

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

I most respectfully wish to bring to your attention the asylum petition filed by Mr. Andrés F. Arias, who served under my two administrations as Minister of Agriculture of Colombia. As one of the leading members of my cabinet, Mr. Arias played a central role in negotiating the U.S.-Colombia FTA. It was also Mr. Arias who spearheaded my administration's efforts to substitute legal crops for illegal coca plantations on a large scale. It was in large measure thanks to him that we were able to reduce illegal coca plantations to unprecedented minimums by 2010. Mr. Arias ran for president of Colombia in 2010 defending our shared ideals of Democratic Security and unwavering fight against narco-trafficking and terrorism.

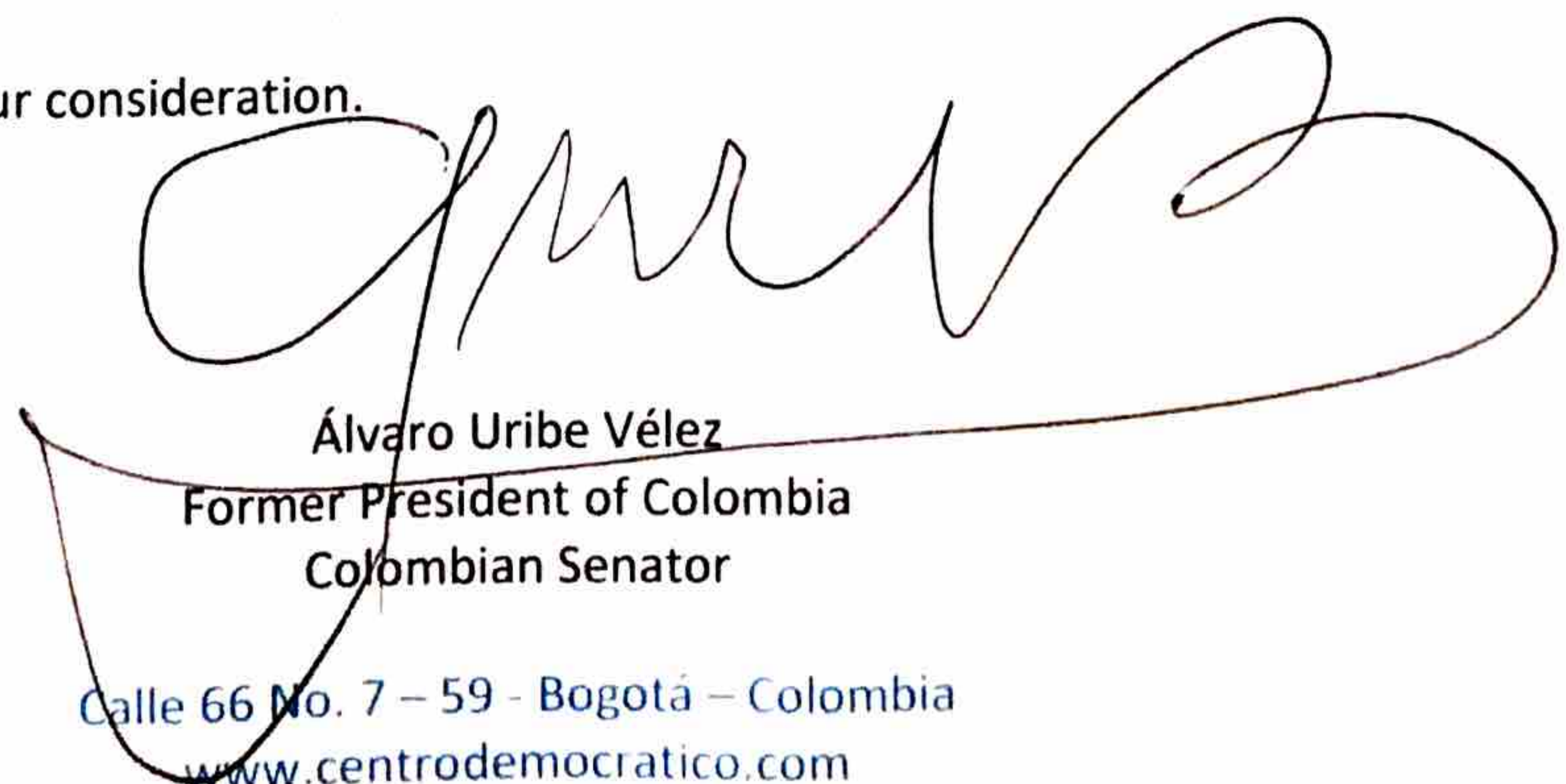
Mr. Arias, his wife, and their young children (ages 5 and 8) were forced into exile and requested asylum in the United States in June 2014, after a blatant political persecution against him led by a politicized faction of the Supreme Court of Colombia and instigated by corrupt Attorney Generals appointed by President Santos between 2011 and 2016.

Mr. President: I personally bear witness to the persecution against Andrés F. Arias—persecution that has systematically targeted many of my collaborators as well as members of my family. The purpose of this persecution is to decimate our opposition party and silence our criticism of President Santos' continued support of impunity for FARC narco-terrorists.

Mr. Arias has been one of the main targets of such persecution. So much so, that President Santos has repeatedly exerted diplomatic pressure to seek his extradition back to Colombia, while paradoxically promising FARC kingpins that they will not be extradited to the U.S.

Thank you for your consideration.

Most respectfully,



Álvaro Uribe Vélez
Former President of Colombia
Colombian Senator

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