



ALAS SUPPORTS THE CHARGES OF CAJAR AGAINST THE ACCUSATIONS TOWARDS THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, YESSICA HOYOS MORALES

ALAS - America Latina Alternativa Social – is an international network sponsored by the LIBERA *Names and Numbers Association against the mafia* – composed of organizations and associations active in Mexico, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, El Salvador, Argentina and Brasil committed to research, analysis and support of the victims – children, women, victims of trafficking, migrants, human rights activists and threatened journalists – to advocacy activities, to the defense and promotion of human rights. ALAS's main objective is to spread a culture of peace, lawfulness and social justice and to keep alive the memory of the victims. The approach used by this network is the same of LIBERA, namely through the social antimafia toolbox: culture, education, prevention and information are the cornerstones of this action.

LIBERA has a trusty and exchangeable relationship with CAJAR, Colectivo de Abogados "José Alvear Restrepo", historical Colombian organization that provides legal support to the armed conflict's victims of the country. They have excelled in the human rights defense especially towards displaced people and *falsos positivos*. Therefore, we know and recognize their work, so that the Colectivo has become one of the main organizations of ALAS network. Their action is also acknowledged by important national bodies.

During the 8th Ordinary Plenary Session of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, Euro-Lat1, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Popular Party' MEP and chairman of EuroLat did not let Yessika Hoyos Morales to take the floor, accusing her of being part of an organization affiliated to FARC.

We stand together with the Restrepo Colectivo in denouncing the unfair accusations against their representative, Yessika Hoyos Morales.

We must remember that the lawyer and human rights activist, Yessika Hoyos Morales, is the daughter of a union leader and UP member Jorge Darío Hoyos, killed in 2001. As a victim's family member, she took part to the peace talks promoted by the United Nations and by the Colombian National University in Havana. Moreover, at the EuroLat meeting, she is the delegate of two platforms, where more than 200 of civil society realities are included: the *Coordinación Colombia Europa Estados Unidos* and the *Plataforma Colombiana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo*.

The taken decision does not help the work to promote peace and human rights besides to expose the activist to threats and risks for her safety. In this way, political institutions don't guarantee and support protection human rights defenders.



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We perceived this action as an expression of mistrust towards all the civil societies' organizations, in particular those closed to ALAS.

Together with CAJAR, we demand the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly and European Parliament to sanction this event perpetrated against a victim's member family, a human right defender, since it is not in accordance with the democratic spirit of EuroLat and with EU directives on human rights' defenders.

We look forward to your positive and constructive feedback.

Kind regards

Rome, 22/06/2015



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