

Ambassador Mauricio Rodriguez
Embassy of Colombia to the United Kingdom
3 Hans Crescent
London SW1X OLN

28th September 2011

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing in relation to the case of Colombian human rights defender Mr. Carmelo Agamez, arrested on 13th November 2008 on accusations of “conspiracy to commit a crime” and detained for 34 months in Sincelejo Prison, Sucre, without being convicted of any crime.

I understand that on 26th September 2011, Mr. Agamez was released from prison, although the legal case against him continues. While I welcome his long-awaited freedom, I continue to have severe concerns about his security situation.

First, I know that prior to his arrest, Carmelo played a leading role in publically denouncing human rights abuses by paramilitaries and worked to expose their links with members of the Sucre regional government. These groups continue to have a presence in the region, and many of Mr. Agamez’s colleagues who also helped to denounce the abuses have since been threatened and assassinated.

I am also aware of several other cases where human rights defenders, trade unionists and other members of civil society opposition have been released from prison, only to be assassinated shortly afterwards. I am thus extremely concerned for the safety of Mr. Agamez and urge the Colombian authorities to do their utmost to ensure that his life and security are protected.

I will continue to follow his case throughout this difficult time, and hope that this fundamental right is guaranteed. I will also continue to follow his legal process and hope that it will be both fair and independent.

I look forward to progress in this matter.

Yours sincerely,