

Statement in support of the Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, together with our partners, express our strong concern and joins calls urging immediate action for the protection of the *Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas*, the Colombian women's rights organisation. On 15 November 2012, the *Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas* received death threats from the paramilitary group *Águilas Negras* (The Black Eagles). The threat lists members of the organisation and their routes to work.

The *Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas* has worked in conflict zones for more than 15 years documenting human rights abuses and promoting the rights of displaced women in Colombia. They have been threatened numerous times in the past by paramilitaries as a result of their work. The organization has received a total of six threats from 2010 to 2012. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has granted the *Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas* Precautionary Measures 319-09 due to the serious natures of these threats.¹ The Precautionary Measures 319-09 demands that the Colombian government take action to protect human right defenders and organisations like *Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas*.

The Colombian authorities have not implemented the Precautionary Measures or held anyone accountable for the 2011 murder of Keila Esther Berrio Almanza, a woman leader from *Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas*² or the 2006 arson, which resulted in the destruction of a *Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas* centre.

The Women's Initiatives and our partners call for the immediate implementation of the Precautionary Measures, and for accountability for the crimes against members of the *Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas*.

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is an international women's human rights organisation that advocates for gender justice through the International Criminal Court (ICC) and through domestic transitional justice mechanisms, as well as through advocating for the inclusion of women and the integration of gender issues within formal peace processes and negotiations. The Women's Initiatives has a network of over 6,000 members and partners, individuals and organisations, who are grassroots women's rights and peace advocates from armed conflict or post conflict situations, victims/survivors groups, networks of women living in IDP camps, women's rights and development organisations, transitional justice networks, human rights organizations, parliamentarians, and members of the security sector.

¹ <http://www.cidh.org/medidas/2009.eng.htm>

² http://www.iccwomen.org/news/berichtdetail.php?we_objectID=124

