

Mr. Daniel Palacios Martínez  
Minister of the Interior  
Carrera 8 No. 7 – 83. Bogotá, D.C.  
Código Postal: 111711  
Colombia

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, April 2022

Dear Mr. Palacios Martínez,

I am writing to express my concern for the safety of human rights defenders in the region of Magdalena Medio. In recent weeks, members of the Santander Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS), as well as allied organizations such as the Committee for the Defence of Water, Life and Territory (AGUAWIL), have been subject to multiple threats to their lives.

On February 7 2022, a local paramilitary group circulated a pamphlet calling human rights defenders of CREDHOS and AGUAWIL military targets and giving them and their families 48 hours to leave the area or face the consequences. Ten days later, on February 17, 21-year-old environmental defender Yuvelis Natalia Morales from Magdalena Medio, was forced to flee Colombia, after her home was broken into.

I urge you to convene an urgent dialogue with the relevant state institutions and civil society organisations to discuss the protection of human rights defenders in the area and implement a protection plan to ensure their safety.

I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,