

RESOLUTION

Plenary Session, Senate and House of Representatives, Bogotá, Colombia.
November 20, 2007

In a style known to our country and the world, President Uribe has again launched slanderous attacks against the Polo Democrático Alternativo (Alternative Democratic Pole-PDA) using a ‘false positive’ as a smokescreen with which to take attention away from recent revelations connecting him with paramilitary vigilante activities.***

The new facts that have come to light and that he’s attempting to cover up with his defamation campaign against the Alternative Democratic Pole PDA are as follows:

*Rocío Arias, one of the best known **uribistas** in the last Colombian Congress, announced that she will acknowledge in court her links to paramilitary vigilante groups. She accused Carlos Arturo Clavijo, **uribista** Senator in the 2002-2006 period with whom she ran a joint electoral campaign, to also have links to paramilitary organizations.*

Two new videos, available at www.polodemocratico.net, directly link President Alvaro Uribe to the new revelations. In one video Ernesto Báez, a self-confessed paramilitary, today incarcerated in Itagüí prison, appeals for votes for Clavijo at a political event. In the other video which covers a separate event, Rocío Arias, Carlos Arturo Clavijo and Alvaro Uribe Vélez express their support for each other in their quest for Congressional seats and the Presidency. The first video was taken several weeks before the one in which Arias, Clavijo and Uribe appear together.

Colombia’s Solicitor General Edgardo José Maya, has just ruled against Jorge Noguera with dismissal from office, a monetary fine, and an 18-year prohibition from exercising public office, on account of Noguera’s criminal links with paramilitary death squads. Noguera had carried out these activities while Chief of the DAS (Security Administration Department), the powerful secret police institution to which he was named director by President Uribe. Noguera remains incarcerated for the same crimes by order of the nation’s Attorney General.

US Democratic Party Presidential hopeful Barack Obama, Senator Edward Kennedy and eleven other prominent US congressional members have recently sent a letter to President Uribe in which they reject Uribe’s practice of attacking and placing in danger the lives of Colombians who are asking for the truth about paramilitary organizations and their connections with Colombian politicians. Meanwhile a majority in the US House of Representatives is known to oppose the signing of a Free Trade Agreement with Colombia so long as President

Uribe does not modify his attitude towards the violence that devastates Colombia.

The number of prominent political supporters of President Alvaro Uribe who are either in jail, under indictment, or being questioned by the Colombian Supreme Court of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General because of links with paramilitary death squads is up to 80, including 49 members and former members of the Colombian Congress.

Therefore, the Democratic Alternative Pole (PDA), which has nothing to hide in connection with any aspect of the country's political life, asks once again: When will President Uribe decide to appear before the nation, without arrogant posturing, without creating smoke screens with 'false positives' designed to slander the PDA, and in shame, to explain to his compatriots why so many of his highest political allies with whom he shared endorsements turned out to be members of paramilitary squads?

Alternative Democratic Pole Congressional Delegation

Translator's Notes

(*) 'False Positive' is an expression that has gained currency in Colombia to designate false statements the Uribe administration makes with the purpose of discrediting the opposition or improve the image of the government.

(**) In response to the facts and events contained in this resolution President Uribe released a statement in which he says that "his relations with politicians are public, unlike the clandestine relations some PDA members maintain with guerrilla outfits."