

Open Letter to Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos

Dear President Santos

We, the undersigned, are writing to add our support to the international campaign for the release from prison of Colombian academic Dr Miguel Angel Beltran. He has now been detained for more than 22 months in La Picota Prison, Bogota, without being convicted of any crime.

Dr Beltran is accused of 'rebellion' and has been falsely branded a terrorist by the Colombian state.

We know that Dr Beltran's academic work was critical of the Colombian regime, and it appears that like so many in Colombia, he has been jailed in order to silence him and discourage others like him from speaking out.

We believe that critical thought and freedom of expression are crucial to any truly democratic society, however Dr Beltran's ongoing detention demonstrates that in Colombia these are treated as criminal.

The large number of political prisoners that continue to be held in Colombia's jails - be they academics, trade unionists, community leaders or other civil society activists - belies claims that your government is committed to improving human rights.

We therefore urge you to release Dr Beltran immediately and put an end to this shameful situation without delay.

Yours sincerely

Professor Sir Richard Roberts, Nobel Prize Winner
Professor Sir John Ball, Sedleian Professor of Natural Philosophy, University of Oxford
Lady Ruth Lister CBE, Social Sciences, Loughborough University
Professor Edward Acton, Vice Chancellor, University of East Anglia
Sally Hunt, General Secretary, University and College Union
Mr Grahame McCulloch, General Secretary, National Tertiary Education Union Australia
Alan Whitaker, President, University and College Union
Terry Hoad, Vice President, University and College Union

Professor Christine MacLeod University of Bristol
Professor Eric Matthews University of Aberdeen
Professor Stephen Stradling Edinburgh Napier University
Professor Isabel Murray University of Aberdeen
Professor Chris Eilbeck Heriot-Watt University
Professor Rosemary Sales Middlesex University
Professor Elisabeth Lillie University of Ulster
Professor Ian Cook Liverpool John Moores University
Professor Bruce Wood Bangor University
Professor Lisa Tickner Middlesex University
Professor Stephen Clark University of Liverpool
Professor Michael Page University of Portsmouth
Professor Jonathan Rosenhead London School of Economics
Professor Jonathan White University of Essex
Professor Alan Barnard University of Edinburgh
Professor Adrian Bagust University of Liverpool
Professor Anna Gruetzner Robins University of Reading
Professor Anne Richards Birkbeck College
Professor Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos University of Westminster
Professor Bridget Fowler University of Glasgow
Professor Ian Inkster Nottingham Trent University
Professor Alfonso Molina The University of Edinburgh
Professor Anthony Phelan University of Oxford
Professor Andrew Knapp University of Reading
Professor Christine Gray University of Cambridge
Professor Michael Clague University of Liverpool
Professor Ann Phoenix Institute of Education, University of London
Professor Claran Driver Imperial College London
Professor Catherine Poo University of Southampton
Professor David Pece University of Teesside
Professor Ellen Annandale University of Leicester
Professor Chris Atkin Liverpool John Moores University
Professor Dora Kostakopoulou University of Manchester
Professor Brian Walker Queen's University Belfast
Professor Frances Gotch Imperial College London
Professor Chris Walsh University of Chester
Professor Ewa Dabrowska Northumbria University
Professor John Barrill University of York
Professor Ernest Rutter University of Manchester
Professor Helen Beebee University of Birmingham
Professor Ad Putter University of Bristol
Professor Eric Olson University of Sheffield
Professor Engelbert Stocker Kingston University
Professor Professor Robin Attfield Cardiff University
Professor Helen Gilbert Royal Holloway, University of London
Professor Gabriella Giannachi Exeter University
Professor Charlie Lewis Lancaster University
Professor Hermann J Muller Birkbeck, University of London
Professor Hannah Barker University of Manchester
Professor Chandak Sengoopta Royal Holloway, University of London
Professor Michael Bowker Cardiff University
Professor Helen Graham Royal Holloway, University of London
Professor John Harding University of Sheffield
Professor Carol Thomas Lancaster University
Professor Gavin Bremner Lancaster University
Professor Guy Halsall University of York
Professor Jose Esteban Castro Newcastle University
Professor Clive Upton University of Leeds
Professor John Dunne University of the West of England
Professor Jean Boas-Bear University of East Anglia
Professor David Rand University of Warwick
Professor Andy Hone University of Kent
Professor Chris Flood University of Surrey
Professor Graham Mori Lancaster University
Professor Colin Brooks Newcastle University
Professor Henry Maddies University of the West of Scotland
Professor Lucy Suchman Lancaster University
Professor Dr David W Chadwick University of Kent
Professor Iain Sutcliffe Northumbria University
Professor Julian Williams The University of Manchester
Professor Ali Tazirani Middlesex University
Professor Malcolm Povey University of Leeds
Professor Eve Rosenhaft University of Liverpool
Professor KENNEDY GREGG Newcastle University
Professor Alan Morgan University of Liverpool
Professor Greville Corbett University of Surrey
Professor Mike Theobald University of Wolverhampton
Professor Charles Eadale University of Liverpool
Professor Mark Hobart SOAS, University of London
Professor Gareth Gaskell University of York
Professor Michael Rowlinson Queen Mary's University of London
Professor Meg Wagnur King's College London
Professor Mary McMullan University of Nottingham
Professor Mona Baker University of Manchester
Professor Dorothy Edgington Birkbeck, University of London
Professor Laurie Loughborough University
Professor Geoff Hall Imperial College London
Professor Geraldine McNeill University of Aberdeen
Professor Moira Vincetelli Aberystwyth University
Professor Les Hatton Kingston University
Professor Paschal Sheeran University of Sheffield
Professor Mike Michael Goldsmiths, University of London
Professor Owen Daniels University of Hertfordshire
Professor Mark Broom City University
Professor Maureen Freely University of Warwick

Professor Martyn Hammersley The Open University
Professor Jim Poster Aberystwyth University
Professor Elizabeth Archibald University of Bristol
Professor Bernard Harris University of Southampton
Professor Philipp Schofield Aberystwyth University
Professor Peter Cominos Bournemouth University
Professor Raphael Rouquier University of Oxford
Professor Rachel Gibson University of Manchester
Professor Richard Wooley University of Nottingham
Professor Piers Hellawell The Queen's University of Belfast
Professor Ronnie Lippens Keele University
Professor Paul Busch University of York
Professor XU Jing Peking University
Professor Susan Reid University of Sheffield
Professor Liz Todd Newcastle University
Professor Susan Michie University College London
Professor Farzad Khosrowshahi Salford University
Professor Richard Healey University of Portsmouth
Professor Javier Guitian The Royal Veterinary College
Professor Ian Inkster Nottingham Trent University
Professor Bob Jessop Lancaster University
Professor Steve Tombs John Moores University
Professor Lorna Hutson University of St Andrews
Professor Tony Cass Imperial College London
Professor John Williford The Open University
Professor Richard Outward Newcastle University
Professor Simon Thompsson University of Kent
Professor Laura Mulvey Birkbeck, University of London
Professor Steve Gill University of Cardiff
Professor Emma Cery University of Southampton
Professor Vicky Lebaron University of Cambridge
Professor Gregory R. Maio Cardiff University
Professor Jenny Hamilton University of London
Professor Patrick Williams Nottingham Trent University
Professor Simon McQueen-Mason University of York
Professor Greg Woolf University of St Andrews
Professor Sigmund G Baranski University of Cambridge
Professor Colin Manchester University of Warwick
Professor Duncan Lewis University of Plymouth
Professor Michael Murray Keele University
Professor Matthew Humphreys Kingston University
Professor David Adam Kingston University
Professor Mark Mon-Williams Leeds University
Professor Catherine Wang Royal Holloway, University of London
Professor Ursula Lucas University of the West of England
Professor Roland Gehrels University of Plymouth
Professor Maurice Whitehead Swansea University
Professor Richard Day University of Leeds
Professor John Newinger Bath Spa University
Professor Thomas Collett University of Sussex
Professor Michael Keating University of Aberdeen
Professor Raphael Cohen-Almagor University of Hull
Professor Stephen Howkins University of Nottingham
Professor Chaz Lawson Queen Mary University of London
Professor John J McGavin University of Southampton
Professor Anand Pillay University of Leeds
Professor Bill Overton Loughborough University
Professor Mary Cotter University of Aberdeen
Professor Roger Smith De Montfort University
Professor Nicholas Till University of Sussex
Professor Kimberly Hutchings London School of Economics
Professor Sharon Gewirtz King's College London
Professor Pauline Maclaran Royal Holloway, University of London
Professor Richard Williams University of Liverpool
Professor Neil Lazarus University of Warwick
Professor Nina Biehle University of York
Professor Philip Moriarty University of Nottingham
Professor Kirsten Stalker University of Strathclyde
Professor Julian Killingley Birmingham City University
Professor Katrin Kohli University of Sussex
Professor Gabrielle Hawksworth University of Aberdeen
Professor Thomas O'Malley Aberystwyth University
Professor Christopher Smyth University of Edinburgh
Professor Paul Rogers University of Glamorgan
Professor Ann Blandford University College London
Professor Max Silvestro University of Leeds
Professor Z Ghassemloo Northumbria University
Professor T. Welton Imperial College London
Professor Wendy Holloway Open University
Professor Michael Billing Loughborough University
Professor Gwyn Williams Keele University
Professor Yvonne Rydin University College London
Professor Claire Kilpatrick European University Institute
Professor Ibrahim Sirkeci Regent's College
Professor Henrik J Jensen Imperial College London
Professor William Martin University of Glasgow
Professor Mark Silvester Oxford University
Professor N.L. Simmons University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Professor Valerie Fraser University of Essex
Professor John Loughlin Newcastle University
Professor Mark Bell University of Leicester
Professor John Moran University of Southampton
Professor Waltraud Ernst Oxford Brookes University
Professor Leslie Smith University of Stirling

Professor Robin Fiddian University of Oxford
Professor G Brenton Swansea University
Professor Kees van der Pijl University of Sussex
Professor Suman Gupta The Open University
Professor Vivian Gardner University of Manchester
Professor Malcolm Heggie University of Sussex
Professor Neil Mercer University of Cambridge
Professor Rosalind Edwards University of Southampton
Professor Peter L. Day University of Leeds
Professor Stan Heptinstall University of Nottingham
Professor David Mond University of Warwick
Professor Odette Parry Glynwdr University
Professor Keith Reader University of Glasgow
Professor Michael Cleary University of Sussex
Professor Richard Bonnat Middlesex University
Professor Stan Heptinstall University of Nottingham
Professor Odette Parry Glynwdr University
Professor Keith Reader University of Glasgow
Professor John Shaw-Taylor University of Sheffield
Professor Stephen Dixon Manchester Metropolitan University
Professor John Shaw-Taylor University of Sheffield
Professor Stephen Nugent Goldsmiths, University of London
Professor Laurence Goldstein University of Kent
Professor Peter Hampson University of the West of England
Professor Tim May University of Salford
Professor Linda M Kirkham Robert Gordon University
Professor Brian L Day University of London
Professor Rob Bryer Warwick University
Professor Peter Coleman University of Southampton
Professor Barbara McPake Queen Margaret University
Professor Simon Ross Durham University
Professor Lucy Wyatt University of Sheffield
Professor Dany Scattolon University of Edinburgh
Professor Matthew Kieran University of Leeds
Professor Nick Hewlett University of Warwick
Professor Richard Challis University of Nottingham
Professor Alison Phipps University of Glasgow
Professor Brian L Day University of London
Professor Hector Iacovides University of Manchester
Professor Paul Cooke University of Leeds
Professor Susan Pyne University of Strathclyde
Professor Carole Fruman University of Bolton
Professor Richard Baines University of Manchester
Professor Brian T Sutcliffe Universite Libre de Bruxelles
Professor Ian Derjeet Parmar University of Manchester
Professor Susanne Kord University College London
Professor Marcus Giacominto University College London
Professor Scott Poynting Manchester Metropolitan University
Professor Alan Croft University of London
Professor Simon Wheeler University of Glasgow
Professor David Applebaum University of Sheffield
Professor Raphael Salkie University of Brighton
Professor Jennifer Birkett University of Birmingham
Professor Pauline Croft University of London
Professor John McManus York St John University
Professor Malcolm Cowburn Sheffield Hallam University
Professor Ailsa Land London School of Economics
Professor Anthony Carbery University of Edinburgh
Professor Roger Marsh University of York
Professor Susan Broadhurst Brunel University
Professor Karl Figlio University of Essex
Professor Colin Viner University of Birmingham
Professor Noel Burton-Roberts Newcastle University
Professor Jutta Weides University of Bristol
Professor Sonia McKay London Metropolitan University
Professor Richard Baines University of Manchester
Professor Nigel Thomas University of Central Lancashire
Professor Naz Rassoul University of Reading
Professor Jenny Cheshire Queen Mary University of London
Professor Mary Thorpe The Open University
Professor Terry Tetley Imperial College London
Professor Peter Thomas University of John Moores University
Professor John Roe University of York
Professor Marek Zvelebil Sheffield University
Professor Simon Harrison University of Ulster
Professor James E. Montgomery University of Cambridge
Professor Alister Burr University of York
Professor I Mhairi Macrae University of Glasgow
Professor David Margolies Goldsmiths, University of London
Professor Donald Filtzer University of East London
Professor Richard McGregor University of Cumbria
Professor Rhys Jenkins University of East Anglia
Professor Maureen McNeil Lancaster University
Professor David Inglis University of Aberdeen
Professor John Jowett University of Birmingham
Professor Ian Silittle University of Wolverhampton
Professor Christine Hallett University of Manchester
Professor Gary Thomas University of Birmingham
Professor Stanley University of Reading
Professor Gregory Philo Glasgow University

Professor Rob Gray University of St Andrews
Professor Niall A Logan Glasgow Caledonian University
Professor Daniel Wight Medical Research Council
Professor Alan Sokal University College London
Professor Robert Newcombe Cardiff University
Professor John Schad University of Lancaster
Professor Michal Lyons London South Bank University
Professor Jean La Fontaine London School of Economics
Professor David Clarke Newcastle University
Professor Carole Leathwood London Metropolitan University
Professor Stuart Macdonald Sheffield University
Professor Jonathan Gregory University of Reading
Professor R West University College London
Professor David B. Clarke Swansea University
Professor Sigmund Wagner-Tsukamoto University of Leicester
Professor Catherine O'Donnell University of Glasgow
Professor David Downes London School of Economics
Professor Mimma D'Amazia University of East Anglia
Professor Magnus Ratnayake University of Sheffield
Professor Andrew Sayer Lancaster University
Professor Joanna Woodall The Courtauld Institute of Art
Professor Luke Martell University of Sussex
Professor Lindsay Lancaster University
Professor Gesine Reinert University of Oxford
Professor Eric Cross Newcastle University
Professor Richard Jackson Aberystwyth University
Professor Heather Joshi University of Leeds
Professor Jim Howie Heriot-Watt University
Professor Jean Besson Goldsmiths, University of London
Professor Karen O'Reilly Loughborough University
Professor Helen Hackett University College London
Professor Daniel Karlin University of Bristol
Professor Richard Egglese Lancaster University
Professor Chris Berry Goldsmiths, University of London
Professor Peter Hallward King's University
Professor CR Thomas University of Birmingham
Professor Julian Stallabrass Courtauld Institute of Art
Professor Ray Bush University of Leeds
Professor Vic Grout Glynwdr University
Professor Andrew Williams University of Warwick
Professor Carole-Anne Upton University of Ulster
Professor John Barrett University of Nottingham
Professor John O'Neill Manchester University
Professor John Gledhill The University of Manchester
Professor Rajmil Fischman Keele University
Professor Ros King University of Southampton
Professor Andrew Gilbert University of Exeter
Professor Stephen Nugent Goldsmiths, University of London
Professor Steven French University of Exeter
Professor Mark Cowling Teesside University
Professor Nicky Britten University of Exeter
Professor Huw Pryce Bangor University
Professor Malcolm Barber University of Reading
Professor Andy Panaluna Swansea Metropolitan University
Professor Ifor Samuel University of St Andrews
Professor Anthony McFarlane University of Warwick
Professor Phillip Lawler Swansea University
Professor Carla Willig City University
Professor Joyce Canaan Birmingham City University
Professor Gareth Morgan Sheffield Hallam University
Professor Anthony Hozier Rose Bruford College
Professor Richard Westreich Royal Northern College of Music
Professor Charis Thompson University of California
Professor Emile L Bergmann University of California
Professor D. Allen Sheffield Hallam University
Professor Christopher J. Green Loughborough University
Professor Michael Shaw University of Reading
Professor Ian Duncan University of California
Professor Gobet Brunel University London
Professor SUSAN WALDRON University of Glasgow
Professor Daniela Acker Brunel University
Professor Stephen Church University of East Anglia
Professor Martin Hooper University of Edinburgh
Professor Henrik Thun Stockholm University
Professor Mary Davis Aston University
Professor Gen Day De Montfort University
Professor Ben Rampton King's College London
Professor Ewan Ferrie University of Birmingham
Professor Fiona Leach University College London
Professor Graeme University of Chester
Professor Sylvia Harvey University of Leeds
Professor Alex Miller University of Birmingham
Professor Gemma Moss Institute of Education, University of London
Professor Robin Attfield Cardiff University
Professor Yosefa Loshitzky University of East London
Professor Kirsten Stalker, University of Strathclyde
Professor Alan Sokal, University College London
Professor Jonathan Glover, King's College London
Professor Piers Hellawell, Queen's University Belfast

And more than 4,000 other international academics.

(Full list available from [en http://www.ucu.org.uk/Beltranopenletter](http://www.ucu.org.uk/Beltranopenletter))