

CALL FOR PEACE BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA

The signatories of this call for peace between the peoples of Colombia and Venezuela express our concern over the rising tensions between fellow governments.

We call for serenity and dialogue in order to find solutions to the problems posed in a manner of mutual respect.

To give rise to an armed conflict in the region would deeply hurt both countries and the entire Latin American continent.

We know how wars begin, but not how they end; we also know the consequences they leave of destruction and death among peoples, the immeasurable toll they take in human lives.

We call on the governments to act with calm in order to overcome differences through dialogue and with the support of other countries of Latin America, remembering also that there exist legal bodies within the region to overcome differences.

We call the governments involved to reflection, and we say NO to war between Colombia and Venezuela, affecting the entire continent with unpredictable consequences.

We understand that it is also urgent to achieve peace inside Colombia through negotiation, a process to which the governments and peoples of Latin America and the world can also contribute. No one should obstruct a peace process under these circumstances, unless there is an effort to use the internal conflict in Colombia for other interests. The people of Colombia need peace.

We should underscore that we reject the interference of foreign military bases on the continent, which do not contribute, nor are they guarantors, of peace.

We make this appeal to all the peoples and governments of Latin America and the world, demanding solutions to conflicts through non-violence, dialogue and unity among peoples.

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel
Nobel Peace Prize

Rigoberta Menchú Tum
Nobel Peace Prize

Buenos Aires, July 24, 2010