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Wisconsin Legislature

Organizations listed for
identification purposes only

May 30, 2014

General John F. Kelly
Commander, United States Southern Command
9301 NW 33rd Street
Miami, FL 33172

Dear General Kelly:

I write to you on behalf of the Colombia Support Network (CSN), an organization based in the United States working for peace in Colombia. An important part of our work is to take delegations from the United States to meet with government officials to discuss important governmental initiatives and how they may affect the Colombian communities with which we have established relationships. These visits to Colombia can make our efforts more effective in this country, where we seek to promote a just and beneficial foreign policy toward Colombia.

Earlier this month we at CSN learned of intercepting of messages by a "hacker" in Colombia by the name of Andres Fernando Sepulveda Ardila. According to a report in the Colombian newsmagazine "Semana" dated May 16, Mr. Sepulveda indicated that he had access to the Southern Command of the United States Armed Forces, as well as information collected by U.S. military intelligence-gathering AWACS planes. He also said that he was privy to information from the United States military concerning the whereabouts and illness of the leader of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, or FARC, known as Timochenko. Mr. Sepulveda said the AWACS planes "monitor their (the FARC's) communications." Colombian Attorney General Eduardo Montealegre has indicated that Mr. Sepulveda bought information from the members of the Colombian armed forces, making it available to the Presidential campaign of Oscar Ivan Zuluaga, a stand-in for former President Alvaro Uribe Velez, who is running against Colombia's current President, Juan Manuel Santos, who is seeking re-election for a second four-year term. Attorney General



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Montealegre also has suggested that Mr. Sepulveda may have "hacked" into private conversations of President Santos.

These revelations raise several questions in our minds concerning the role of the United State military in collecting information on the Peace Talks between the FARC guerrillas and the Santos Administration's representatives in Havana, Cuba, and in possibly sharing information with, or obtaining information from, "hacker" Sepulveda.

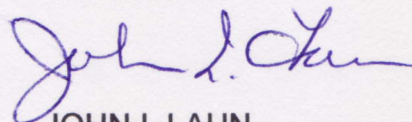
Several days ago you told a Congressional Committee that you will rely upon Colombian military trainers to train (in place of U.S. military forces) military officers of the Honduran and Guatemalan armies, among others, where, because of past atrocities, you suggested you could not send U.S. military trainers. As I expect you know, the Colombian military has long had a terrible human rights record, including collaboration with illegal paramilitary death squads and so-called "false positives", in which the Colombian military took in young men, murdered them and then falsely presented them as guerrillas killed in combat.

Given this long history of gross misconduct by Colombian military forces, how can you reasonably conclude that the U. S. should rely upon them as trainers?

We have for the past 27 years followed developments in Colombia through our organization, CSN. We have developed a sister community program which has given us a clear view of the abuses of the Colombian military and the courage and commitment to peace of Colombian sister communities throughout the country. Since our earliest years we have been privileged to have the interest and support of two members of the present United States Congress, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin and U.S. Representative Mark Pocan, both of whom have traveled to Colombia with us. We are therefore sharing our concerns expressed in this letter with them.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and we wish to thank you in advance for your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John I. Laun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

JOHN I. LAUN
President, CSN

Pc: Senator Tammy Baldwin
Representative Mark Pocan

JIL:llm