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Juan Fernando Cristo
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Colombia
Carrera 8 No. 7 - 83
Bogotá DC
Colombia

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Dear Mr. Minister,

**I am writing to express my deep concern with risk faced to the life, the safety and the security of the members of civil society organisations and communities at the Magdalena Medio region of Colombia, particularly the Corporación Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos – CREDHOS, and the Federación de Pescadores Artesanales Ambientalistas y Turísticos del Departamento de Santander – FEDEPESAN, located in Barrancabermeja.**

CREDHOS denounced publicly that written threats were publicly released on 30 October 2024 under the name of the Ejército Gaitanista de Colombia (EGC), threatening CREDHOS, FEDEPESAN and other civil society organisations. On January 1st 2025 another public threat against CREDHOS was known. This follows many other threats received during the last months, declaring them a «military objective», stigmatizing them as collaborators with other armed groups and trying to force them to leave the area. CREDHOS has also denounced the harm caused to entire communities of Magdalena Medio, as the one of San Lorenzo, in the municipality of Cantagallo, Bolivar department, where the EGC threatened the entire local community assembly to put it under its control and forced the displacement of several families. CREDHOS documented during October and November that people in the rural areas of Magdalena Medio have heard about plans of the EGC to attack CREDHOS president Iván Madero.

For years, Amnesty International has documented the human rights defence work and the risk situation of CREDHOS and FEDEPESAN. Their members continue to be attacked for defending the rights of the communities of Magdalena Medio, and the state's response remains insufficient.

**I urge you to exercise the utmost diligence in effectively fulfilling the Ministry of Interior’s duty to implement the decrees 2078 of 2017 and 660 of 2018, in so far as they require you and other authorities to protect human rights defenders trough mechanisms of prevention and collective protection, and to guarantee the safety of organisations such as CREDHOS and FEDEPESAN, in the context of persistent threats against members of civil society organisations and communities in the Magdalena Medio region.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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