Alvaro Uribe Vélez

June 16th 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 13th 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

Alvaro Uribe Vélez

Bogotá,

October 1 2014

Dear Senator Mc Cain:

As promised during our conversation in New York, attached is the information regarding the asylum request to USCIS by my Minister of Agriculture Andrés Felipe Arias.

Andrés obtained his PhD degree in Economics from UCLA, served honorably under my administration (by the way, he contributed enormously to the negotiation and implementation of the US – Colombia FTA), and was in 2010 (and would have been in 2014) a very strong presidential candidate in defense of our Democratic Security policy.

As I told you, he is a high value target for our political enemies and, therefore, is (like many of my cabinet members and high ranking officials) being judicially and politically persecuted in Colombia due to our common political opinion and ideology.

As I stated in another letter to the US Department of Homeland Security, I make a call to the United States of America to grant him, his wife and his two little kids an asylum. All the help that you can extend to us in this cause will be greatly appreciated.

Best Regards

Alvaro Uribe Velez

Fundación
CONFIANZA
COLOMBIA
Calle 69a No. 4 - 72
Tels: 5413060 • 5413059
www.pachosantos.com
NIT.: 900.608.473-6

Bogotá, June 18, 2014

US Department of Homeland Security

I'm Francisco Santos former vicepresident of Colombia between 2002 and 2010. I was elected in the same ticket with President Alvaro Uribe Velez.

Prior to that I was Editor of the biggest newspaper in the country, El Tiempo, where I also wrote a column that was very aggressive against the drug barons and the guerrilla and paramilitary groups. In retaliation for what I wrote, Pablo Escobar kidnapped me for 8 months. After I was freed I created a human rights NGO that helped victims of this crime called Pais Libre (Free Country).

I became a Human Rights activist and led the biggest protests against the criminal groups in the late 90's. IN the year 2000 the guerrilla group Farc had a plan to kill me so I had to leave for exile in Spain for two years.

This history led Mr. Uribe to pick me as his running mate. Once in government he gave me the task of protecting human rights, which in 2002 were in crisis. During eight years we worked to protect union leaders, human rights NGO's, political opposition, indigenous groups and social activists.

I met former minister of Agriculture Andrés Felipe Arias during our government. We developed a strong ideological bond forged in our common and radical opposition to drug gangs ands the terrorist groups Farc and Eln. As such we have very strongly opposed the peace talks by the current government with the latter groups that are taking place in Cuba.

Our political relationship is very strong. During the primaries in my party (Centro Democratico) for the presidential campaign he wrote most of the speeches and led the team that structured the political platform. Obviously, regarding security and peace talks it took a hardline approach towards both issues.

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I can testify that Andrés Felipe Arias, his wife Catalina and their two little kids, Eloisa and Juan Pedro, have been systematically threatened due to his political and ideological stance. Indeed today Mr. Arias is one of the most threatened and persecuted persons in Colombia right now. Those threats can be attributed not only to the terrorist group Farc but also to the Executive and judicial branch of

Colombia in retaliation for his political views and his well-known loyalty to our political party now in opposition.

It is not fortuitous that he was illegally sent to prison during almost two years without solid evidence. Needless to say, Mr. Arias was arrested, psychologically tortured and inhumanly separated from his family only because of his political views.

Just as Mr. Arias is being prosecuted without any judicial guarantees, many members of our party have been unfairly incarcerated solely for opposing the political agenda of President Juan Manuel Santos and the judicial branch. Former presidential candidate Luis Alfredo Ramos, former High Comissioner for Peace Luis Carlos Restrepo and journalist Ernesto Yamhure have been prosecuted unfairly just as it´s happening with Mr. Arias.

With deep pain and great sadness for he is one of the brightest colombians with a great future, I was informed that Andrés Felipe Arias and his family are seeking asylum in the United States as a way to protect his life and freedom. I plead with the American authorities that his petition is granted.

Sincerely yours

Francisco Santos Calderón
Vicepresidente of Colombia 2002-2010

Alvaro Uribe Vélez

Bogotá, Colombia, September 14, 2016

The Honorable
JOHN O. SULLIVAN
United States District Court
Southern District of Florida
Miami, FL

Dear Judge Sullivan,

I, Álvaro Uribe Vélez, former President of the Republic of Colombia (2002-2006, 2006-2010) and Senator for the Centro Democrático Party (2014-2018), most respectfully ask this Court to heed the incontrovertible evidence of the political persecution to which Mr. Andrés Felipe Arias has been subjected time and again over the last few years. Like so many Colombians who have been inspired by Mr. Arias' leadership over the years, I am encouraged by the certainty that this Court will act with the strictest adherence to the law and the independence of judgment that the Colombian judiciary so visibly lacked in the matter of Mr. Arias.

I met Mr. Arias when he was a young activist, supporting my 2002 bid for president as an independent candidate. He had a remarkable academic record—including a PhD. in Economics from UCLA—and came with glowing recommendations from the Central Bank, where he had previously worked. In light of his outstanding record, I appointed him Vice minister of Agriculture. When the Minister at the time stepped down, he personally recommended Mr. Arias as his successor. As Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Arias showed extraordinary work ethic and outstanding results on all fronts—as a result of which he quickly gained national political prominence and many looked to him as a future presidential candidate ahead of the 2010 election.

As President, I understood very positively Mr. Arias' decision to seek the Conservative Party's nomination for President, which he lost as a result of the *Agro Ingreso Seguro* scandal. According to the press, Mr. Arias had decided to illegally benefitted a small group of wealthy families who were allegedly political supporters of his through a congressionally mandated agricultural subsidies

program. As the National Electoral Council, the Inspector General's Office, and the Comptroller General's Office concluded after their respective independent investigations, there is absolutely no evidence that Mr. Arias was involved in the selection of the beneficiaries of the program, nor were the families who received illegal subsidies contributors to his political campaign. In fact, those families admitted in Court that they had never met Mr. Arias before the latter's trial.

Mr. Arias has been yet another victim of former Supreme Court of Colombia's relentless persecution against a number of high-ranking members of my Administration. The Court declared its public enmity towards us all as a result of public sensible information suggesting that a number of Justices were suspiciously close to an individual known to have ties to the drug traffic. This information was never challenged by the Justices implicated, who instead turned the gavel into a instrument of political extortion.

Just a few months ago, the press published an illegally recorded session of the Criminal Section of the Supreme Court in which the case of another former Minister of my Administration was being discussed. The recording, the authenticity of which has not been challenged by any of the Justices involved, demonstrated the political motivations of their judicial decisions. As one of the recorded Justices put it, in cases involving senior members of my Administration, the matter must be decided "with a political criterion."

The myriad violations of due process of law in Mr. Arias' case are amply documented. In fact, one of the clearest statements of the injustice perpetrated against him is the dissent written by one of the Justices of the Court. Per the dissent (and independent academic analyses of the decision, too), Mr. Arias was convicted without evidence, of charges that were not part of the initial indictment, and by justice who did not witness the trial—all in an attempt to deliver a political blow against our party days before the 2014 presidential election.

I was privy to Mr. Arias' decision to leave Colombia and seek asylum in the U.S., as was the U.S. Ambassador to Colombia. I encouraged Mr. Arias to do so because he is entitled to the protection that international law affords to victims of political persecution, and because I have the greatest respect for the independence and law-abidingness of the institutions of this country. I was and remain confident that the United States will do what the Supreme Court of Colombia could not: decide on Mr. Arias' fate based on the law rather than political enmity.

I appeal to this Court in the hopes that it will acknowledge that Mr. Arias is the victim of a political persecution. Moreover, because I have known him and his family personally, I most respectfully ask this Court to release him on bail pending the asylum and extradition proceedings. Mr. Arias is a decent, honorable man and he represents a threat to no one.

Most sincerely,

ÁLVARO URIBE VÉLEZ
President of the Republic of Colombia, 2002-2010
Senator of the Republic of Colombia, 2014-2018

NOTARIA 29
DEL CIRCULO DE BOGOTA D.C.
Carrera 13 No. 33 42. PBX: 7462929

DILIGENCIA DE AUTENTICACION

LUIS ALCIBIADES LOPEZ BARRERO

NOTARIO 29 (E) DE BOGOTA D.C.

Que: ALVARO URIBE VELEZ quien se identificó con C.C. número 70041053, declaró: Que reconoce como suya la FIRMA impuesta en este documento y que en señal de asentimiento procede a firmar esta diligencia al lado de este sello.

NOTARIA 29

15/09/2016
Func.o: NANCY

NOTARIA VENTINUEVE 29 BOGOTA

Marta Lucía Ramírez de Rincón

Bogotá, September 21st, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been made aware of the petition made by former Minister Andrés Felipe Arias as part of the asylum application he has submitted and the cextradition process he faces before the United States justice system at the Colombian Government's behest.

I have always been and shall remain a defender of institutions, and as a lawyer, I am aware that justice and the rule of law are the foundations of democracy

I was never a personal friend of former Minister Arias', but I knew of his excellent academic record, his leadership, and his outstanding commitment to public service. Having graduates as an economist from the University of Los Andes (1999), he received a merit scholarship from his alma mater to pursue his master degree. He was subsequently awarded a scholarship from the Central Bank to continue his doctoral studies at the University of California. He performed an important role as a researcher which led the way to seeking public office upon returning to the country, this time as Director of Macroeconomic Policy at the Ministry of Finance. He was later appointed Vice Minister of Agriculture and in 2006 he took over as Minister.

One of the youngest Ministers in the country's history, Mr. Arias took up the challenge of facing the Free Trade Agreements as they affected the agricultural sector, convinced as he was—and others long with him—that Colombia could not successfully face international competition without offering support to domestic agriculture. It was for that reason that he created the **Agro Ingreso Seguro** program, which became a State policy [approved by Congress], geared towards financing improvements in the Colombian agricultural sector to increase productivity and competitiveness so as to better compete in both the domestic and world markets. The goal of this program was to better prepare the country to face international competition and as a result, it targeted small peasants as much as large agricultural industries.

AIS was a matter of dispute and interpretation from the start. At the time, the Attorney General's Office claimed that the policy was exclusively geared towards helping displaced peasants and small landowners, which is false. Since its inception, the program didn't exclude or prohibited medium-size and large agricultural producers from accessing benefits due to their impact in the competitiveness of national agriculture, rural jobs creation, their contribution to domestic alimentary self-sufficiency, and their weights in national exports and the currency flows.

Cra. 14 No. 85 - 68 Of 401 - Tel. 801 45 95 - 316 744 21 23

The results of the program demonstrated its success to the extent that it increased the productive use of land by 1 million hectares (20% of the country's agricultural frontier); average agricultural productivity rose by 13%; food production went up by over 5 million tons, which in turn kept food inflation in check at 2%, despite the global rise in food prices, thus benefiting the poorest consumers in Colombia.

Andrés Felipe Arias' tenure as Minister was well received given the improvement in agricultural indicators. However, the event that overshadows his achievements and results, and which became one of the most regrettable scandals of the last few years, was the result of a combination of economic as well as political circumstances.

Indeed, the criminal proceedings against the former Minister was entangled in the political crisis surrounding the administration of his boss and mentor, former President Álvaro Uribe, who after a brilliant first term faced criticism and pushback from the Colombian political establishment during his second term at a time when the possibility was contemplated of [reforming the Constitution] to allow him to run for a third term.

By then former Minister Arias had emerged as an aspiring presidential candidate and potential successor to Álvaro Uribe, and given his personal closeness with the President, he became the target of many of the attacks directed against then President Uribe. IT was then that criminal charges were brought against former Minister Arias both for the subsidies granted by the Ministry to a few agricultural businessmen and for the subscribing a contract without fulfilling legal requirements in relation to the technical cooperation agreement signed between the IICA, the agricultural division of the OAS, and the Ministry of Agriculture. The agreement was not unlike over 120 agreements signed by different administrations in previous years.

Former Minister Arias was not convicted on charges of corruption or direct misappropriation of public funds, and although there were no findings pertaining his personal finances, he was charged and convicted of allowing misappropriation of funds by third parties, as some businessmen who benefitted from the subsidies offered through Agro Ingreso Seguro fraudulently took advantage of the program. Although said businessmen testified before the Supreme Court that they acknowledged their misdeeds and they exonerated the former Ministers and his staff of any wrongdoing, and given that some of them supported his candidacy for president, the six (6) cases of corruption by private citizens overshadowed a program that benefitted over 380,000 agricultural producers and this resulted in Mr. Arias' conviction.

Andrés Felipe Arias is a young public servant who may be criticized for lack of internal controls over the programs executed under his watch, but not for fraud or personal misappropriation.

Andréa Felipe Arias has become the symbol of the political polarization in Colombia, and even though his trial was conducted according to the legal standards at the time, his family and lawyers believe that his right to due process of law has not been respected and that there his good name has been unjustly damaged, as have been his right to a proper defense and to his presumption of innocence. For these reason they have sought political asylum in the US along with his small children and his wife, Catalina Serrano Garzón, after having been detained for over 2 years pending trial in the Cavalry Academy of the Army in Bogotá. When it became apparent that he could not defend himself under just conditions, he left the country and sought asylum in the US.

In my opinion, and independently of one's assessment of Andrés Felipe Arias' decisions as Minister of Agriculture, he does not represent a threat to any member of society and should consequently be allowed to remain free while he presents his case as part of the extradition proceedings.

MARTA LUCÍA RAMÍREZ DE RINCÓN

Minister of Foreign Commerce (1998-2002)

Minister of Defense (2002-2003)

Former Presidential Candidate for the Conservative Party (2014)

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CONGRESO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA
SENADO DE LA REPÚBLICA

AQUÍ VIVE LA DEMOCRACIA

USANA ORREA
SENADORA 2014-2018

CENTRO DEMOCRÁTICO
Mano firme
Corazón grande

Bogotá, August 30th 2016

Hon. John O' Sullivan
U.S. Magistrate Judge, Southern District of Florida

Dear Sir

During the government of the president Alvaro Uribe Velez (2002-2010) I served in several state offices. In these functions I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Andres Felipe Arias Leyva, who as Agriculture minister, showed his intellectual capacity as economist, and despite his youth, his huge politic leadership.

On the ministry, Andres Felipe Arias always had as a priority the rural development, reaching growths of 4,5% on 2007, one of the highest since 1991. This growth was achieved by the financing of productive projects with the purchase and startup of different types of equipment, machinery, infrastructure development, biotechnology, and soils improvements, his management achieved progress in biofuels development, and recovery of soil, between others.

However, as agriculture minister, Arias also was characterized as one of the most visible shields of Ex-president Uribe, and became into a strong contestant for the presidency of Colombia, this fact are the main reason of the political persecution of the actual government, persecution that all the contradictors of the policies of President Juan Manuel Santos have lived

I put on your considerations, the qualities of Ex-Minister Arias, and I invite you to analyze the actual political scene of Colombia in front of the opposition, asking to you allow him have a fair defense in the United States, avoiding his extradition to Colombia keeping in mind the imminent risk of his human rights.

If you need any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office in Colombia. You may contact at (572) 382 3390

Sincerely yours

SUSANA CORREA BORRERO
Senator
Republic of Colombia

Carrera 7ª # 8-68 Oficina 2048 / Edificio Nuevo del Congreso / Tel: (+571)3823390 - 3823391 / Bogotá D.C.
susana.correa@senado.gov.co / www.susanacorrea.net / SusanaCorreaBor

María del Rosario Guerra

Bogotá, August 31st, 2016

Honorable
JOHN O'SULLIVAN
U.S. Magistrate Judge, Southern District
Florida.

Dear Sir,

Under Alvaro Uribe's Presidential administration, I worked with Andrés Felipe Arias, when he was Minister of Agriculture and I, Minister of Information and Communications Technologies.

Andrés Felipe was a prominent public servant, his intellectual and personal performance and his work in favor of rural areas, made him a well-known Minister.

I kindly request to your office, assess his outstanding professional development. This, to avoid the unfortunate history of many colombians who worked for the Uribe's government, and are being judged for opposing to President Santos government and the so-called "Peace process"; and not for any legal reasons.

Sincerely,

MARÍA DEL ROSARIO GUERRA DE LA ESPRIELLA
SENATOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA
CENTRO DEMOCRÁTICO PARTY

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CENTRO DEMOCRÁTICO Mano firme Corazón grande

Honorio Henríquez
SENADOR

CONGRESO DE LA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA
SENADO DE LA REPÚBLICA

Bogotá, August 31, 2016

Honourable.
John O´Sullivan.
U.S. Magistrate Judge, Southern District of Florida
E.E.U.U

Dear Mr. John O´Sullivan:

May this be the opportunity to express our concern because of the political persecution led by the President of the Republic of Colombia Mr. Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, against Dr. Andres Felipe Arias the former agriculture minister during the years 2005 and 2009, this concern is being increased due to the political situation whereby the country is going through, at this moment the people have the huge responsibility to decide whether to support or not the agreements of La Havana. This could be an opportunity to set an intimidation to the opposition party we represent.

This case of political persecution, reveals the inclination of Juan Manuel Santos to reward and encourage the terrorists of the FARC, whom He is going to grant impunity for heinous crimes and crimes against humanity, while innocent people like Dr. Andres Felipe Arias must face to crimes they have not committed.

From the political party Centro Democrático, we continue to denounce the injustices and irregularities in the process that is underway against Dr. Arias, with the full conviction that the different authorities and international bodies should hear our voices demanding his freedom.

Respectfully

HONORIO MIGUEL HENRÍQUEZ PINEDO
Senator of the Republic of Colombia

Paola Holguín

CONGRESO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA
AQUÍ VIVE LA DEMOCRACIA

Bogotá D.C, 31 of august of 2016.

Your Honor
JUDGE JOHN O´ SULLIVAN
U.S Magistrate Judge, Southern District of Florida

Your Honor,

I have the big honor of meeting the former Minister of Agriculture Andrés Felipe Arias, his intelligence, work capabilities, and love for this country allowed him for four years serve Colombia transparently achieving great results in agriculture for Colombia.

"Agro Ingreso Seguro" program benefited more than 316,000 families through grants that allowed them to increase the productivity levels of their crops. 98 percent of these families where small and medium families that received 86 percent of the recourses. 310,000 poor and middle class families improved their income with this program.

Former Minister Arias is victim of a political persecution of Colombian justice which can be easily ascertained by studying his case. He was not convicted for stealing public funds, he was sentenced for supposedly signing a contract erratically with an entity called IICA which is part of the OAS. That same type of contract has been signed by almost all ministers of agriculture, including his predecessors and his successors.

Is important to note that the General Attorney 's Office asked the Supreme Court the acquittal of former Minister, considering that the prosecution had overstepped the limits of the indictment, also the Administrative Tribunal of Cundinamarca established that the contract with IICA was legal.

Arias is not the only former Uribe government official who has been persecuted by the Colombian justice and government, we have been victims of infiltration in the presidential campaign, false witnesses, pressure to testify against former President Uribe, and a lot more.

The defense of Andrés Felipe can bring you a lot of evidence of the political persecution against those who share the ideology of President Álvaro Uribe.

The only crime of Andrés Felipe Arias was working intensely for Colombia.

Respectfully,

PAOLA HOLGUÍN
Senator of the Republic of Colombia

CONGRESO
DE LA REPÚBLICA
DE COLOMBIA
SENADO DE LA REPÚBLICA

ERNESTO MACÍAS TOVAR
SENADOR DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA

Bogotá D.C., August 30, 2016

Honorable John O 'Sullivan,
U.S Magistrate Judge
Southern District of Florida

Respected Magistrate,

I am writing to you, as a Senator of the Republic of Colombia, in order to make known the unblemished record of former Minister of State, Ph.D. Andrés Felipe Arias Leiva, and the persecution that has suffered the democratic opposition to the present government of Colombia, and some sectors of justice.

Arias Leiva is a Colombian noted for their academic and professional record. He graduated as an economist at the prestigious University of the Andes, Magister in Economics at two major universities in Colombia and the United States of America. He obtained a grant from the Central Bank of the Republic of Colombia, for his P.h.D in Economics at the University of California.

He served as director of Macroeconomic Policy and Finance Ministry in February 2004, was Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Later, at the age of 32 years, he was appointed Minister of Agriculture of Colombia, a position which he resigned to assume the candidacy for the Presidency of the Republic.

Dr. Andrés Felipe Arias Leiva, has belonged to different boards, Ecopetrol S.A.; National Agricultural Exchange; Colciencias; the National Council for Agricultural Science and Technology; the Committee of Price Stabilization Fund of Spun Sugar; National Livestock Fund; Banco Agrario de Colombia; Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA); of the Colombian Agricultural Research Corporation (Corpoica); International Colombia Corporation and the National Agricultural Credit Committee.

CONGRESO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA
SENADO DE LA REPÚBLICA
ERNESTO MACÍAS TOVAR
SENADOR DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA

As Minister of Agriculture of Colombia (February 4, 2005 - February 7, 2009), he created the Secure Agricultural Income product of a state policy in order to improve productivity and competitiveness of the Colombian agricultural sector.

The program was aimed at small, medium and large agricultural producers. Secure Agricultural Income accomplished, as a result, the expansion of 20% in the Colombian agricultural frontier, productivity in the agricultural sector increased by 13%, and agricultural production achieved five million additional tons by the end of the period of former President Álvaro Uribe Vélez (2010).

According to prestigious Colombian jurists, criminal proceedings against Ph.D. Andrés Felipe Arias Leiva is just an example of the persecution against those who belonged to the government of former President Álvaro Uribe and some members of the opposition party Centro Democrático.

The sentence of 17 years of imprisonment imposed by the Supreme has been considered in judicial and political bodies of our country disproportionate and unjust.

There are certain circumstances and facts that reveal and show a lack of fairness and impartiality in the criminal investigation by the former Attorney General of the Nation, Eduardo Montealegre Lynett, and reveal a series of systematic actions to discredit Centro Democrático, its members and the opponents of the Attorney General's Office.

On September 3, 2015, I allowed a criminal complaint against the prosecutor Montealegre before the Commission of Investigation and Accusation Chamber of Representatives of Colombia, his natural judge, for the typical behaviors of abuse of authority and intervention in politics, corroborating in the attached report.

Finally, I would point out that members of Centro Democrático opposed to the Government of Colombia, have been victims of threats from the terrorist group FARC, as evidenced in the pamphlet received in August 2014 (attached).

CONGRESO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA
SENADO DE LA REPÚBLICA
ERNESTO MACÍAS TOVAR
SENADOR DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA

According to what is mentioned in this letter, I consider inconvenient the extradition to Colombia of Dr. Andrés Felipe Arias Leiva, because it would jeopardize their integrity and life. He would not be able to enjoy the constitutional and legal guarantees, thus I pledge to you that you may apply this justice in you Court.

Sincerely,

ERNESTO MACÍAS TOVAR
Senator of the Republic of Colombia

NOHORA TOVAR REY
SENADORA DE LA REPÚBLICA

CONGRESO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA
AQUÍ VIVE LA DEMOCRACIA

Bogotá D.C.
August 31th, 2016

Honorable John O'Sullivan
U.S. Magistrate Judge
Southern District of Florida

The ignominy to which Andrés Felipe Arias has been subjected in an immoral persecution by the political interests of the Government in power today in Colombia reflects truthfully the worrying situation to which the political opposition is being summited.

The situation that at this time Arias lives is no different from the vile injustice which is faced also by former Gov. Alfredo Ramos Botero, former Minister Sabas Pretelt de la Vega, Luis Alfonso Hoyos, Mario Arangure or Santiago Uribe, brother of former President Álvaro Uribe.

The factual reasons of any willful misconduct attributed to the capture of Andrés Felipe Arias in Colombia are supported only on political reasons since there is no irregular business or the appropriation of any public money.

This it is our duty to denounce this injustice since protected rights are involved in a rigged political and judiciary inclination.

The historical and social context that crosses Colombia at this time, a result of the agitation on behalf of peace processes with terrorist groups, shows clearly the great threat and danger to which Andrés Felipe Arias and his family would be subjected if he is extradited.

Arias is recognized by terrorist groups and those whose interests requires them to remain anonymous, as a threat to their political interests so his life has become an imminent target and his head, a trophy.

Therefore, this is a respectful and humble cry of lovers of freedom and democracy that pledge that Mr. Arias as his family receive a fair justice that is free from any political interest aroused.

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e-mail: nohora.tovar@senado.gov.co - senadoranohoratovar@gmail.com

NOHORA TOVAR REY
SENADORA DE LA REPÚBLICA

CONGRESO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA
AQUÍ VIVE LA DEMOCRACIA

As the great leader Martin L. King said *"it is always the right time to do what is right"*. Therefore, we trust in the justice of your court and appeal that you may grant Arias international protection.

Yours truly,

NOHORA TOVAR REY
Senator of the Republic
Centro Democrático.

Edificio Nuevo del Congreso Of: 549B Teléfono: (1) 3823663 Bogotá.
e-mail: nohora.tovar@senado.gov.co - senadoranohoratovar@gmail.com

PALOMA V

Bogotá, Colombia, 29 de agosto de 2016

Honorable Juez
John O. Sullivan
Florida, EE.UU.

Su señoría,

Como senadora de la República de Colombia y a raíz de lo ocurrido con el doctor Andrés Felipe Arias, líder político de nuestro país, quien en días pasados fue sujeto de medida de detención en los Estados Unidos, me permito hacerle las siguientes consideraciones. Sea lo primero expresarle que mis observaciones no atienden a vínculos de amistad con el doctor Arias, sino a observaciones de la realidad nacional desde quien hace parte de la oposición política en Colombia.

La situación actual del doctor Arias es consecuencia de la persecución política por parte de algunos sectores que se han aprovechado de las debilidades institucionales de la justicia que ha permitido que sea utilizada como mecanismo para adelantar causas políticas. Los problemas del doctor Arias iniciaron cuando su liderazgo lo convirtió en el heredero político del entonces Presidente Álvaro Uribe. Aquel merecimiento lo hizo sujeto de enorme afecto de miles de colombianos, pero al mismo tiempo lo convirtió en blanco de los ataques de los poderosos enemigos del Presidente Uribe, que veían en el doctor Arias una oportunidad para castigarlo y detener su proyecto político.

El doctor Arias tuvo que enfrentar un juicio ante una Corte Suprema de Justicia que para entonces tenía algunos magistrados abierta y severamente enfrentados al Presidente Uribe. Luego ha tenido que afrontar las difíciles circunstancias de polarización, donde el Gobierno de Juan Manuel Santos -que en su primera elección fue apoyado por las fuerzas que seguían al ex Presidente Uribe- emprendió una campaña de desprestigio contra el gobierno anterior. Además procedió a judicializar varios miembros de ese gobierno con claros y precisos fines políticos.

La oposición del ex Presidente Uribe y sus seguidores, al gobierno Santos y en especial al proceso de impunidad y premio al terrorismo de las Farc ha desatado cada vez más acciones en contra de nuestros seguidores y amigos, en especial todos aquellos que tengan una especial significación para nuestro grupo. Considero que se trata de una técnica de destrucción de nuestra credibilidad ante la opinión pública, y al mismo tiempo, un mecanismo para que se debiliten nuestras posiciones. Pese a las infamias, los injustos

PALOMA

apresamientos, la estigmatización y las dificultades seguimos y seguiremos firmes en la defensa de los valores democráticos que inspiran el amor a la libertad y la justicia.

Cabe destacar que el derecho fundamental a la segunda instancia le ha sido negado al doctor Arias, lo que ha impedido que pueda tener un juicio justo que le permita demostrar su inocencia.

Quiero dar fe de que el doctor Andrés Felipe Arias construyó su liderazgo político a partir del mérito sustentado en una trayectoria académica impecable y un ejercicio público sin tacha. Su ejercicio en el sector público siempre fue muestra de compromiso y entrega honesta a sus responsabilidades y a la búsqueda de los mejores resultados para el beneficio de la sociedad colombiana.

Sin lugar a dudas, es absolutamente triste para cualquier demócrata que un ciudadano de estas calidades y que en razón a su reconocido y creciente liderazgo público y político sea víctima de una estrategia antidemocrática para destruirlo, a través de la persecución política y de la instrumentalización del aparato de justicia.

Atentamente,

Paloma Valencia Laserna
Senadora de la República de Colombia
Partido Centro Democrático

CONGRESO
DE LA REPÚBLICA
DE COLOMBIA
CÁMARA DE REPRESENTANTES

Bogotá D.C., august 30th, 2016

Your Honour, Judge Sullivan

Greetings,

I kindly salute you and extend my gratitude for your attention and time. I am Colombian, a congresswoman, and a true believer of justice, democracy and institutions. This is why I so deeply regret the political persecution to which Dr. Andrés Felipe Arias has been submitted, him who was Secretary of Agriculture during Dr. Alvaro Uribe´s term in office as president of my country.

It is undeniable that Colombia lives today a complex polarization due to the peace process. In fact all those whom like I are members of the opposition, have had to withstand the violation of rights in the intent to silent our voices. We have been branded enemies of the peace, paramilitaries and fascists. To have a different political view, to have a critical posture against the agreements with terrorist groups as are the FARC, with whom our government negotiated, has turned me and my fellow party members in political targets, persecuted mainly though the miss usage of the courts of justice.

Yet we stand. We serve, after all the democratic and constitutional mandate of representing a vast percentage of colombians that refuse to see the triumph of impunity guide the course of the future of their country.

This is why it so afflicts me to witness the injustice brought upon and against Dr. Arias. This man has proven his talent, his intelligence, his rectitude, his honesty, and

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above all his unparalleled commitment to work for his nation. Thus, in his time he´s been acknowledged for his impeccable work: He received a scholarship for his doctorate at UCLA, where he was also an assisting investigator, and more even, he did an internship at the IMF, in Washington D.C.

When Dr. Arias came back to Colombia he joined office as Macroeconomic Director at Colombia´s Department of Treasure, he was Sub secretary of Agriculture and later Secretary of that same Department.

As Secretary he worked tirelessly in his goal of reanimating the rural economy of Colombia. This was his greatest dream and in such an intent he was able to deliver great achievements on productive projects, the development of infrastructure, biotechnology, biofuels, the recovery of lands, just to mention a few.

It was precisely for this brilliant job that he was postulated as a candidate for the presidency of Colombia. He did not win the postulation of his political party, but at age 35 became a renowned political figure.

In Dr. Arias´ Curriculum Vitae, your Honour, it may be found that he also served as a member of a number of Boards of Directors, and executive committees of which I remark the following: Ecopetrol S.A.; la Bolsa Nacional Agropecuaria; Colciencias; la Corporación Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales; y el Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología Agropecuaria. He was also a member of the Committee of the Fondo de Estabilización de Precios de los Azúcares Centrifugados; Fondo Nacional del Ganado; Fondo de Estabilización de Precios del Ganado, Leche y Derivados; Banco Agrario de Colombia; Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario;

la Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria; Corporación Colombia Internacional and the Comité Nacional de Crédito Agropecuario.

It is for all that has been said that I wouldn't ever doubt the intellectual and moral qualities of such a man. It seems to me unreasonable that he be charged with the accusation of having committed crimes in which he had no part, I'm sure, where no profit for himself could ever be proven, and where the law was not broken by him.

To extradite Dr. Arias would be non-less than a mistake. Fist for he is not a man who deserves such a treatment, but mainly because in my country there are no guarantees for a fair and transparent judicial process.

I appreciate your attention and deeply hope that you find my words useful for the illustration of the situation of my country. I trust you to take a fair and rightful decision.

Sincerely

Tatiana Cabello F

Tatiana Cabello Flórez
House Representative
Centro Democrático

CONGRESO
DE LA REPÚBLICA
DE COLOMBIA
CÁMARA DE REPRESENTANTES

August 31st 2016

Honorable.
John O' Sullivan,
United States District Court,
Southern District of Florida,
301 North Miami Avenue, 5th Floor

Honorable Judge O´Sullivan:

Receive my outmost respectful greetings.

It is amidst a very deep political crisis that has permeated Colombian judicial circuits that I am forced, due to the troubling circumstances, to appeal to your well known and respected trajectory in order to bring attention to some of the most abhorrent political persecutions my country has witnessed.

As a member of the leading opposition party in Colombia I am a witness to the judicial foul play my party members have been subject to by the former Attorney General and several higher circuit judges due the fact that we don't agree with some of the politics being undertaken by the government.

The lack of universal legal rights, such as independent judges, or due process have been turned into the underlying legal norm in several high impact judicial processes that affect the main political figures of the Partido Centro Democrático. We have seen a rise in dubious legal prosecutions in the midst of either political crisis that can be directly attributed to the government, or in the worst cases general elections.

Bellow you may find a very brief summary of some, but not all, of the most relevant cases in which one of our party members has been subject to questionable judicial proceedings that directly benefited Juan Manuel Santos government, and removed our candidates from very significant elections.

The first case is that of Luis Alfredo Ramos, former governor of the State of Antioquia who was charged of participating in politics in favor of some paramilitary groups. Even though no judicial decision has been made, he has been imprisoned during the trail with no serious arguments for such measure, trial that has been plagued with procedural misconducts such as unjustified postponements of critical hearings that have undermined my colleague's constitutional right to freedom. But worst of all the main witness in the aforementioned process has been convicted of giving false testimony in the trial, and some other witnesses are under investigation for the same

matters. Even though these facts have been proved in separate trials, Luis Alfredo continues to be in prison. Last but not least the moment in which Luis Alfredo was captured is of paramour relevance for the purpose of this letter. He was incarcerated when he was the leading our parties' primary elections, and was primed to run for president in the elections against Juan Manuel Santos.

After Luis Alfredo Ramos was forcefully removed of the presidential race our party nominated Óscar Iván Zuluaga as the parties' candidate in the mentioned presidential election. Óscar Iván led the presidential elections throughout said process, and even won the first leg by a 4% margin. One week before the definitive second leg, where polls predicted that Óscar Iván Zuluaga would be elected as president, a video surfaced in Colombia's must trusted political magazine (directed by the presidents nephew, Alejandro Santos) where it appeared as if Óscar Iván was being handed confidential government information by apparent hackers.

This video had been grossly manipulated and only separate parts surfaced to the public. This proved to be the blow that swayed the election in favor of Juan Manuel Santos. The Attorney general promptly accused his campaign of using said hackers to take advantage of classified information and imprisoned top officials within the campaign and has since investigated Óscar Iván himself. The doubt whether this incident had been directed by the Attorney General in favor of the government was apparent.

In the recent months a very trusted investigative journalist, Gustavo Rugeles, published an article in which he made evident that the incident had been all a set up directed by the head of Colombia's intelligence Agency (R) Admiral Álvaro Echandía, a longtime friend of Juan Manuel Santos. Echandía was under deep scrutiny by the Supreme Court of Justice due to the fact that they found that a trial that ended up convicting Gabriel Arango Bacci (a former navy officer now a member of our party) had several fake evidence and false testimonies all of them brought forth by Echandía. The Supreme Court ordered him to be investigated, but no investigation was ever undertaken.

The last case is the one that motivates this letter: Andrés Felipe Arias. He was considered as the natural Álvaro Uribe's successor back in the 2010 election, when Juan Manuel Santos wanted to be the one who succeeded Uribe. He was investigated and later found guilty for creating a public policy, a policy that granted economic subsidies for the agricultural sector in order to allow it to compete in fare conditions in the FTA with the United States, that ultimately was misconstrued and several rich families took advantage unlawfully (they were charged and found guilty for abusing said public policy).This became yet another process where the defense most relevant arguments were not even taken into account, such as the fact it was not the secretary of Agriculture (Andrés Felipe Arias) the person in charge of selection the beneficiaries, but the IICA(Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture – an organism dependent on the Organization of American States).

CONGRESO
DE LA REPÚBLICA
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He was sentenced to 17 years in prison, an unprecedented sentence that was not even proportional to the supposed crime. A clear attempt to stop any political aspiration of Andrés Felipe was evidenced even by the Advocate General, who claims the conviction should be overturned, and his political rights restored.

Not having any legal guarantees of a fair trial, Andrés Felipe fled the country amidst the clear political persecution he has been subject to ever since, and seeked asylum in the United States.
It is because all of the aforementioned that I ask for your consideration regarding his political status within the United States, due to the fact that it is clear that he has been subject to grave cases of misconduct and his legal process has been deprived of fundamental legal guarantees that must be observed in any fair trial.

Regards,

Samuel Hoyos Mejía
Congressman
House Representatives of Colombia

CONGRESO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA
SENADO DE LA REPÚBLICA

León Rigoberto Barón Neira
Senador de la República

August 30, 2016

Honorable Judge
John O´Sullivan,

On virtue of the most recent events, León Rigoberto Barón Neira, Senator of the Republic, by means of this letter want to express my support to Dr. Andres Felipe Arias and ask you honorable Judge O´Sullivan that includes the following arguments in the case of former Colombian minister

The charges that he has: first the embezzlement by peculation due to unlawful appropiation to benefit others and the second conclusion of contracts without due compliance with legal requirements.

In my opinion this judgement is exaggerated and I'm going to explain the reasons for this deliberation; in the first instancen we have to consider that when Agro Ingreso Seguro born, the aim of was help the small and biggest Farmers for Free Trade Agreements so when the large employers received subsidies was not a felony.

In the second instance, he is being judged for the direct contracting with the agency direct contracting with the Institute Interamericano of Cooperation for the agriculture (IICA) is the entity assigned to the Organization of American States (OAS) but should be noted that the above ministers the former ministers did the contracts in the same way.

Given the above facts, we must wonder ¿Why Andres Felipe Arias is being condemned and not the former ministers? Clearly this is a case of political persecution against of former minister. I really wish that you and the lawyers be able to demonstrate that justice still exists in the noblest cases.

Thankfully,

LEÓN RIGOBERTO BARÓN NEIRA
Senador de la República

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Tel: 3823436 Fax 3823437

CONGRESO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA
SENADO DE LA REPÚBLICA

EVERTH BUSTAMANTE
SENADOR DE LA REPÚBLICA

Bogotá D.C., 31 of August 2016

Honorable
John O' Sullivan
US Magistrate Judge, Southern district of Florida
Department of State of the United States of America

Honorable Judge,

I am writing to you regarding the case of Andres Felipe Arias.

Andres Felipe Arias was the youngest Minister during the period 2005-2009 in Colombia, under the presidency of Alvaro Uribe Velez and without doubt he had, as a Minister great responsibilities regarding the agricultural sector in the country.

During his period as a Minister he managed, among other things, to boost agricultural GDP growth, rising from 1.8% in 2004 to 3.9% in 2007, and more than 4% during the first half of 2008. In addition, the agricultural exports doubled increasing from $ 3,007 million in 2003 to $ 5,840 million in 2007, allowing to double the agricultural trade balance of the country, which increased from $ 1,267 million to $ 2,609 million during the same period of time.

Furthermore, his professional and political career led him to become a candidate for the presidency of the Republic for the period 2010-2014.

With the installation of the new government in 2010, a polarization of political forces in the country was generated which, in turn, led the current administration to use undue influence in the application of justice for those who had been part of the previous government, one of these cases is precisely related to Andres Felipe Arias.

In addition to this, while the negotiations with the narco-terrorist group FARC are taking place in the country, the government is creating a special court for them in order to grant amnesty to their crimes, including tremendous crimes against humanity. In this regard, former president Uribe, congressmen and our political party have opposed to this special court, since we consider this will imply doing a peace agreement with impunity. As a reaction to this, the actual government has been trying to silence the opposition with undue

CONGRESO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA
SENADO DE LA REPÚBLICA

EVERTH BUSTAMANTE
SENADOR DE LA REPÚBLICA

justice pressures, without a balance in the media and forcing local leaders, local public administration authorities and general population in order to favor these narco-terrorists.

Because of all these, honorable judge, we kindly ask you to take into account these annotations for his trial, and to consider the application for political asylum that has been filled by Andrés Felipe Arias in United States of America. We kindly ask you to consider this because otherwise he would be forced to have a trial and punishment in Colombia without the constitutional guarantees that correspond to a Colombian citizen.

Yours sincerely,

EVERTH BUSTAMANTE GARCIA
Senator of the Republic of Colombia

REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA
HERMANN PIEDRAHITA
NOTARIO
NOTARIA PRIMERA DE

Bogotá, September 13th, 2106

Honorable Judge John O'Sullivan

Sir,

My name is Carlos Gustavo Cano.

I was Minister of Agriculture of Colombia since August 7th 2002 till February 4th 2005, when I became Director of the central bank (Banco de la República).

When I met for first time Andrés Felipe Arias in 2003, he was acting as advisor to my college the Minister of Finance Alberto Carrasquilla. As I was deeply impressed for his devotion to his job, his brilliance and his commitment to the public service, I asked President Álvaro Uribe his authorization to appoint Mr. Arias as Vice-minister of Agriculture, with the special mission of conducting the negotiation of the chapter of Agriculture in behave of Colombia within the framework of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Unites States of America.

Once I left the Ministry to assume my position as Director of Banco de la República, Mr. Arias was appointed Minister by President Uribe.

I understand that during his tenure as Minister, he continued receiving the technical assistance of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA, in Spanish), a leading think tank in the hemisphere that belongs to the Inter-American System run by the Organization of American States (OAS).

Since its creation in 1942 under the auspices and inspiration of Henry Wallace, then Secretary of Agriculture of United States, the IICA headquarters were stablished in Costa Rica as a highly specialized center in agricultural technology and training.

As a result of the creation of OAS in 1948, IICA formally became the specialized organism in Agriculture of the Inter-American System. In 1964, 21 American states were already members of IICA, including Colombia. Since then, the Ministry of Agriculture of Colombia has received technical cooperation from the Institute.

I write this note with the purpose to show you that Mr. Arias did not take himself the initiative to contract IICA for performing specific or discretionary roles for the Ministry. Quite on the contrary, he followed the tradition of contracting IICA for cooperation activities in those fields where this entity has proved its competence and strength.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

Cordially,

Carlos Gustavo Cano

DILIGENCIA DE AUTENTICACION DE FIRMA

En la Ciudad de Bogotá D.C. a 14 de 09 de 16.

Compareció ante la Notaría Primera del Circulo de Bogotá

Carlos Gustavo Cano Sainz.

Quien se identificó con la Cedula de Ciudadanía

Número 14200417.

expedida en Ibague

y Declaro que la firma y huella que aparecen en el presente documento son suyas

El declarante

El Notario Primero

REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA

HERMANN PIES[illegible]N FONRODONA

NOTARIO

NOTARIA PRIMERA DE BOGOTA

NOTARIA PRIMERA

DEL CIRCULO DE BOGOTÁ

003 1260348

COLOMBIA

Bogotá, septiembre 27 de 2016

A quien pueda interesar:

Conozco a Andrés Felipe Arias hace unos catorce o quince años, primero en su calidad como Viceministro y luego como Ministro de Agricultura.

Yo estaba manejando una empresa del sector agro industrial (dedicada a la explotación de palma africana) y en varias posiciones políticas por él adoptadas tuvimos diferencias. Inclusive cuando Colombia negociaba el TLC con Estados Unidos y él era uno de los representantes del Gobierno colombiano en esa negociación, mientras yo como empresario participaba del llamado "cuarto de al lado", tuvimos diferencias respecto de la misma.

Entre los programas que él adelantó, también tuvimos diferencias respecto de la operación del programa denominado Agro Ingreso Seguro, el cual tenía varias modalidades de crédito y subsidio.

A pesar de todo lo anterior y habiendo sido yo Ministro de Agricultura posteriormente (2013-2014), no puedo afirmar que el Ex Ministro Andrés Felipe Arias sea una persona peligrosa para la ciudadanía y mucho menos considero que sea o haya sido un corrupto.

En los cargos públicos hay interpretaciones diversas respecto de lo que se hace y respecto del impacto que esto tiene, y uno puede estar o no de acuerdo de una política o programa determinado. Pero considerar a Andrés Felipe Arias un delincuente me parece un acto o una decisión que puede tener visos políticos.

RUBÉN DARÍO LIZARRALDE
Presidente
CAMPETROL

Notaria 45

DILIGENCIA DE RECONOCIMIENTO

Ante el Notario Cuarenta y Cinco del Círculo de Bogotá
Compareció:

LIZARRALDE MONTOYA RUBEN DARIO DE JESUS

quien exhibió: **C.C.** **14873062**

y declaró que la firma y huella que aparecen en el presente documento son suyas y que el contenido del mismo es cierto.

Bogotá D.C. **04/10/2016** a las ***10:13:12 a.m.***

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FIRMA

2

EDUARDO CAICEDO ESCOBAR
NOTARIO 45 BOGOTA D.C.

NOTARÍA 43 DEL CÍRCULO DE BOGOTÁ NOTARIO

Medellín, 12 de septiembre de 2016

Your Honor

JUDGE JOHN O'SULLIVAN

US. Magistrate Judge, Southern District of Florida

Por medio de la presente carta quiero que Usted, Honorable Juez Magistrado, sepa que muchos miembros del gobierno del ahora Ex Presidente y Senador, Álvaro Uribe-Vélez están sufriendo una sistemática persecución política.

Álvaro Uribe-Vélez fue Presidente de Colombia desde el 7 de agosto de 2002, hasta el 7 de agosto de 2010.

La persecución mencionada es no solamente del ahora Presidente y sucesor de Uribe-Vélez, Juan Manuel Santos-Calderón sino también del Sistema Judicial Colombiano. La política asume el rol Judicial y la Justicia está politizada.

Varios destacados miembros del Gabinete de Uribe-Vélez están presos y otros están en el exilio.

Menciono algunos: El Señor Bernardo Moreno, el Señor Sabas Pretelt y el Señor Diego Palacios. Éstos están en cárceles. También están presos dos miembros del Departamento de Seguridad de Colombia, DAS, por sus siglas en castellano: la Señora María del Pilar Hurtado y Jorge Noguera.

El Señor Luis Carlos Restrepo, Alto Comisionado de Paz, está exiliado en Canadá.

Un fuerte candidato a la Presidencia y rival de Juan-Manuel Santos, esta privado de la libertad y la Justicia no hace la investigación debida, porque tendría que liberarlo: El Señor Luis-Alfredo Ramos-Botero.

Pero la persecución política también invade otros campos: La Corte Suprema de Justicia anunció por los medios de comunicación y a través del Palacio Presidencial la destitución del Procurador General de la Nación, Alejandro Ordóñez-Maldonado.

Ordóñez-Maldonado alertaba sobre la inconstitucionalidad de muchos de los acuerdos de La Habana entre el Gobierno de Santos y el grupo narcoterrorista Farc. Sin embargo, la sentencia no ha sido presentada al ahora ex Procurador. Es una manera de silenciarlo. Esta censura sirve para que Ordóñez-Maldonado no pueda hablar. Y es urgente que lo haga antes del Plebiscito cuya fecha es el próximo 2 de octubre.

Otro perseguido de la Justicia y del Gobierno Santos es Andrés-Felipe Arias-Leiva, quien fue Ministro de Agricultura del Gobierno de Uribe-Vélez y manejó el Programa Agro-Ingreso-Seguro que favoreció en un 90%

a campesinos dueños de pequeños predios. Este programa venía de tiempo atrás y era un convenio con la OEA, (OIS, por sus siglas en ingles) y su objetivo era la tecnificación del agro colombiano.

Por un solo caso: el de una familia de apellido Dávila-Abondano que dividió una finca en 100 partes para recibir más subsidios, fue encarcelado el Señor Arias-Leiva.

La familia Dávila-Abondano atestiguó bajo juramento que nunca han conocido al Ministro Arias-Leiva ni tuvieron contacto alguno con él.

Sin embargo, el Gobierno Santos ha pedido la extradición a Colombia del Señor Arias-Leyva, en momentos en que él y su familia hacían trámites para que les dieran el estatus de exiliados políticos. Mi pregunta es: ¿Por qué ahora?

Puede parecer extraño, pero Colombia no tiene la independencia de los diferentes poderes: el Legislativo, el Ejecutivo y el Judicial. No hay los pesos y contrapesos, (Check and Balances) ni garantía alguna para los ciudadanos.

¿Cuál es la razón? Imponer el Acuerdo con la mencionada guerrilla narcoterrorista que controla toda la cadena de narcóticos que va a Estados Unidos vía los Océanos Atlántico y Pacífico. Y a Europa y Asia vía Venezuela. Y es el tercer grupo narcoterrorista más rico del mundo, según la revista Forbes.

Usted, Honorable Juez O'Sullivan puede hablar con el Director para las Américas de Human Rights Watch, Señor José-Miguel Vivanco. Él ha señalado que el Acuerdo Farc-Santos va contra el Estatuto de Roma y la Corte Penal Internacional, con sede en La Haya.

De Usted, Honorable Juez O'Sullivan

Ana-Mercedes Gómez-Martínez

Directora del diario El Colombiano de Medellín, de 1991 a 2012

FIRMA REGISTRADA

NOTARIA 1ª DE ENVIGADO

LUIS HORACIO VÉLEZ ESCOBAR NOTARIO PRIMERO DEL CIRCULO DE ENVIGADO CERTIFICA QUE LA FIRMA QUE APARECE EN EL DOCUMENTO QUE ANTECEDE CORRESPONDE A LA FIRMA REGISTRADA EN ESTA NOTARIA POR:

GOMEZ MARTINEZ ANA MERCEDES

Quien se identifica con: C.C. 32409585

Envigado 14/09/2016 10:49:03 a.m. GL

swxz43c32xz4wz2e

REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA Luis Horacio Vélez Escobar Notario NOTARIA PRIMERA DE ENVIGADO

BG337WOOCQC4YCFHT

www.notariaenlinea.com

CENTRO DEMOCRÁTICO
Mano firme
Corazon grande

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Michael R. Pence
The Vice President of the United States
Old Executive Office Building
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Vice President Pence:

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 narcotrafficking 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. Vice President: I personally bear witness to the persecution against Andrés 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

Calle 66 No. 7 – 59 - Bogotá – Colombia
www.centrodemocratico.com

CENTRO DEMOCRÁTICO
Mano firme
Corazón grande

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

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 narcotrafficking and terrorism.

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Mr. Sessions: 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.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Most respectfully,

Álvaro Uribe Vélez
Former President of Colombia
Colombian Senator

Calle 66 No. 7 – 59 Bogota – Colombia
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CENTRO DEMOCRÁTICO
Mano firme
Corazón grande

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

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 narcotrafficking 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. Tillerson: 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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CANCILLERÍA

Embajada de Colombia en Estados Unidos

S- 1939

Washington, December 10, 2018

Christopher J. Smith
Acting Associate Director
Office of International Affairs
Criminal Division
U.S. Department of Justice
1301 New York Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Associate Director Smith:

The Government of Colombia has been closely following the case of Andres Arias, case No. 18-14328, who is currently incarcerated in the State of Florida.

The Government of Colombia requests the consideration of Mr. Arias' release on bail while his appeal is pending in this case. He does not pose a risk of flight and, thus, his incarceration is unnecessary. Moreover, his appeal raises substantial issues in his process, as also stated recently by the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

The Government of Colombia would appreciate the rapid implementation of the steps necessary to ensure Mr. Arias may be released on bond, so that he can spend time with his wife and young children, especially during this holiday season. Mr. Arias does not pose a flight risk and, solely based on humanitarian grounds, his immediate release will have a great impact on his family and children.

Sincerely,

Francisco Santos Calderon
Ambassador of Colombia