

Europe, March 2025

Her Excellency, Laura Sarabia

Foreign Minister, Republic of Colombia

Subject: Ricardo Palmera Pineda (Simón Trinidad)

Your Excellency,

The social, legal, and political organisations that have signed this letter, have closely followed with great concern, the situation of captivity to which Simón Trinidad has been subjected since 2004. During these 21 years, we have been present through international campaigns calling for a fair trial, as well as for improvements to his conditions in ADX Florence prison in Florence, Colorado.

During the peace talks in Havana, Cuba, we sent letters to the Colombian government, in support of the request for repatriation that the FARC-EP called for as a party to the peace negotiations, with the aim of having Simón join the negotiating group. All calls were unsuccessful.

Once the Peace Agreement was signed, we have remained attentive to the mechanisms that the Colombian government, specifically the Foreign Ministry, which would have the competence, applied, with a view to managing and/or processing the request for the repatriation of Juvenal Ovidio Ricardo Palmera Pineda by virtue of **Law 1820 of 2016**, which amnesties peace signatories who benefit from release from prison. Compliance with this law will allow Ricardo Palmera (Simón Trinidad) to participate in the Comprehensive System for Peace emanating from the "**Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace**".

We note with concern that, despite the existence of legal support that supports this procedure, the Colombian State continues to fail to guarantee explicit compliance. It should be recalled that on **September 28, 2023**, the Amnesty and Pardon Chamber of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace - (Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz – JEP), accepted the submission of Juvenal Ovidio Ricardo Palmera Pineda (Simón Trinidad), a judicial decision that obliges him to appear before this court. And, on **June 24 2024**, the Amnesty Chamber of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) decided to grant a pardon to Juvenal Ovidio Ricardo Palmera Pineda-Simón Trinidad, for the crime of rebellion.

We therefore see sufficient legal elements for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to process the request for the repatriation of Simón Trinidad before the competent institutions, in this case in the United States of America.

At a time when the new US administration has announced programmes for the expulsion to their countries of origin of numerous foreigners who are in the United States without proper residence authorisation, taking into account that Mr Palmera has served more than 21 years in US prisons, the Colombian authorities could probably indicate to the US authorities that if they proceed with Mr Palmera's expulsion to Colombia, that Colombia would accept such repatriation, and the corresponding legislation would be applied.

We are very grateful for your attention to this important matter and wish you all the best in your new role, undoubtedly at the service of the Colombian people.

Cordially;

Signatory organisations:

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