



Rio Group Declaration on the rescue of 15 hostages in Colombia

The Member States of Rio Group express their utmost satisfaction for the rescue, on July 2nd, of 15 people held hostages by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), including the former Colombian presidential candidate, Ingrid Betancourt.

The Rio Group asserts its condemnation of all acts affecting the life, freedom or physical integrity of innocent people and transmits its congratulations to the people and Government of Colombia for the success of the rescue operation.

The Rio Group calls for the FARC to unconditionally and immediately free all of the remaining hostages under their control in that country, and to establish talks with Colombian authorities in order to bring to an end the violence that Colombia has suffered for several years.

Mexico City, July 4th, 2008.

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