

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- On November 8, the Government introduced a new state of emergency. Was this warranted? Is it effective?
- Recent constitutional changes have entrenched human rights and the Constitution provides for the investigation of charges of human rights abuses, establishes the office of a "Peoples' Defender" and limits the arbitrary use of government power to use state of siege legislation. How do NGOs assess the new constitution?
- An area of continuing concern is that the military and the police personnel continue to enjoy relative impunity, since charges against them can only be tried by military judges. In your view has there been any progress on the question of impunity since our last meeting?
- Crucial to the success of the Government's efforts to improve the human rights situation is the strengthening of the judiciary to ensure that it delivers justice and is not subject to intimidation. Is justice really feasible given the current conditions in Colombia?