

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/35/96

19 June 1996

Further information on UA 148/96 (17 June 1996, AMR 23/34/96) - Apparent extrajudicial executions / Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA Guillermo León BARRERA HENAO

Francisco Javier TABORDA TABORDA

Alvaro VÁSQUEZ

new name: Elsa María RUEDA (f), nun, human rights activist

Amnesty International remains seriously concerned for the safety of inhabitants of the municipality of El Carmen del Atrato, department of Chocó. There is particular concern for Sister Elsa María Rueda, a nun and member of the *Comité de Derechos Humanos del Carmen del Atrato*, the Human Rights Committee of El Carmen del Atrato, who has reportedly been threatened.

According to information received, in a meeting held on 16 June 1996 between members of the *Comando de la IV Brigada de Antioquia*, Command of the IV Brigade of Antioquia, *Comando Operativo del Ejército de Chocó*, Chocó Operations Command of the Army, the mayor of the municipality and members of the *Equipo del Pastoral Parroquial*, Parish Pastoral Team, Sister Elsa María Rueda was accused by military commanders of taking supplies to guerrilla forces. In the past those labelled guerrilla sympathizers or collaborators by the security forces have frequently become the victims of human rights violations at the hands of the security forces themselves or their paramilitary allies. Elsa María Rueda has also reportedly been threatened by members of the Colombian army.

The threats against Elsa María Rueda have been made in a context of increasing intimidation of the civilian population of El Carmen del Atrato and neighbouring municipalities in the departments of Chocó and Antioquia, which coincide with an increasing presence of paramilitary groups in the region.

On 17 June three students were reportedly accused by armed forces personnel of being "guerrilla collaborators", raising fears for their safety. Although the students have not been formally charged. The army demanded that their school hand over their curriculum vitae.

Please continue action as outlined in original UA, especially continuing to call for immediate steps to ensure the safety of the civilian population in El Carmen del Atrato and neighbouring municipalities.

IN ADDITION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing particular concern for the safety of Sister Elsa María Rueda, who has reportedly been subjected to threats and labelled as a guerrilla collaborator by members of the security forces;
- calling for immediate measures to ensure her safety, and the safety of other inhabitants labelled as guerrilla collaborators.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Samper, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434/284 7186/284 7176

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2) Minister of Defence

Dr. Juan Carlos Esguerra Portocarrero

Ministro de Defensa Nacional

Ministerio de Defensa Nacional

Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa , Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

3) Minister of the Interior

Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe

Ministro del Interior

Ministerio del Interior

Carrera 8a, No.8-09, Piso 7

Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior Serpa, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:45406 MINGO CO

Faxes:+ 57 1 286 0485/284 0214

Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

4) Governor of the department of Chocó

Señor Franklin Mosquera

Gobernador del Departamento del Chocó

Gobernación del Chocó

Quibdó

Chocó

Colombia

Faxes: +57 497 11777

Telegrams: Gobernador del Choco, Quibdo, Choco, Colombia

Salutation: Estimado Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Alternative Legal Association

SEMBRAR, AA 34692, Santafé 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 12 August 1996.