Juan Fernando Cristo Minister of Interior Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Colombia Carrera 8 No. 7 – 83 Bogotá DC, Colombia

Dear Mr. Minister,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the **safety and the security of the members of civil society organisations and communities at the Magdalena Medio** region of Colombia. In particular the *Corporación Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* – CREDHOS, and the *Federación de Pescadores Artesanales Ambientalistas y Turísticos del Departamento de Santander* – FEDEPESAN, located in Barrancabermeja.

CREDHOS announced publicly that written threats were received on 30 October 2024 under the name of the *Ejército Gaitanista de Colombia* (EGC), threatening CREDHOS, FEDEPESAN and other civil society organisations. On January 1st 2025 another threat against CREDHOS was received.

There have been many other **threats that the community have received** during recent months:-

* ***Declared the community a “military objective”***
* ***Stigmatizing them as collaborators with other armed groups***
* ***Attempting to force them to leave the area.***

CREDHOS documented during October and November 2024 that people in the rural areas of Magdalena Medio have heard about plans of the EGC to attack CREDHOS president Iván Madero.

For years, Amnesty International has documented the human rights defence work and the risks faced by CREDHOS and FEDEPESAN. Their members continue to be attacked for defending the rights of the communities of Magdalena Medio.

**I call on you and the Colombian state to guarantee the protection of the civil society organisations, such as CREDHOS and FEDEPESAN, and the communities of the Magdalena Medio region They are under persistent threat. Please implement the various decrees that require you to protect human rights defenders.**

Yours sincerely,