



Invitation to the launch of mission reports

COLOMBIA: HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS REMAIN UNDER THREAT

Whereas on July 4, 2012, an EU-Colombia dialogue on human rights will take place, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Right Defenders, a joint program of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), together with the International campaign for human rights defenders in Colombia and the International Office for Human Rights – Action Colombia (Oidhaco) are happy to invite you to the launch of their mission reports.

**Venue: Residence Palace,
International Press Centre
Rue de la Loi 155 C
The Passage**

Tuesday 3rd of July, 11.am

Speakers:

Eric Sottas, former Secretary General of OMCT
Fabian Oyaga, *Instituto Latino Americano de Servicios Legales Alternativos (ILSA)*

Moderator: Jimena Reyes, FIDH

The speakers will be available for doorstep interviews following the launch

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Background

The mission organised by the International campaign for human rights defenders in Colombia took place in December 2011 and gathered 40 international human rights experts from civil society, lawyers and parliamentarians, and visited eight different regions of Colombia. The report brings together local and international knowledge to present a global picture of the situation of human rights defenders in Colombia, with recommendations to national and international actors based on the findings of the field mission.

Additionally, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, which participated in the mission, prepared a report with a special focus, entitled "Insecurity for human rights defenders continue, in particular for leaders of displaced communities". It pays a particular focus on leaders of displaced communities, in the context of the land restitution process.

Information about the speakers:

Eric Sottas is the former Secretary General of the OMCT, a lifelong advocate for the international human rights movement with a particular knowledge of the human rights situation in Colombia.

Fabian Oyaga is a Colombian lawyer with the *Instituto Latino Americano de Servicios Legales Alternativos* (ILSA), and as a specialist in rural issues he is well placed to address the challenges facing human rights defenders in the Colombian regions.