



National Education Union

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**Joint General Secretaries**  
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4 November 2020

Iván Duque Márquez  
President of the Republic of Colombia

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**Subject: New death threats against FECODE Executive Committee members**

Mr. President,

The National Education Union (NEU) has been informed by its sister organisation, the *Federación Colombiana de Educadores* (FECODE), and Education International (EI) of new threats to the lives of the members of the FECODE National Executive Committee.

We were horrified to be informed by FECODE that the members of its Executive Committee have received 16 candles, 16 obituary notices with the names of each Committee member and a funeral wreath. Due to the threats received, the NEU demands immediate protection measures for all FECODE Executive Committee members.

Mr. President, once again in your country union leaders are threatened and intimidated. The murder of social and union leaders has become a culture. Over 6,000 teacher trade unionists have been killed, threatened or displaced over the last 30 years. This terrible trend continues. We call on your government to take all necessary measures to immediately and permanently stop the wave of treats and killings in your country.

The NEU holds your government responsible for ensuring the safety and the physical integrity of all individuals on the FECODE Executive Committee, as well as of every citizen who exercises his/her right to express opinions, to demonstrate and to organise to defend the public education system.

As part of the global community of educators, the NEU stands in solidarity with unions in Colombia and will continue to closely monitor the human rights situation in the country, including the exercise of trade union rights.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary W. Bousted".

**Mary Bousted**  
Joint General Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Courtney".

**Kevin Courtney**  
Joint General Secretary