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OFFICE IN COLOMBIA

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Condemnation of attack by the FARC-EP against RCN, in Cali

February 28, 2005

The Office in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has taken note of the communiqué in which the FARC-EP assumed responsibility for the attack carried out with explosives on February 20, 2005 against the installations of RCN in Cali that left two people wounded.

Acknowledgement of responsibility for the attack on the part of the FARC-EP is an unfortunate demonstration by that organization of its lack of respect for freedom of expression and international humanitarian law. The Office condemned this attack on February 24th.

The Office reminds the FARC-EP that, in accordance with international humanitarian law, civilians, whatever their opinions and expressions may be, are untouchable as long as they do not participate directly in the hostilities.

The Office reiterates to the FARC-EP that international humanitarian law norms applicable to non-international conflicts are obligatory for the members of their organization.

The Office also reminds the FARC-EP that freedom of expression is a fundamental right of all people and must be respected.