

Alvaro Uribe Vélez

June 16<sup>th</sup> 2014

Alvaro Uribe Velez, former President of Colombia, holder of Diplomatic Colombian Passport DP 042318 hereby certify:

Mr. Andrés Felipe Arias Leiva, accompanied me during my presidential campaign since 2000 and during my time in Office between 2002 and 2009. Since then until now he has been political and ideological ally.

Additionally, he was a successful Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. As Minister for Agriculture of my Government, Mr. Arias led a successful public policy that benefit more than 380,000 peasant families.

During 2009 and 2010 Mr. Arias ran as candidate for the Colombian presidency as part of my government political coalition.

Since 2011 Mr. Arias is a victim of a judicial and political prosecution. Indeed, in July 2011 he was unfairly indicted and arrested during 2 years under bogus charges.

On June 13<sup>th</sup> 2014, 2 days before the Colombian presidential elections, the Director of the Protection Department of the Colombian Government spread false news about former Minister Arias, seeking to influence the outcome of the elections, as happened so.

Mr. Andres Felipe Arias has been persecuted by the current administration and by part of the judicial branch, based on our common political opinion and ideology. That is why I'm making a call to the US Department of Homeland Security to take in consideration the case of the former Minister and former Colombian presidential candidate, Andres Felipe Arias and grant him and his family asylum in the United States of America.

Sincerely yours,

Alvaro Uribe Velez

