



Mr. Juan Fernando Cristo
Minister of the Interior
Bogota, Colombia

May 31, 2016

Dear Minister Cristo,

Our organizations write to you today to inquire about the status of the Afro-Colombian and indigenous delegation to Havana, Cuba. The information we received is that such an exchange was going to take place on April 27-28 and that it was postponed. Given that the peace process is quickly advancing and that such a dialogue is absolutely necessary for guaranteeing a sustainable and durable peace in areas where ethnic minorities reside and have collective land titles, we again, urge that your government do its utmost to make this happen as soon as possible.

Lastly, we reiterate our ask that the groups that form part of the Ethnic Commission, as in the National Indigenous Organization (ONIC) and Afro-Colombian Peace Council (CONPA) are included in the invitation to Cuba.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Washington Office on Latin America
Gail Phares, Witness for Peace Southeast
Daniel Kovalik, USW Associate
UNIAFRO
Joseph Jordan, Professor, UNC- Chapel Hill
Arturo Escobar, Professor of Anthropology, UNC- Chapel Hill
Tianna Paschel, Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies, UC Berkeley
Anne C. Bellows, Professor and Graduate Program Director, Syracuse University
Priority Africa Network
The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)
Lisa Haugaard, Executive Director, Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Michael Neuroth, Policy Advocate for International Issues, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ
Barbara Gerlach, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ
Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights
Marc Chernick, Director, Center for Latin American Studies, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University
Friends of the Congo
Maria Elena Moreno Van Maren, U.S. Representative, Explosion Negra

Colombian Studies Group, Students' Chartered Organization, Doctoral Students' Council, The Graduate Center, CUNY

Willie Baker, member of Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) delegation to Colombia October 2015

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)

Robinson Cook, Bogotá Employment Project

Norma Jackson, Professor, Benedict College

Ana Vicky Castillo, AFROLATINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Marino Cordoba, AFRODES International

Keith Jennings, President, African American Human Rights Foundation

Roland Roebuck, Community Activist

Jessica Srikantia, Ph.D.

Eunice Escobar, Afro-Colombian activist

Bill Fletcher, writer and activist