State in its official search for an amicable solution in this case of genocide concerning the Patriotic Union – promised in front of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to offer the indispensable and necessary guarantees to assure that past events will never happen again to the members and survivors of the Patriotic Union and the Communist Party.

Nevertheless, these guarantees have not been offered in an effective way and therefore we asked you in our reunion on the 1st of September 2005 to make a public pronouncement and we explained that it was “fundamental that not only the Government expressed publicly and openly its readiness to promote the search for an amicable solution in this case. But that it was also essential that these statements were being repeated, stressed and accompanied by clear actions meant to confront the causes of the attacks, accusations and harassments”.

Concerning this request we never received an answer.

Later on, on the 10th of February 2006, we repeatedly expressed – in the presence of a delegation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, of the members of the Working Group searching for an amicable solution, the doctors Eric Sottas and Robert Goldman and the president of this group, professor Guillermo Hoyos - to the Vice President of the Republic our demand to make a public pronouncement concerning the problem we have brought up, in the light of the persistence of the attacks against the members and survivors of the Patriotic Union and the Colombian Communist Party and given the absence of effective guarantees.

Concerning this requirement, we also did not get any answer.

In the context of your re-election campaign, you have included a series of advertisements in radio, television and internet, one of them taking up the words of an assumed ex military of the Patriotic Union, who makes false accusations against the Patriotic Union, the same that have encouraged the extermination of the members and survivors of this political movement.

Your silence concerning our demands, which stands in contrast to the massive popularization of your propaganda, contributes to the promotion of factors and causes of risk, threat and extermination of the members and survivors of the Patriotic Union and the Colombian Communist Party.

During your mandate, 136 survivors have been assassinated, including Higinio Baquero Mahecha, escort of the director of the “Corporación Reiniciar” last 12th of

April, 38 disappeared, 28 have suffered assaults against their lives and many families have been forced to leave their homes. Some representatives of the Patriotic Union and the Colombian Communist Party have been illegitimately included in archives of the intelligence of the State security organisms, various members of the Colombian Communist Party have been persecuted and harassed by the members of DAS (whose infiltration by paramilitary forces is publicly known) without any of these situations having been clarified or explained.

For us, the Non-Governmental Organizations, petitioners of the case before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, exists a clear incoherence between the given assurances from your part before this international organism for protection and the actions and omissions of your government in Colombia, perpetuating the accusations and with them the extermination of the members and survivors of the Patriotic Union and the Colombian Communist Party.

The fact that you, as President of the Republic, serve as spokesperson and facilitate the popularization of accusations that serious like those made in the campaign advertisements, adding up to the severe events occurred during your term of government against the members and survivors of the Patriotic Union and the Communist Party, shows that you have assumed no responsibility for the constitutional and legal duty to be the main guarantor for the free and full exercise of the rights and freedoms of those who are under the jurisdiction of your State.

Under the given circumstances, we make you, Mr. President, responsible for the attacks, accusations and harassments against the members and survivors of the Patriotic Union and the Colombian Communist Party, given the consequences and backlash that the message from your own campaign has and which in practice leads to exterminations, taking place since 1984.

Bogotá, 3rd of May 2006

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