

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 363/91 (AMR 23/63/91, 30 October 1991) - Fear of Extrajudicial Execution/Death Threats

COLOMBIA: Juan Alberto GARAY            teacher - killed

David FLOREZ GONZALEZ            teacher - death threats

José Angel LASSO SIERRA            teacher            "

Urbano BARRETO ARENAS            teacher

Enrique PERTUZ                    teacher

Amnesty International has received information from the Colombian Presidential Adviser on Human Rights concerning official investigations into the killing of Juan Alberto Garay and the death threats against David Flórez González, José Angel Lasso Sierra, Urbano Barreto Arenas and Enrique Pertuz.

Teacher Juan Alberto Garay's body was found on 2 October 1991, showing signs of torture and gunshot wounds, in the municipality of Umbria, Risaralda department. According to the information received, the preliminary investigation has been initiated by the Criminal Instruction Court 16, Juzgado 16 de Instrucción Criminal of Belén de Umbria. As yet, no one has been charged.

According to the Presidential Adviser on Human Rights, the death threats against David Flórez González, General Secretary of the teachers' union of Santander department Sindicato de Educadores del Santander (SES); and against José Angel Lasso Sierra, President of the teachers' union of Arauca department Asociación de Educadores de Arauca, (ASEDAR) and ASEDAR officials Urbano Barreto Arenas and Enrique Pertuz, are being investigated by Criminal Instruction Court 11 of Arauca Juzgado 11 de Instrucción Criminal.

While Amnesty International welcomes these investigations, there is concern that although many such investigations are opened in Colombia, only exceptionally do they lead to the identification and prosecution of those responsible for the human rights violation.

According to figures released by the national teachers union Federación Colombiana de Educadores (FECODE), Colombian Federation of Teachers, 53 teachers were killed in Colombia in 1991 and approximately 250 received threats. FECODE expressed the concern that all investigations into killings of and threats against these teachers have been closed in the courts without convictions.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters**

- continuing to express concern at the killing of Juan Alberto Garay.
- welcoming the official investigation into the killing and urging that it be thorough and impartial and that the results be made public;
- welcoming the investigation into the death threats against David Flórez González, José Angel Lasso Sierra, Urbano Barreto Arenas and Enrique Pertuz and urging that this investigation also be thorough and impartial and the results made public;

- urging the authorities again to take all possible measures to protect the lives of teachers and those working for teaching unions to ensure that they can carry out their lawful activities without threat to their physical integrity.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of the Republic:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño, Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 283 3066, + 57 1 286 7324, + 57 1 287 7937**  
**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Gaviria**

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2) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Procuraduría General  
Edificio Banco Ganadero  
Carrera 5, No. 15-80, Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472**  
**Salutation: Sr. Procurador General de la Nación / Dear Dr Arrieta**

3) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño  
Defensor del Pueblo  
Procuraduría General  
Edificio Banco Ganadero  
Carrera 5, No. 15-80, Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Defensor del Pueblo Triviño, c/o Procuraduría General, Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 41224 PREGN CO or 41213 pgndp CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472**  
**Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño / Dear Dr Triviño**

4) Minister of Defence:

Dr Rafael Pardo Rueda  
Ministro De Defensa Nacional  
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
Santa Fe de Bogotá , Colombia  
**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874**  
**Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

FECODE  
AA 14373  
Santa Fe de Bogotá  
COLOMBIA

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,

or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 March 1992.