



**Parliamentarians for Global Action**  
**Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios**  
**Action Mondiale des Parlementaires**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **PGA DEPLORES DEATH THREAT AGAINST COLOMBIAN MP AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER**

*The Hague/New York/Bogota February 7 2014:* Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) expresses its deep concern and condemnation of the death threats against Rep. Ivan Cepeda, a well respected Colombian parliamentarian and human rights defender, as well as against Bogota Mayor Gustavo Petro and human rights defender Dr. Alirio Uribe Muñoz.

In addition, PGA deplores the information received regarding the "Andromeda operation" which allowed illegal interceptions of communications of Rep. Ivan Cepeda along with several persons involved in the Colombian peace negotiations taking place in Cuba between the government and the FARC. These alleged activities constitute a threat to the peace process which needs to be embraced by all actors in order for it to be stable and durable as recognised by the participants in the PGA Annual Forum, held on 9-10 December 2013 in the Parliament of Colombia (<http://www.pgaction.org/activity/2013/annual-forum.html>).

We call upon relevant Colombian authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure the security and protection of Rep. Ivan Cepeda, and of human rights defenders in general, according to their international and national obligations. We also call upon the Fiscal General de la Nacion (Attorney General) Mr. Lynett to immediately investigate and prosecute the authors of the death threat against Rep. Ivan Cepeda and of the illegal interceptions of his communications.

Death threats to human rights defenders--and in particular to parliamentarians who are democratically-elected representatives of the people--are a threat to freedom and democracy that must be vigorously rejected by all and treated with the utmost urgency by national authorities.

PGA stands in solidarity with Rep. Ivan Cepeda and his family, and reiterates its strong support to the peace process in Colombia as well as to the people and the representatives of the democratic institutions of Colombia.

On behalf of the PGA Executive Committee,

**Mr. Ross Robertson**, MP - Deputy Speaker (New Zealand), President of PGA

**Ms. Minou Tavaréz Mirabal**, MP, Chair of the International Council

### **About PGA**

*Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is the largest transnational network of Members of Parliaments from all regions of the world who, in their individual capacity, support the effective operation of the ICC and domestic jurisdictions to end impunity.*

*Members of PGA have contributed to 76 of the 122 ratifications of, or accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to date, including the one of Chad. PGA is a member of the Steering Committee of the Coalition for the ICC. The PGA Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute system receives support from*

*the European Commission, European Union and the Governments of The Netherlands, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, as well as from Humanity United.*

*The PGA Complementarity Project in DRC, Uganda and Kenya is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.*

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On-line access to PGA ICC Campaign:

<http://www.pgaction.org/countries/americas/colombia.html>

<http://www.pgaction.org/programmes/ilhr/overview.html>

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