

URGENT ACTION

PEASANT FARMERS THREATENED, LEADER SHOT AT An employee of a company claiming ownership of La Europa farm, in Northern Colombia, shot at Andrés Narvaéz Reyes, a leader of the peasant farmers living on the farm.

On 12 June **Andrés Narvaéz Reyes**, the vice-president of the Peasant Farmer Association La Europa, Sucre Department, was threatened and shot at by the foreman of the company claiming the land of La Europa farm. The foreman complained about the gate which the peasant farmers have recently put up at the entrance to La Europa farm to ensure their safety. He said: "What's going on with you, moronic peasant faggot? I am going to kill you" (*Qué te pasa campesino marica desgraciado? Te voy a matar*). He then pulled out a pistol and fired at Andrés Narvaéz Reyes, who was hit four times and had to be taken to hospital.

The Peasant Farmer Association La Europa, which is part of the Sucre branch of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado, MOVICE) in Sincelejo, northern Colombia, made a land restitution claim on La Europa farm in March 2013. They are expecting a favourable ruling soon. The peasant farmers of La Europa, who have faced repeated death threats and attacks, have, so far unsuccessfully, requested collective protection measures from the Colombian government.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to guarantee the safety of Andrés Narvaéz Reyes, peasant farmers of La Europa and other members of MOVICE Sucre, in strict accordance with their needs and demands;
- Urging them to order full and impartial investigations into the attack and threats against Andrés Narvaéz Reyes, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Reminding them to fulfill their obligations regarding the protection of human rights defenders, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 JULY 2014 TO:

President

Presidente Juan Manuel Santos
Presidente de la República, Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26
Bogotá, Colombia
Fax: +57 1 596 0631

Salutation: Dear President Santos/

Excmo Sr. Presidente Santos

Director of the Protection Unit

Sr. Andres Villamizar
Director de la Unidad Nacional de Protección del Ministerio del Interior
Carrera 58 No. 10-51
Bogotá, Colombia
Fax: +57 1 261 6287 (keep trying)

Salutation: Estimado Sr. Villamizar/

Dear Mr Villamizar

And copies to:

NGO

Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado
Calle 38 No 28 A 30
Barrio Bogotá, Sincelejo
Colombia

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MOVICE is a broad coalition of civil society organizations campaigning for truth, justice and reparation for the victims of Colombia's long-running internal armed conflict. Its members have documented and exposed many cases of killings and enforced disappearance carried out by the security forces and paramilitary groups in Sucre Department.

The members of the MOVICE Sucre branch have also been campaigning for land restitution and have been targeted for this work. On 23 March 2011, MOVICE member Eder Verbel Rocha was killed by paramilitaries. Another MOVICE member, Rogelio Martinez, who had been campaigning on the restitution of the La Alemania farm, was killed on 18 May 2010. Other members of MOVICE have received death threats and been attacked.

MOVICE Sucre branch has also been campaigning for the restitution of La Europa farm. In 1994, 12 peasant farmers were killed and 80 displaced from La Europa farm in Ovejas Municipality, Sucre Department, by paramilitaries. Some peasant farmers returned in 2010 and have faced threats and harassment. Their homes have been repeatedly burnt down. On 9 May 2013 a pamphlet was received at La Europa farm accusing Argemiro Lara Barreto, a leader in La Europa involved in the land restitution process, and Ingrid Vergara, member of MOVICE Sucre, of having links to guerrilla fighters.

The latest threats come at a critical moment in the legal process to return lands to peasant farmers on La Europa farm. Jeison Pava and Ingrid Vergara, who had been supporting peasant farmer communities in land restitution processes in Sucre Department have recently received death threats. (For more information see UA 147/14, <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR23/022/2014/en>).

Name: Andrés Narvaéz Reyes (m), peasant farmers of La Europa and other members of MOVICE Sucre
Gender m/f: both

UA: 154/14 Index: AMR 23/023/2014 Issue Date: 16 June 2014