

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear for safety

12 February 1993

COLOMBIA: Alvaro CORDOBA
Gustavo Hernando NUÑEZ, ombudsman
Rafael ROBLES
Jairo MARTINEZ
Armando Tomás VERGARA P
Heminia CIFUENTES P (female)
Gustavo ZULUAGA
Never CARDENAS
Leonardo AVENDAÑO
Antonio JARABA

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the above-named people from Yondó, Antioquia department. Their names are reportedly included on a list of supposed "guerrilla collaborators" currently being circulated by the Colombian armed forces to all military posts in the area.

Some of those listed are municipal officials and some are members of the legal left-wing opposition party Unión Patriótica (UP), Patriotic Union. None of them have been detained or legally charged with an actual criminal offence. There is concern that they are at risk of "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution by the armed forces or paramilitary organizations working with the armed forces in the region. According to a Colombian human rights group, at least 30 members of the UP were killed or "disappeared" in 1992.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Yondó is located in the largely rural area of the Magdalena Medio in central Colombia, which has been a focus of political violence for several years following the emergence of guerrilla groups in the 1960s and the subsequent militarization of the region during the 1980s. Peace talks between the remaining active guerrilla groups and the government broke down in 1992 and there has been a resultant increase in guerrilla activity and in the armed forces counter-guerrilla operations. The government declared a national state of emergency in November 1992. In areas where guerrilla forces are active, the local population is often perceived by the armed forces as potential guerrilla collaborators and has, as a result, been subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of the above-named people, whose names

are reported to appear on an army list as "guerrilla-collaborators";

- expressing concern that because of this they may be at risk of "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution by the Colombian armed forces or paramilitary groups working with them;

- urging that all possible measures are taken to protect them and the lives of other municipal officials and members of legal opposition parties so that they can carry out their lawful activities.

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APPEALS TO

1) Minister of Defence:

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Fax: + 57 1 222 1874

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro /
Dear Minister**

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

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador
de la Nación /
Dear Dr. Arrieta**

3) Commander of the 'Nueva Granada' Battalion:

Teniente Coronel Emilio Cifuentes
Comandante Batallón Nueva Granada
Barrancabermeja
Santander, Colombia

**Telegrams: Comandante Batallón Nueva Granada, Barrancabermeja, Santander,
Colombia**

**Salutation: Estimado Comandante/
Dear Sir**

4) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324, + 57 1 286 7434, + 57 1 287 7937

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr.
Presidente /
Dear President Gaviria**

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights and Educational Organization:

Señores
CINEP

AA 25916
Santa Fe de Bogotá
Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 March 1993.