



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

Honorable Judge O'Sullivan:

I consider it a moral obligation to address your Excellency and to express my deepest conviction about the injustice committed against former Minister Andrés Felipe Arias.

For four years I served as Deputy Comptroller General of the Republic, in the Administration of Julio Cesar Turbay. Months before the end of the period, due to the resignation of the Comptroller Turbay, I was in charge of the General Comptroller of the Republic. In that condition, I order an audit to the Ministry of Agriculture, especially to the Program denominated Agro Ingreso Seguro, by the press reports that denounced abuses in the use of Development credits.

From the Auditors' report, there was no responsibility or irregularity in the performance of Minister Andrés Felipe Arias. For that reason our determination was not to present any charges.

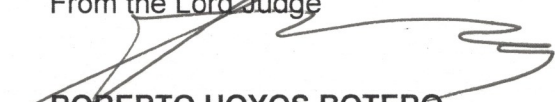
Comptroller Sandra Morelli, whose nomination obeyed the support of President Santos, her first actions were directed to question Minister Arias. Took as an excuse a cooperation agreement with IICA that for decades had been celebrating the Colombian State, without any minister of agriculture prior to Andrés Felipe, would have been prosecuted for accepting that this body would develop these programs. IICA is an international agricultural advisory body dependent on the OEA, so any interest or economic conflict can be ruled out.

The Supreme Court of Justice, composed mostly of magistrates opposed to President Uribe, using these concepts, sentenced him to 17 years, a sentence higher than that condemned by the worst genocides in Colombian history.

The future of a young man, strong, capable, intelligent, the best student of all cloisters, who succeeded in giving an important development to Colombian agriculture, was truncated when he could have been the President that the Colombians demanded.

I have no doubt in affirming that it is a clear and unjust persecution of former Minister Andrés Felipe Arias and his extradition to Colombia would be to scorn the opponents of President Santos and the agreement signed with the world's largest drug cartel.

From the Lord Judge


ROBERTO HOYOS BOTERO

Bogotá, November 10, 2016