

# **EXHIBIT A**

In The United States District Court  
For The Northern District of Alabama

Juan Aguas Romero, et al. v. Drummond, et al.

---

This relates to all cases

Declaration of Edwin Manuel Guzman

1. My name is Edwin Manuel Guzman, cedula number 10881662. I am an adult individual with personal knowledge of the following facts. I give this declaration voluntarily.
2. I was a member of the Colombian Armed Forces for 18 years and 3 months, having reached the rank of Sergeant. In particular, I was a Sergeant in the Popa Battallion in Valledupar, Colombia from 1999 to 2002. I first served under Colonel San Miguel Peña Eduardo, and then under Colonel Hernan Meija Gutierrez.
3. From the year 2000 until the second quarter of 2001, I was in charge of one of the four platoons of the Popa Batallion which guard the mining operations of Drummond Ltd. The Popa Batallion had close ties with the AUC paramilitaries at this time. Indeed, the Battallion took great pains to prevent the official military forces and the paramilitaries from coming in contact with one another so as to prevent any confrontation from ensuing. This coordination between the military and paramilitaries was directed by retired Colonel Luis Carlos Rodriguez, the chief of security for Drummond and the key connection between Drummond and the paramilitaries. In addition, we, the member of the Colombian Armed Forces of the Popa Batallion and the paramilitaries cooperated in "legalizing" the killings of civilians, meaning that we would plant guerilla uniforms and weapons on civilians that AUC killed in order to make the killings appear legitimate.
4. While heading up one of the platoons which protected the Drummond mines, a problem developed with left-wing guerillas harassing cattle ranchers in the area. In order to assist the ranchers with this problem, Drummond gave the AUC paramilitary group in the zone lorries and motorcycles to patrol the area. In addition, Drummond provided us, the members of the Colombian armed forces, with food from Drummond lorries which travelled through the area, after stopping at the army points these same lorries continued their route and provided the paramilitaries with food. I also recall that a man called Mitchell/Michael, who also had a high position in Drummond security, even higher than Mr. Rodriguez, met with a paramilitary leader named "Samario."
5. At the time I was heading the platoons which protect the Drummond mines, I began to worry about the paramilitaries working so openly in the area. Therefore, I decided to lead an ambush of the paramilitaries. This was around April of 2001, shortly after the killing of the two trade unionists. On the night I was setting up an ambush of the paramilitaries, a black SUV drove up to my platoon. Out of this SUV stepped the chief of Drummond security, Luis Carlos Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez asked what we were doing. I told him that we were there to ambush the

paramilitaries. I explained that the paramilitaries were patrolling the area in Drummond vehicles, and that this just wasn't right. Mr. Rodriguez said that no one told me to do that and that we had no business bothering the paramilitary groups. Mr. Rodriguez then phoned the head of the Popa Battalion at the time, Colonel San Miguel Peña Eduardo and explained what was happening. The Colonel contacted me by radio and addressed me, again telling me that I had no business leading an ambush of paramilitaries. Very shortly thereafter, I was relieved of my command of the platoons by the Second Lieutenant who told me that I was losing my command because of my attempted action against the paramilitaries. However, I continued to work with the same platoon, but in a different role. It was at this time that I personally began to work in "legalizing" civilian victims of the paramilitaries.

6. Around this same period, Drummond began experiencing problems with the guerillas attacking the rail lines. Drummond announced that it was thinking of leaving Colombia as a result. In response, the chief of Drummond security, Luis Carlos Rodriguez, stepped in and contacted paramilitary leader "Cebolla," and asked that he take care of the problem with the guerillas attacking the rail lines. At this same time, Drummond provided the paramilitaries under the command of "Cebolla" with motorcycles to carry out this work. I have been told by paramilitaries in the zone that "Cebolla" was responsible for the killing of the three trade unionists at Drummond.

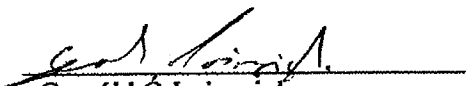
7. I am currently in a witness protection program with the Fiscalia Nacional de la Nacion. I have been asked for and given extensive testimony against Colonel Hernan Meija Gutierrez and his connections with the paramilitaries, a case which has received much prominence in Colombia. However, though I have given statements to Semana magazine regarding the connection of Drummond with the paramilitaries, the Fiscalia has never asked me about this subject.

8. While I do not speak English, all of the contents this document have been verbally translated for me into Spanish by Gearóid Ó Loingsigh.

I swear under the penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date 03-04-2007

  
Edwin Manuel Guzmán  
cc 10881662

  
Gearóid Ó Loingsigh  
Witness/Translator Colombian  
C.E 310078