

Gustavus Adolphus  
800 W College Ave  
St Peter, MN 56082  
May 9, 2005

The Honorable Norm Coleman  
320 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coleman:

As your constituent, I am writing to urge you to support legislation that would ensure that U.S. military assistance to Colombia is contingent upon a genuine commitment to human rights on the part of the Colombian government. This action would protect human rights in Colombia and prevent the United States from giving financial assistance to an abusive military and groups responsible for some of the worst human rights violations in that country.

Having met and conversed with several representatives from various peace sanctuary churches throughout Colombia, I have become deeply concerned about our current foreign policy in that country. There is well-documented evidence showing that the Colombian military works closely with numerous paramilitary groups responsible for thousands of murders and the forced displacement of millions of Colombians. By providing financial assistance to the Colombian military, the United States lends its support to these paramilitary groups responsible for so many atrocious human rights violations. Furthermore, U.S. military assistance to Colombia drives left-wing guerilla groups to respond by increasing their own violent activities, perpetuating conflict in the country. U.S. military assistance is in fact having a negative impact on peace in Colombia.

Senator Coleman, it is crucial that the United States demonstrate that we support human rights, that we will not spend tax dollars funding abusive governments, and that we are committed to real peace in Colombia. I urge you to insist that assistance to Colombia include demands that the Colombian military sever its ties with paramilitary organizations and strive to bring real peace and stability to the country.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gustavus Adolphus