**Abs: Ort, Datum:**

**An:**

Daniel Palacios Martínez

Minister of the Interior

Calle 12 No. 8 – 43

Bogotá, D.C.

KOLUMBIEN

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express concern for the safety of the members of FEDESPAN, an organization committed to the defence, promotion, and protection of human rights and the environment in the Magdalena medio region in Colombia.

On May 31st, four of its members (one accompanied by a security escort due to mounting security concerns in the region) were victims of an attack with firearms when they were in one of their motor-canoes carrying out monitoring work on environmental effects. The attack happened in the river section where the Rosario, Palotal and San Silvestre canyon interconnect, in the city of Barrancabermeja.

We call on the Colombian Government to live up to its 2009 commitment on implementing the Roundtable on Guarantee of Human Rights and effectively provide protection to Territory, Land, and environmental defenders in the region.

Yours sincerely,