

«AddressBlock»  
United States of America

Luis Fernando Velasco  
Minister of Interior  
Carrera 8 No. 7-83  
Bogotá DC  
Colombia

March 8, 2024

Dear Minister,

I am concerned about the security situation of human rights, territory, land, and environmental defenders in Colombia, particularly those affiliated with the organizations Federación de Pescadores Artesanales Ambientalistas y Turísticos del Departamento de Santander – FEDEPESAN and Corporación Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos – CREDHOS, located in the city of Barrancabermeja. We are deeply troubled to see that these organizations have received direct threats from armed groups operating in this region of the country, being declared a “military objective”, and stigmatized as collaborators with other criminal groups.

Amnesty International has documented the human rights defense work and the risk situation of these organizations since 2020. Despite public appeals, including both in face-to-face meetings with authorities and through actions on social and digital platforms, these individuals and communities continue to be attacked for defending their rights.

I urge you to exercise diligence in fulfilling the Ministry of the Interior's duty to coordinate actions aimed at the comprehensive protection of individuals and organizations defending human rights. This includes the implementation of the collective protection policy established in the Decree 660 of 2018, the establishment of spaces for interinstitutional coordination and collaboration with civil society, coordination with local authorities responsible for emergency response and providing effective protection routes, and collaboration with other state agencies for a comprehensive state response.

Yours sincerely,

«First» «Last»

cc: Ambassador Luis Gilberto Murillo Urrutia, Colombian Embassy in the United States, Washington, DC

«AddressBlock»

Colombian Embassy in the United States  
Ambassador Luis Gilberto Murillo Urrutia  
1724 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

March 8, 2024

Dear Ambassador,

I am concerned about the security situation of human rights, territory, land, and environmental defenders in Colombia, particularly those affiliated with the organizations Federación de Pescadores Artesanales Ambientalistas y Turísticos del Departamento de Santander – FEDEPESAN and Corporación Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos – CREDHOS, located in the city of Barrancabermeja. We are deeply troubled to see that these organizations have received direct threats from armed groups operating in this region of the country, being declared a “military objective”, and stigmatized as collaborators with other criminal groups.

Amnesty International has documented the human rights defense work and the risk situation of these organizations since 2020. Despite public appeals, including both in face-to-face meetings with authorities and through actions on social and digital platforms, these individuals and communities continue to be attacked for defending their rights.

I urge you to exercise diligence in fulfilling the Ministry of the Interior's duty to coordinate actions aimed at the comprehensive protection of individuals and organizations defending human rights. This includes the implementation of the collective protection policy established in the Decree 660 of 2018, the establishment of spaces for interinstitutional coordination and collaboration with civil society, coordination with local authorities responsible for emergency response and providing effective protection routes, and collaboration with other state agencies for a comprehensive state response.

Yours sincerely,

«First» «Last»

cc: Minister Luis Fernando Velasco, Bogotá

«AddressBlock»

Secretary Anthony Blinken  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

When Felix Tshisekedi was initially elected President of the Democratic Republic of Congo his administration promised that things would be different, and the rich mineral resources of the DRC would benefit its people first. However, research by Amnesty International and the Initiative for Good Governance and Human Rights tells a grimmer story. Frontline communities living in and around Kolwezi are forcibly evicted from their homes and farmlands to pave the way for industrial cobalt and copper mining, often without proper consultation or just and fair compensation.

These findings also show that resettlement options are scarce, and alternative housing lacks basic amenities and social infrastructure such as schools, health centers or recreational sites.

The Biden Administration has regularly touted both its rights-centered foreign policy as well as a commitment to a just energy transition. It is vital the U.S. lives up to its own stated principles. Given the close working relationship between the U.S. and the DRC, I urge you to:

- Ask President Tshisekedi to put a moratorium on further mass evictions in the mining sector.
- Support the new Congolese government in implementing procedures and laws to protect the rights of frontline mining communities. This includes sharing best practices from other resource rich countries and financial support to conduct meaningful consultations with impacted communities.
- Work with U.S. based companies and investors to ensure they are following Congolese law.

I urge you to use the momentum of Tshisekedi's recent re-election to encourage change in Congolese mining practices. As the U.S. benefits from Congolese resources, it is vital to support a just energy transition and ensure Congolese communities are not left behind.

Sincerely,

«First» «Last»

«AddressBlock»  
United States of America

Minister of Justice  
Faisal Saeed Al-Ghareeb  
Council of Ministers General Secretariat  
Al-Safat 13014  
P.O. Box 1397  
Kuwait

March 8, 2024

Your Excellency,

I am alarmed by the news that on January 31, 2024, an Appeals Court convicted and sentenced to three years Mohammad al-Barghash, 52, the Head of the National Bloc of Kuwaiti Bidun, solely for speaking out about the plight of the stateless Bidun community in Kuwait during an interview he gave on August 12, 2023 to Nabaa TV, a Saudi opposition channel broadcasting from Lebanon. Mohammad was ordered to turn himself in.

On September 3, 2023, plain clothed officers from the State Security Agency detained Mohammad al-Barghash at his workplace, an electronics shop in al-Sulaibiya in Jahra Governorate, without an arrest warrant. He was held in pre-trial detention in contravention of article 69 of the Kuwaiti Code of Criminal Procedures, which stipulates that “in all cases, provisions of pretrial detention do not apply to anyone who exercises his right to express and publish his opinion verbally, in writing, drawing, or otherwise, including if the expression of opinion is via the media or social media”.

On October 25, 2023, a criminal court acquitted Mohammad al-Barghash, and he was released after spending over seven weeks in detention. However, the prosecution appealed the decision.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally drop the charges against Mohammad al-Barghash, as they are based solely on his expression of his opinion and quash his conviction and sentence.

Yours sincerely,

«First» «Last»

cc: Ambassador Shaik Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Embassy of Kuwait in the United States, Washington, DC

«AddressBlock»

Ambassador Shaikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah  
Embassy of Kuwait in the United States  
2940 Tilden Street, NW  
Washington DC 20008

March 8, 2024

Dear Ambassador Shaikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah,

I am alarmed by the news that on January 31, 2024, an Appeals Court convicted and sentenced to three years Mohammad al-Barghash, 52, the Head of the National Bloc of Kuwaiti Bidun, solely for speaking out about the plight of the stateless Bidun community in Kuwait during an interview he gave on August 12, 2023 to Naba TV, a Saudi opposition channel broadcasting from Lebanon. Mohammad was ordered to turn himself in.

On September 3, 2023, plain clothed officers from the State Security Agency detained Mohammad al-Barghash at his workplace, an electronics shop in al-Sulaibiya in Jahra Governorate, without an arrest warrant. He was held in pre-trial detention in contravention of article 69 of the Kuwaiti Code of Criminal Procedures, which stipulates that “in all cases, provisions of pretrial detention do not apply to anyone who exercises his right to express and publish his opinion verbally, in writing, drawing, or otherwise, including if the expression of opinion is via the media or social media”.

On October 25, 2023, a criminal court acquitted Mohammad al-Barghash, and he was released after spending over seven weeks in detention. However, the prosecution appealed the decision.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally drop the charges against Mohammad al-Barghash, as they are based solely on his expression of his opinion and quash his conviction and sentence.

Yours sincerely,

«First» «Last»

cc: Minister of Justice Faisal Saeed Al-Ghareeb, Kuwait

«AddressBlock»  
United States of America

Presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador  
Palacio Nacional, edificio 10, planta baja,  
Colonia Centro. C.P. 06060, alcaldía Cuauhtémoc  
Ciudad de México  
México

March 8, 2024

Dear President,

I'm writing to express my deep concern about the refusal of the Ministry of Interior (SEGOB) and the Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection (SSPC) to provide crucial information regarding the disappearance of the 43 Ayotzinapa Rural Teacher Training College students in Iguala, Guerrero, which occurred on September 26, 2014. Secretary of National Defense (SEDENA), led by your government, has not provided the ministries 800 essential documents for the investigation of the 43 students' disappearance, including one about the transfer of 17 students from the Barandilla municipal police station to the outskirts of Iguala.

I am also concerned about the public attacks from your government toward the organizations that support the relatives of the 43 students. These attacks stigmatize the organizations and impact the families' search for the students. According to the UN International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, families of disappeared people have the right to the truth about the circumstances of a disappearance and the fate of the disappeared person.

Therefore, I urge you to take all necessary measures to ensure that SEDENA provides the 800 documents requested by the relatives of the 43 Ayotzinapa Rural Teacher Training College, and the organizations that supported them as soon as possible, and that international independent experts that participated in the investigations review these documents.

Sincerely,

«First» «Last»

cc: Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma Barragán, Mexican Embassy in the United States, Washington, DC

«AddressBlock»

Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma Barragán  
Mexican Embassy in the United States  
1911 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington DC 20006

March 8, 2024

Dear Ambassador,

I'm writing to express my deep concern about the refusal of the Ministry of Interior (SEGOB) and the Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection (SSPC) to provide crucial information regarding the disappearance of the 43 Ayotzinapa Rural Teacher Training College students in Iguala, Guerrero, which occurred on September 26, 2014. Secretary of National Defense (SEDENA), led by your government, has not provided the ministries 800 essential documents for the investigation of the 43 students' disappearance, including one about the transfer of 17 students from the Barandilla municipal police station to the outskirts of Iguala.

I am also concerned about the public attacks from your government toward the organizations that support the relatives of the 43 students. These attacks stigmatize the organizations and impact the families' search for the students. According to the UN International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, families of disappeared people have the right to the truth about the circumstances of a disappearance and the fate of the disappeared person.

Therefore, I urge you to take all necessary measures to ensure that SEDENA provides the 800 documents requested by the relatives of the 43 Ayotzinapa Rural Teacher Training College, and the organizations that supported them as soon as possible, and that international independent experts that participated in the investigations review these documents.

Sincerely,

«First» «Last»

cc: Presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Mexico City

«AddressBlock»

Embassy of Yemen in the United States  
Ambassador Mohammed Al-Hadhrami  
2319 Wyoming Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008

March 8, 2024

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing to express grave concern at the punitive arbitrary detention, without charge or trial, and ongoing harassment of French-Palestinian lawyer Salah Hammouri. On 7 March 2022 he was arrested. Three days later, the Military Commander of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) in the occupied West Bank issued a three-month administrative order, extending his detention without charge or trial and without any means to effectively challenge the detention. The detention order was renewed twice since then, most recently on 4 September 2022, mere hours before Salah Hammouri's expected release.

On July 26, the Israeli Prison Services transferred Salah Hammouri to Hadarim prison after classifying him as a high-risk security prisoner (also known as "Sagav" in Hebrew). The transfer occurred after he wrote an open letter to French President Emmanuel Macron, raising concern that he was being punished for his peaceful activism. On September 25, Salah Hammouri and 29 other Palestinian administrative detainees went on hunger strike to protest Israel's widespread and systematic use of this cruel and unjust form of detention. As punishment, he was moved into solitary confinement in a dirty cell measuring four-square meters without open air or light for 15 days and deprived of any contact with the outside world.

Furthermore, I remain concerned that Salah Hammouri faces a real risk of deportation following Israeli authorities' actions since September 2020 to revoke his permanent residency status, with his administrative detention order being used against him to expedite actions towards his forcible deportation. According to his lawyer, while Salah Hammouri was in solitary confinement, he was pressured by Israeli prison officials, who told him that if he accepted to leave Jerusalem and go to France, he would be released.

I urge you to immediately release Salah Hammouri and all others who have been placed under administrative detention, unless they are promptly charged with an internationally recognizable crime and tried in proceedings that adhere to international fair trial standards. I urge authorities to preserve his residency status in Jerusalem and permit him to continue his human rights work without fear of reprisals.

Yours sincerely,

«First» «Last»

cc: Minister of Defense Benny Gantz, Tel Aviv



«AddressBlock»  
United States of America

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister's Office  
3 Kaplan St. Hakiryia  
91950 Jerusalem  
Israel

March 8, 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

Israel has failure to comply with the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in response to the case brought by South Africa, which accused Israel of violating its obligations under the Genocide Convention in relation to Palestinian civilians in the occupied Gaza strip. In light of the real and imminent risk of genocide faced by Palestinians in Gaza, I urge you to ensure Israel implements all 6 provisional measures ordered by the Court, including for Israel to prevent the commission of acts proscribed by the Genocide Convention, to prevent and punish public and direct incitement to genocide and, crucially, to take immediate and effective measures to provide urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by civilians in the occupied Gaza Strip.

After four months of Israel's relentless bombardment of the Gaza Strip, accompanied by the further tightening of the over 16-year-long illegal siege, civilians in Gaza are grappling with an apocalyptic humanitarian catastrophe. Civilians in Gaza are facing mass displacement, engineered famine and deliberate deprivation of basic services, including access to clean water and sanitation services, and contending with lack of adequate fuel supplies, which in Gaza is desperately needed to power hospitals, purify water and process food. The death toll continues to rise, with over 28,000 people killed, a further 10,000 missing under the rubble, and nearly 68,000 wounded, thousands of whom have been left with permanent disabilities. Over 1.7 million Palestinians, more than 85% of Gaza's population, have been internally displaced at least once; 2.2 million people are facing imminent risk of famine; infectious diseases are becoming increasingly prevalent due to successive waves of mass displacement, overcrowding, and lack of clean water and adequate hygiene. Supplies of humanitarian aid are scarce and woefully insufficient, particularly to the many in catastrophic need in northern Gaza.

Restricting the delivery of essential humanitarian aid and the ongoing attacks on hospitals are not only a violation of the provisional measures that the ICJ ordered Israel to take; they also constitute a breach of Israel's legal obligations, as the occupying power, under international humanitarian law. In light of the real and imminent risk of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza and to prevent the deterioration of the humanitarian catastrophe even further, I urge the State of Israel to comply with the ICJ ruling and to take immediate and effective steps to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian and medical aid across the entire Gaza Strip as required by international law.

Sincerely,

«First» «Last»

cc: Ambassador Michael Herzog, Embassy of the Israel in the United States of America, Washington, DC

«AddressBlock»

Ambassador Michael Herzog  
Embassy of Israel in the United States  
3514 International Drive, NW  
Washington DC 20008

March 8, 2024

Ambassador Herzog,

Israel has failure to comply with the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in response to the case brought by South Africa, which accused Israel of violating its obligations under the Genocide Convention in relation to Palestinian civilians in the occupied Gaza strip. In light of the real and imminent risk of genocide faced by Palestinians in Gaza, I urge you to ensure Israel implements all 6 provisional measures ordered by the Court, including for Israel to prevent the commission of acts proscribed by the Genocide Convention, to prevent and punish public and direct incitement to genocide and, crucially, to take immediate and effective measures to provide urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by civilians in the occupied Gaza Strip.

After 4 months of Israel's relentless bombardment of Gaza, accompanied by the further tightening of the over 16-year-long illegal siege, civilians in Gaza are grappling with an apocalyptic humanitarian catastrophe. Civilians in Gaza are facing mass displacement, engineered famine and deliberate deprivation of basic services, including access to clean water and sanitation services, and contending with lack of adequate fuel supplies, which in Gaza is desperately needed to power hospitals, purify water and process food. The death toll continues to rise, with over 28,000 people killed, a further 10,000 missing under the rubble, and nearly 68,000 wounded, thousands of whom have been left with permanent disabilities. Over 1.7 million Palestinians, more than 85% of Gaza's population, have been internally displaced at least once; 2.2 million people are facing imminent risk of famine; infectious diseases are becoming increasingly prevalent due to successive waves of mass displacement, overcrowding and lack of clean water and adequate hygiene. Supplies of humanitarian aid are scarce and woefully insufficient, particularly to the many in catastrophic need in northern Gaza.

Restricting the delivery of essential humanitarian aid and the ongoing attacks on hospitals are not only a violation of the provisional measures that the ICJ ordered Israel to take; they also constitute a breach of Israel's legal obligations, as the occupying power, under international humanitarian law. In light of the real and imminent risk of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza and to prevent the deterioration of the humanitarian catastrophe even further, I urge the State of Israel to comply with the ICJ ruling and to take immediate and effective steps to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian and medical aid across the entire Gaza Strip as required by international law.

Yours sincerely,

«First» «Last»

cc: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Jerusalem