



**“Manuel Cepeda” Foundation**

*[Unofficial translation of Spanish original by Human Rights First]*

Bogotá D.C., July 17, 2007

James McGovern  
Representative, Massachusetts  
Cannon House Office Building, 438,  
Washington, DC 20515-2103

Dear Representative McGovern:

With this letter I would like to express my appreciation to you and to the other members of Congress that signed the letter dated 16 July 2007 addressed to Attorney-General Mario Iguarán. Your letter, which demanded that my rights to due process and freedom of expression by guaranteed, is without doubt a strong support to my work and that of many human rights defenders in Colombia.

This letter, like other public actions you have taken, are positively influencing Colombia to find paths and mechanisms which respect human rights. Your support is especially important in moments, such as now, when victims of Colombia’s violence are making efforts to obtain truth, justice and reparation.

I consider that voices as significant as yours and those of your distinguished colleagues are of immense importance in moments when democracy in Colombia is faced with grave dangers and threats.

For all these reasons, I give you my most cordial thanks and my highest recognition of appreciation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by 'X' and 'C' and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Iván Cepeda Castro**  
**Director**  
**“Manuel Cepeda Vargas” Foundation**