Rev. Daniel Berrigan S.J. Activist, Writer, Poet

Larry Birns

The Council on Hemishperic Affairs

Blase Bonpane

The Office of the Americas

Fr. Roy Bourgeois

School of the Americas Watch

Noam Chomsky

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Kristin Dawkins

Institute for Agricultural and Trade policies

Rev. John Dear S.J. Activist and Writer

Kathleen Falk

Dane County Executive

Al Gedicks

University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse

Daniel Gomez-Ibanez

The Peace Council

Rev. Thomas GumbletonAuxiliary Bishop of Detriot

Edward Herman

Activist and Writer

Robert McChesney

University of Illinois

Daniel Kovalik

United Steele Workers

Mark Pocan

Wisconsin Legislature

Mark Sherman

Lawyer

Howard Zinn

Activist and Writer



April 2007

Dear Friend:

For some time I have been very concerned about the violence in Colombia, where more than 3,000 people are murdered for political reasons each year and where more than 3.6 million people have been displaced, forced out of their homes and off their lands principally by illegal paramilitary forces which also engage in drug-trafficking. Recent revelations have shown collaboration by units of the Colombian military with these paramilitary forces, and even ties between Colombian Congressmen close to President Alvaro Uribe and the paramilitaries.

We need to pay more attention to Colombia. And we need to know what the U.S. Government's policy toward Colombia has been, so that we can raise our voices to those who represent us in Congress and let them know we want a humane, constructive policy toward Colombia.

The best way I know of to pursue these goals is to support the work of the Colombia Support Network (CSN), on whose advisory council I have been pleased to serve for several years. This year CSN turns 20 years old. For the last two decades CSN has brought the reality of Colombia to audiences throughout this country. It has formed sister community relationships between U.S. communities and towns in Colombia which have suffered from the country's conflict. These sister relationships place a human face for us on the suffering that Colombians have endured, and the delegations which CSN takes to sister communities help us learn the impact of policies promoted by our own government upon poor, voiceless Colombians. CSN's fact-finding delegations have also helped us to learn first hand the reality of life in rural Colombia, and to measure our own government's responsibility for policies, such as coca crop-spraying and an emphasis on military support, which have actually worsened the suffering of the common man, woman and child in Colombia.

CSN's web page, which began years ago as the first of its kind on Colombia, brings us current information and analysis, due to the extraordinary efforts of some 30 volunteer translators. Its quarterly newsletter, *Action on Colombia*, provides insightful reports of sister community activities. And CSN's vital efforts to provide members of the U.S. Congress with current, reliable information on Colombia are an extraordinary resource.

All of these activities require funds to carry them out. So I ask that you join me in supporting the continued work of CSN by sending in a generous contribution today.

Colombia Support Network

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Howard Zinn

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