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OIDH-ACO

**International Office for Human Rights Acción Colombia, ODHACO
and Colombia – Europe – United States Human Rights Network, CCEEU**

with the support of Members of the European Parliament

**Jens HOLM, (Conf. Group of the European United Left/ Nordic Green Left - GUE/NGL),
Raúl ROMEVA, (Group of The Greens – European Free Alliance- EFA),
Richard HOWITT, (Socialist Group in the European Parliament - PSE)
Josú ORTUONDO LARREA, (Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe-
ADLE)**

**invite you to
The Second International Conference on
Human Rights in Colombia
European Parliament, Brussels, the 17th and 18th of April, 2007**

Introduction

In Colombia, violations to human rights and humanitarian law continue to be serious, generalized and systematic and affect mainly the civil population. As the internal armed conflict persists so does the almost absolute impunity of the serious crimes perpetrated by state agents, paramilitary and guerrilla groups. Furthermore, the measures adopted by the Colombian State favor impunity rather than combating it. It is in this context that negotiations with paramilitary groups take place, benefiting them with a legal framework that does not comply with international standards that protect and aim to make effective the right to truth, justice and reparation for the victims.

It is becoming more and more evident that the historical links between the paramilitary and State agents have infiltrated the State structures at very high levels. In the same manner, paramilitary groups, directly responsible for the forced displacement of millions of Colombians from their lands, still have control over diverse and important economic activities and continue to usufruct assets seized through force.

All the armed groups are responsible for serious infringements of humanitarian law. In particular, guerrilla groups continue to kidnap, especially those men and women active in Colombian political

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life. A negotiated solution to the internal armed conflict is urgent and must be made a priority to the national and international agenda. While this possibility is being constructed, it is urgent that the combating groups reach humanitarian agreements aiming to exclude the civil population from hostilities.

The international community and, in particular, the European Union, its Member States and the United Nations – have been vigilant to the development of the human rights and humanitarian law situation in Colombia. In this sense, they have manifested numerous concerns and offered cooperation to overcome the situation through specific policies towards Colombia. As a result of those concerns and the offers for cooperation, in November 1996, the international community decided to establish the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Office in Colombia (OHCHR). The OHCHR in Colombia and other international human rights mechanisms have made multiple recommendations to the Colombian State and the other armed actors. Those recommendations, for the most part, have not been complied.

In February 1995 the European Parliament held the First International Conference on Human Rights in Colombia. Twelve years later, the Second International Conference on Human Rights in Colombia will take place at the European Parliament in Brussels, on the 17th and 18th of April, 2007.

General objectives

- a) To take stock of the human rights and humanitarian law situation serving as a guide for formulating strategies and policies that will contribute to overcoming the serious social and political crisis faced by Colombian society; and,
- b) To create awareness in the international community to continue to achieve peace and democracy in Colombia.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

OPENING: Tuesday 17 April
Room: 1G3
European Parliament

18:30 – 20:00 Welcome

- **Francis Wurtz**, MEP, President of the Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left - GUE/NGL
- **Claudio Fava**, MEP, Vice president of the European Parliament – PSE (tbc)
- **Christine Schwarz**, ODH-ACO - kolko
- **Hélène Flautre**, Chairwoman Subcommittee on Human Rights, European Parliament-Greens - EFA
- **Richard Howitt**, MEP, Vice-Chairman Subcommittee on Human Rights, European Parliament - PSE
- **Josu Ortuondo Larrea**, MEP ([Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe-ADLE](#))
- **Iván CEPEDA**, National Movement of Victims of State Crimes.

20:00-21:00 Jesús Abad Colorado Photo Exhibition and Reception

Opening : Raúl Romeva i Rueda MEP, and Luis Guillermo Pérez, FIDH,
Bar Space
ASP Building 3rd floor
European Parliament

CONFERENCE

Wednesday 18 April
9:00h -12:45h
Room: 1G3
European Parliament

9:00 – 10:30 CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO OVERCOMING THE HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS

President of the Panel: Gay Mitchell, MEP, Group of the European People's Party (PPE-DE) (tbc)

Chair: François Houtart, Emeritus Professor of the Catholic University of Louvain and president of the Tricontinental Center of Louvain-la-Neuve.

Reporter: Søren Stecher-Rasmussen, ODHACO- Oxfam Solidarité.

- **María Francisca Ize-Charrin**, Director of the Operation, Programmes and Research Division, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Richard Howitt** MEP, Vice-Chairman Subcommittee on Human Rights, European Parliament -PSE
- **Janek Jean Kuczkiewicz**, Director Human and Trade Union Rights, International Trade Union Confederation - ITUC

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- **Santiago Canton**, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- **Susan Lee**, Amnesty International representative

10:30 -11:00 Questions

11.00 – 11.15 Break

11:15 – 12:15 HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

President of the Panel: Member of the European Parliament, Proinsas DE ROSSA Socialist Group in the European Parliament– PSE.

Chair: Jimena Demougin Reyes, ODHACO - FIDH

Report: Plataforma DESC delegate

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- **Vittorio Agnoletto**, MEP, (Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left - GUE/NGL).
- **Carlos Gaviria**, President of the Polo Democrático Alternativo.
- **Victor Rico**, Organisation of American States
- **José Girón**, Colombia – Europe – United States Human Rights Network, CCEEU

12.15 – 12.45 Questions

12:45 – 14:00 Break Lunch and transfer to Residence Palace

<p>14:00 – 18: 00 Residence Palace Rue de la Loi 155, 1040 Bxl Sala POLAK</p>
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14:00 – 15:15 POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE ARMED CONFLICT

President of the Panel: Willy Meyer-Pleite, MEP-GUE/NGL, Vice president of EUROLAT

Chair: APSCP delegate

Reporter: Alianza delegate

- **His Excellency Amabassador of Colombia to EU**
- **Msgr. Héctor Fabio Henao**, Colombian Church, President and Director of the Catholic National Secretariat for Social Ministry.
- **Raül Romeva i Rueda**, MEP, (Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance-EFA).
- **Javier Sandomingo***, General Director Foreign Affairs for Iberoamérica
- **Marlene Orjuela**, ASFAMIPAZ

15:15 -15:45 Questions

15:45 – 16:15 Break.

16:15 – 17:15 CHALLENGES OF EUROPEAN POLICIES TOWARDS COLOMBIA

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President of the Panel: Member of the European Parliament, Alain Lipietz (Group of the Greens /ALE)

Chair: Alianza delegate or CBC

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- **Jens Holm**, MEP, (Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left - GUE/NGL)
- **Calixto Avila Rincón**, ODHACO representative
- Colombian organizations / Movements, Plataforma DESC and Alianza representative

17:15 -17:45 Questions

17.45 – 18.30 CLOSING EVENT

- **Jens Holm**, MEP, Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left - GUE/NGL)
- **Alain Lipietz**, MEP (Group of The Greens – European Free Alliance- Greens/EFA), Chairman of the Delegation for relations with the countries of the Andean Community
- **Ana Maria Gomez**, MEP, Socialist Group in the European Parliament– PSE
- CCEEU delegate
- **Alessandra Aula**, ODHACO delegate

* Pending Confirmation

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