

## **Public letter on the reactivation of terrestrial spraying of illicit crops**

Sir. Juan Manuel Santos Calderón  
President of the Republic of Colombia

The people and organizations here signing reject the decision of the Colombian government of reactivating glyphosate spraying to eradicate crops declared illicit, this time via terrestrial spraying. The government defended at an international level the need to adopt evidence based drug policies, respectful of human rights, but this decision contradicts available evidence, and places great risks on the right to life, to personal integrity, to health and to a healthy environment, among other rights of rural communities and those of the eradicators. Without previously implementing an adequate development approach, concerted with the communities, forced eradication has proven to be wrong and harmful. It is inadmissible that with these type of domestic decisions, Colombia undoes the change of approach it has rightly defended in the international arena, with the support of civil society organizations who saw in the Colombian government an ally in the global reform to drug policy.

The signatories support the recent [declaration from the Coalition for drug policy reform](#), formed by more than 10 organizations and 24 experts on the subject matter in Colombia, by which they request the government revokes the decision, and in which they announce the possibility of undertaking legal actions with the aim of halting this risky measure.

We, as international organizations working for drug policy reform, have supported Colombian civil society in their efforts to build more humane and effective drug policies, coherent with the peace building efforts currently ongoing in Colombia. We ask you, as the President of the Republic and Chief of Government of Colombia, to pursue an open dialogue and a scenario of cooperation with civil society and the rural communities, as well as other sectors affected by current drug policy, with the aim to build policies truly coherent with the approach you have defended in international scenarios.

Signed by:

WOLA - The Washington Office on Latin America  
Myanmar Opium Farmers Forum  
Accion Semilla – Bolivia  
Fedito Bxl – Bélgica  
Andean Information Network – Bolivia  
Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma – Chile

Groupement Romand d'Etudes des Addictions – Switzerland  
StoptheDrugWar.org – United States  
Corporación Humanas Chile  
México Unido Contra la Delincuencia  
Asociación Costarricense de Estudios e Intervención en Drogas  
Intercambios Puerto Rico  
Drug Policy Australia  
Diogenis Drug Policy Dialogue – Greece  
International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research and Service – Spain,  
Netherlands and Uruguay.  
Centre for Science in Drug Policy – Canada