

Non-official translation

Bogotá D.C., 26 August 2009

Excellency:

I'm honored to address your Excellency with the purpose to put in perspective, by your high conduit, to the Verbal Note DM/DAO/NB N° 43211 of the past 12 August, through we made reference to the ruling uttered by judicial authorities of the Kingdom of Thailand concerning the refusal to the extradition of the Russian citizen Viktor Bout to United States, on the grounds that the FARC are not considered a terrorist organization but a political movement.

The FARC are known worldwide for their cruelty and their massive engagement in drug trafficking. It can be stated that the FARC is currently the largest cocaine cartel in the World. Their systematic attacks against the Colombian population, including teachers, mayors, councilmen, union members and indigenous populations as well as their indiscriminate use of forced child recruitment and long-term kidnappings has granted them a space on the list of terrorist organization of the United States and the European Union. In Colombia, the FARC can be attributed with the majority of the kidnappings and land mine victims, having from 2002 to what has passed of 2009, 8.998 kidnappings and 2.229 civilian landmine victims.

Today, the FARC are not able to produce any type of mass support in Colombia. In the framework of the Democratic Security Policy the Armed Forces and the National Police of Colombia continue to establish territorial control over the great majority of the territory. Since 2002 years more than 10.000 members of the FARC have voluntarily laid down their weapons and are returning to society with the support of the Colombian DDR program.

Given the aforementioned context, I request the Illustrated Government that, in the frame of the independency of power, illustrate to the judge in charge of the case the nature and extent of the terrorist activities undertaken by FARC, so that these elements can be taken into account in the correspondent judicial process, that we hope avoid the release of a very dangerous arms trafficker to the world such as Viktor Bout.

Finally, from our side we are willing to promote an Exchange of information with the United States' authorities that would allow our judicial authorities to cooperate effectively so that these damaging activities of arms trafficking undertook by this individual will be investigated and punished.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to His Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

JAIME BERMÚDEZ MERIZALOE
Minister of Foreign Affairs

To the Honorable
Mr. KASIT PIROMYA
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
Bangkok

สำเนาถูกต้อง

