



Press Release – 15 July 2010

FICIB (the International Federation of LIBertad Committees) adds its voice to the international wave of protest following the decision taken by the United States of America to refuse a visa to the journalist Hollman Morris, who is accused of terrorism, and who has just been awarded a prestigious award, the Nieman prize, for his investigative work on the internal conflict in Colombia and who must travel to Harvard to lecture in journalism for a year.

We are astonished that the USA, where liberty of the press is the central cornerstone of democracy could reach such a decision on the basis of accusations made by President Alvaro Uribe, without any proof, against this journalist in 2008 who has never had judicial proceedings taken against him by the Colombian State.

Hollman Morris who has already received many awards for the quality of his journalistic work, fights relentlessly, through his television programme "Contavia" to raise awareness about the multifaceted internal conflict in Colombia that is often reduced to the single problem of FARC rebels.

We therefore request the American government to reconsider its position and to allow this journalist travel to the US in order to be able to receive his award and we invite all those interested in Human Rights and the freedom of the press to support Hollman Morris by sending mail to that effect to President Obama, through the US embassies in Europe and worldwide.

Freedom and Peace in Colombia!

Hollman Morris has received the following awards:

- Premio India Catalina 2004.
- Premio Nacional Simon Bolivar 2004.
- Human Rights Prize 2007 from Human Rights Watch.
- Premio Nueva Periodismo Iberoamericano 2007.
- Premio Mejor Programa Periodistico TV 2007. Association of Journalists, Bogota.
- Freedom of the Press International Award 2007. CJFE Canada.

The work of Hollman Morris can be seen on the internet site of his programme "Contravia" www.morrisproducciones.com or again on the internet site of the film "Unwanted Witness" ("Témoindésirable") (produced by Juan José Lozano) which shows the difficult conditions in which he carries out his work in Colombia : www.temoindésirable-lefilm.com

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